

**Winter Transportation Committee
January 19, 2015**

Members present: Ham Ross, Chair, Town Board Supervisor; David Aslyn, Superintendent, Bayfield School District; Steve Dunn, Maintenance Operations Supervisor, Bayfield School District; Gary Krubsack, Citizen at Large.

Members absent: Gary Russell, Manager, Madeline Island Ferry Lines.

Ex-Officio absent: Arnie Nelson, Windsled Transportation, Inc and Madeline Island Transportation, Inc.

Town Staff present: Pete Clark, Town Administrator; Lisa Potswald, Planning and Zoning Administrator (10:30am)

Public present:

1. Call to order.

Chair H. Ross called the meeting of the Winter Transportation Committee to order on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 10:00am. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

2. Minutes of the Following Meetings to be Considered for Approval:

A. December 8, 2014.

Motion by D. Aslyn to approve the December 8 2014 Winter Transportation Committee minutes as presented, second, H. Ross. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

3. Discussion and/or Recommendation to the Town Board of Vouchers submitted.

No vouchers submitted for recommendation to the Town Board.

4. Inspection and Repair Updates.

Panels put back on the Big Sled. There are no problems at this time.

5. New Craft Options.

Town Administrator Pete Clark and WTC member Gary Krubsack toured Fraser Shipyards, Superior, WI Thursday, December 18, 2014. Fraser Shipyard personnel then came to the Island on Monday, December 22nd to see our windsleds and look at the hull on the Wind Mark (Big Sled).

D. Aslyn and S. Dunn also visited Fraser Shipyards and were very impressed.

Fraser Shipyards has submitted a windsled specification and proposal for a 26'x14' windsled and a 25'x9.5' windsled. Also submitted is a hull replacement proposal for the Big Sled.

Discussion of specifications.

There is no nose wheel on the Fraser sleds because the sleds are designed with a two piece rotor system. H. Ross said one reason for the front wheel is to use the wheel to pop the sled out of the ice. S. Dunn said the Fraser windsleds have two brakes in back that can lift the sled up to break the sled free.

The smaller sled can carry 10 passengers. G. Krubsack suggested buying two of the smaller sleds, using one for transportation and the other for both ice rescue and transportation. The Husky sled could be sold and the Big Sled scrapped, after removing what can be used.

The Fraser sleds have hulls designed for ice, with quarter inch aluminum on the bottom.

G. Krubsack also suggested that Fraser build a fuel trailer so fuel could be purchased for less.

The smaller Fraser sleds have one engine, the larger sled a twin engine. A hovercraft would cost more than the two small sleds.

Suggestion that if one sled was outfitted for ice rescue, the Fire Department might be interested in contributing money towards the sled, or doing a fundraiser.

G. Krubsack said the cost for the two smaller sleds and the 300 gallon trailered fuel tank would be around \$500,000.00.

Move to agenda item:

7. Grant Funding Opportunities.

Lisa Potswald, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Grant Writer is now present (10:30am). The Committee brings Lisa up to date on the committee's discussion to purchase two small windsleds.

Lisa said there are two options:

1. Federal Grant. To apply for this grant you would need to declare the windsled a ferry.

G. Krubsack said the smaller sleds are built to Coast Guard regulations. Lisa said the driver(s) and the sleds would have to meet Coast Guard standards.

Lisa will contact Arnie in regards to Coast Guard regulations.

G. Krubsack said if we purchased two windsleds, one of the sleds could be set up for ice rescue which could open up more grant opportunities.

2. State Grant. Lisa said the State does not have funds available for 2015 but there could be money in the budget in 2016.

Pete Clark said FEMA might have funds available for ice rescue. Lisa will check. To be noted is that FEMA would require that the sled is used for ice rescue only; this could not be a multi-use sled. Another FEMA requirement is that FEMA would own the sled.

Pete Clark said we need to contact our Senators, Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Sean Duffy in regards to federal funding. The funding for the present Windsleds were earmarks; earmarks are pretty non-existent now.

G. Krubsack said we have to emphasize that we are transporting school kids, not just people, goods and services. Lisa said State grant requirements say that the State will not provide funds if we are transporting just school kids. Lisa sent the State all the windsled season statistics from last year which show that we are transporting goods, services, people, school kids and the mail. She has not heard back from the State. She said we have to go through the open bid process; you cannot tell a company ok, build it. You can, however, write a specific bid.

Lisa said the committee has to make a decision if they want to apply for a grant that declares the windsled a ferry and find out what rules and regulations would apply. H. Ross said we need to get the rules and regulations in regards to the drivers, too.

Pete Clark will research grant opportunities in regards to the transport of school kids, the general public, and ice rescue and have the information available at the next meeting.

Lisa asked if we are staying with the Big Sled. G. Krubsack said no. Pete Clark said the committee had talked about re-hulling the Big Sled but found out you could purchase a windsled for the cost to re-hull the Big Sled. G. Krubsack said the committee is looking at two smaller sleds – one for ice rescue and general transport and one sled for general transport. Cost would be about \$500,000.

D. Aslyn asked when we should start contacting our representatives. Pete Clark said preliminary discussions should start immediately.

Lisa said she has grant application due dates.

G. Krubsack will contact the Coast Guard in regards to rules and regulations.

Pete Clark will contact Sean Duffy's office to find out when Congressman Duffy schedules his town hall meetings.

Discussion of Ice Rescue. The Island's Ice Rescue group has become the people that are called upon for ice rescue. Recently Ice Rescue was called out to Frog/Raspberry Bay. G. Krubsack suggested looking locally or regionally for funding of ice rescue.

D. Aslyn suggests that Lisa could mention that Lake Assault is a Wisconsin company when she talks to the State. Lisa said the Director of Safety and Professional Services is a former Superior mayor.

Thank you to Lisa, who now leaves the meeting. (10:50am).

Return to agenda:

6. General Discussion, including budget, of the 2014-2015 Winter Transportation Season.

Pete Clark said we will know more about the budget down the road. Right now we are looking good for the 2014-2015 season.

8. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda.

H. Ross said Arnie does not have bills prepared for this meeting. Agreement by the committee that the bills can be submitted to the Town Board for payment and the committee will review and make a recommendation to the Town Board at the next Winter Transportation meeting.

D. Aslyn said the School Finance Committee meets February 9th.

The next Winter Transportation meeting will be held on Monday, February 23rd at 10:00am at the Town Hall.

9. Adjourn

Motion by H. Ross to adjourn, second, G. Krubsack. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:55am

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant.
Approved as presented April 6, 2015