

**Winter Transportation Committee  
October 12, 2015**

Members present: Jim Patterson, Town Board Supervisor; David Aslyn, Superintendent, Bayfield School District, Chair; Steve Dunn, Maintenance Operations Supervisor, Bayfield School District;

Members absent: Gary Krubsack, Citizen at Large and Gary Russell, Manager, Madeline Island Ferry Lines.

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

Town Staff present:

Public present:

**1. Call to order.**

Dave Aslyn, Chair called the meeting of the Winter Transportation Committee to order on Monday, October 12, 2015 at 10:06 am. A quorum of the committee is present as shown by members listed above.

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

**A. June 8, 2015.**

Motion by Jim to approve the June 8, 2015 Winter Transportation Committee (WTC) minutes as presented, second, Steve. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

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

Voucher submitted by Young and Associates in the amount of \$1,231.00 for Commercial Auto for Madeline Island Transportation for the vans for the 2015/2016 season. Discussion.

The Town reimburses Windsled, Inc for the liability/collision insurance on vehicles, sleds and the Winter Terminal Building. Windsleds Inc pays Workers Compensation costs.

Consensus of the WTC Committee to recommend to the Town Board to pay the Young and Associates voucher in the amount of \$1,231.00.

**4. 2016 Winter Transportation Committee Budget**

The Town needed budget figures prior to this committee meeting so Dave talked to Arnie and Gary. The thought was to use the same budget figures as last year.

Arnie said there appears to be a balance of \$7,622.26 from last year in the WTC Operating Designated fund. If each of the three entities, the Town, the Madeline Island Ferry Lines, Inc. and the Bayfield School put in \$10,000 as they did last year that should be good.

Arnie said floorboards have been pulled up in the Big Sled. There are some cracks so will they will have to drop the plastic and replace the stainless steel bolts because most of the bolts snap. Dave said it was encouraging to hear this inspection report as the discussion a year ago was that this might be it for the Big Sled. The Big Sled is at the far end of its life span but not ready to be headed to the scrap pile.

An El Nino year is predicted so the Windsleds might not run at all or it could be a very long windsled season with no ice road.

Dave said sometimes at the end of the season there is a rebate that goes back to the entities if there was money not spent. Last year the motion was to leave the remaining amount in the fund

and suggests that this is good to do as Arnie has to find replacement parts from a manufacturer that is either out of business or close to it. Arnie said he still does not have an answer for the bearings on the Husky after leaving several messages. The bearings were replaced once but should be replaced every 350 hours. We are now at 260/270 hours so Arnie would like to have the bearings on hand. The radiator was leaking in the old sled and has been pulled. The mechanic in Iron River will either patch the radiator or find a new one. There are some cracks portside on the Husky so the Husky will be taken to the Marina for repair at the end of October. Motion by Steve to budget \$30,000; \$10,000 from the three participating entities and to hold any surplus of funds at the end of the windsled season in reserve so we have cash on hand to purchase items that are unique to this equipment. Second, Jim. All in favor, all aye, no opposed, motion carried.

#### **5. Regional Ice Rescue update.**

At the last meeting the discussion included Rick Reichkitzer, Fire Chief and Jay Wiltz, Ice Rescue about Standard Operating Guidelines, service areas and fees for Ice Rescue. Arnie does not think there has been a joint meeting with our Ice Rescue personnel and regional entities involved in ice rescue. When a meeting is held Arnie would like to attend.

Jim will make a note and ask Lisa Potswald, Interim Town Administrator/ Planning and Zoning Administrator/Grant Writer to check with Rick about the SOG's and scheduling a regional meeting for an update at the next WTC meeting.

#### **6. Discussion of 2015 – 2016 Winter Transportation Season.**

Arnie said the sleds will be ready. Dave said last year the Bayfield School had a snow day on the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### **7. Grant Funding Opportunities.**

Lisa is not in the office today so grant funding will be on the next agenda. Dave had a brief conversation with Pete Clark, former Town Administrator about various ideas but no contact was made. The committee did come up with a timeline. We need to work hard in 2016 to find grant sources.

The committee had talked about the possibility of purchasing two craft from Lake Assault out of Fraser Shipyard in Superior, WI. Arnie said he cannot rule out putting a bottom on the Big Sled. Someone from Fraser stopped by this summer and looked at the big sled and did not see any reason why Fraser could not put a bottom on the big sled.

Arnie said he thinks we need a big sled, a middle sized sled and the Husky. If you have two middle-sized sleds you would have to have two crews. With the big sled you can get by with two operators instead of four. There are more passengers each year and a good sized crew coming up for school transportation. The cost of putting a bottom on the Big Sled and purchasing a new middle sized sled could cost as much as two new middle sized sleds.

Dave said we need to reach out to our elected officials and really try to make our case. Grants are more difficult and have more limitations. We need something that will work with our community. This year the committee needs to move beyond the concept stage to making decisions.

Arnie suggested inviting Fraser to the Island to ask them what costs would be so there would be a solid number for a grant. \$500,000 was a ballpark number. Included in the grant should be another building located closer to the approach. The Town is running out of building space and

the EMTs have requested office space in the Winter Transportation conference room. Arnie said he would not have a problem with Emergency Services putting a desk in the conference room but he would not want people in his office where all the records are kept and definitely not in the shop area. A building close to the winter approach might be best so the present building could be used by Emergency Services for offices and vehicles. Dave will put the building on the list.

Consensus of the committee that the committee is in support of the EMTs using the meeting room area to do base operations but not the office or garage. Arnie will go on the record to say that Windsleds Transportation is fine with this also.

#### **8. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda.**

Agenda items: Update Regional Ice Rescue, Grant funding opportunities and contingencies on what we want to do.

Steve said the Bayfield County Ice Rescue meeting is usually the first week in December so we might want to wait until after that meeting before setting a regional meeting.

Arnie said he will not have a bill ready until the end of December.

Agreement to schedule the next meeting for Monday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Motion by Dave to adjourn, second, Jim. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourns at approximately 10:30am.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant  
Minutes approved as presented January 6, 2016