

December 17, 2010

A regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. All board members were present. There were 22 public attendees.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to approve the minutes from November 9th and December 1st. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Aho to approve the agenda, with additions. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Monthly water samples were collected from the Lind and Townline systems and sent to the State Lab in Houghton for bacterial testing. All samples met the MDNRE standard requirements. The Houghton Facility closed due to state funding cuts.

Monthly water usage reports were tabulated and sent to the MDNRE in Gwinn.

Repaired a break on a 6 inch water main along the Warner Mine Road north of Conner Sports Flooring. The circumstances with the caving ground made it necessary to have Dennis Williams help with his excavator so we could make the repair.

Chlorination was discontinued on the Townline system and billing was sent to Hematite Township.

Replaced a 1 inch galvanized water service at 1613 M-69 from the water main to the curb stop with 55 feet of 1 inch copper tubing on the south side of the highway.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to approve the Public Works Foreman's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

GIBSON LAKE PARK AND UPDATES

Rob Anderson presented the board with a pay request for Ponchaud Contracting in the amount of \$ 10,793.57 for there removal of the old pavilion ,some plumbing modification of water proofing the new pavilion, and some concrete and topsoil work.. Anderson stated that the buildings have been winterized. Motion by Kut, supported by Dalpra to approve the pay request in the amount of \$10,793.57 to Ponchaud Contracting. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

SKI HILL:

Lesandrini stated that he spoke with the City to ask if they could help in opening the ski hill.

Dorthea Olson stated that there would be a problem with using volunteers for running the tows.

The City Council does not want to have the liability cost in using volunteers, stated Olson.

Scott Thrasher noted that the inspector stated he would not issue a permit if the ski hill was run by volunteers.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Lesandrini stated that last month Waisanen resigned from the position of Zoning Administrator as of January 1, 2011. Cary Gustafson , said Lesandrini, is interested in the position and will be retiring from the DNRE as of January 1, 2011, plus he is also on the Planning and Zoning board, which he would resign from. His knowledge and expertise will add a lot, stated Kut. "This is a win, win for the township". Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to appoint Gustafon as the Zoning Administrator. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ISSUES:

Lesandrini stated that he had spoken with Olson regarding retirement and health insurance for the

two retirees. A recommendation by Olson was to put a committee together consisting of two members from the Township and two members of the City along with both attorneys to come up with recommendations for the retired firemen regarding basic benefits. A decision has to be made at our January 11, 2011 meeting commented Lesandrini, so he suggested to set up the meeting as soon as possible. Lesandrini recommended Kut and Dalpra to be on the committee along with Steve Tinti.

Kut stated that she had some items that needed addressing. Presently the wages are \$9.00 per hour, practice \$6.00 per hour, plus mileage for our volunteer firemen, commented Kut. Kut recommended, supported by Dalpra, as of January 1, 2011 the volunteers wages will be set at a straight \$10.00 per hour for all three breakdowns. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried. Kut said after reviewing the present procedure for funds within the volunteer fire department, certain funding should remain with the department. Those funds include, fund raisers and private donation. Grant and company donations for specific purposes are to be forwarded to the township for a special and designated account specified by the donors. Since these funds are maintained and controlled within this function, they require a treasurer to maintain and disburse once the volunteer firemen have approved. "I will make a motion, stated Kut,, supported by Dalpra to remain with the secretary/ treasurer position within the department, to handle, complete and safekeeping of all records for an annual audit when the township has their fund accounts audited. The recommended pay for this individual is \$12.00 per hour by weekly as a wage. This will be retroactive as of July 7, 2010. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kut noted that there has been some discrepancies in sending out 2nd and 3rd notices of the fire calls charges to residents. Seppala stated that she had been in touch with Ahola and he did draw up a form letter with the Township as a recipient for the payment. Seppala will send out the 2nd and 3rd notices if need be and Tinti will also compile a letter to be sent out with the bills.

Kut stated that the need for professional plumbing (gas & water) and utility services exists at the scenes of fires responded to by the Crystal Falls Fire Department. Kut noted that responsibilities for the fire chief is to begin the process to complete the billing of expenses. Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to hire the professional services of the plumbing and heating facility to assist with the fire department. \$10.00 per hour will be charged for the services provided. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kut noted that the bi-laws of the Crystal Falls Township Fire Department are still pending.

BUDGET REDUCTION PROPOSAL 2010-2012

Because the operational millage was defeated twice, the Township Board came up with several budget reduction proposals. Lesandrini stated that he has been in touch with WE Energies regarding the street light at the intersections. The cost to turn the lights off would annually be \$3,500.00. But there would be other cost with that stated Lesandrini. One option was to put a timer on the lights, said Lesandrini. Lesandrini stated that he already had the lights turned off by BP and Jubilee as a trial basis. There isn't much difference, commented Lesandrini. They will be turned back on Wednesday.

Seppala stated that presently township residents pay no fees for the hall rental. \$20.00 is the security deposit, which is normally returned if the hall is cleaned up and garbage is taken. Non-residents are presently charged \$25.00 plus \$20.00 security deposit. I would like to recommend to the board to charge the residents \$50.00 plus \$20.00 security deposit and non-residents \$100.00 plus \$20.00 security deposit. The heating of the hall and the wear and tear of the chairs and tables is horrific, stated Seppala. Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut as of January 1, 2011 to charge the residents \$50.00 hall rental plus \$20.00 security deposit and non-residents \$100.00 plus \$20.00 security deposit. All of the residents that have booked the hall up to the present time will be grandfathered in at the old cost, stated Seppala. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Lesandrini commented that Randy Bucek suggested charging for recycling. Lesandrini stated that he would look into a sticker charge and report back to the board.

Lesandrini recommended to the board to discontinue to be involved in the cemetery agreement with the City. That is a quarter of a mil and is a huge expense for the township, stated Lesandrini. Motion by Aho, supported by Kut to send a letter to the City stating that the Crystal Falls Township will no longer be involved with the cemetery agreement and that it should be user pay. Roll call was taken. Dalpra, no, Aho, yes, Kut, yes, Seppala, yes and Lesandrini, yes. Motion carried.

Lesandrini stated that one of the employees that the township hired 4 years ago was promised a raise after his probation periods and if he completed his certification. I hope this board, stated Lesandrini, will rethink and review this in January.

Lesandrini stated that a compensation committee will be formed. This is built up of 5 residents of the township. They cannot be employees of the township stated Lesandrini, but I will appoint these people and the board will be asked to approve or disapprove. Lesandrini stated that if anyone is interested, my e-mail address is on my card, or send me a note and I will take these applications up until the January meeting.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to approve the METRO ACT Permit. The extension is for a term to end on December 31, 2013. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

CRYSTAL FALLS DISTRICT COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Motion by Kut, supported by Dalpra to re-appoint Sue Schwelder to the library board. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

MASTER PLAN & ORDINANCE:

Curt Stebic presented the board with the final draft of the master plan & ordinance for review and adoption. Tinti suggested putting this on the agenda for the January's board meeting for consideration.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to approve the EFT's in the amount of \$1,226.06. Prepaid's in the amount of \$75,394.89 and the Monthly's in the amount of \$18,826.85 with a total of \$95,447.80. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Aho to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk