

Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting

**TOWN OF BELL
BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 10, 2017
following the Caucus
at the Bell Community Center**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Board members present were Matt Lazorik, Mike O'Bryon, Janice Olson, Yvette Fleming, MaryBeth Tillmans and Lynda Nedden-Durst. Vicki Lewis-Hay was absent.

-Board Meeting Minutes- Y. Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes and J. Olson 2nd the motion. Approved.

-Treasurer's Report – M. O'Bryon made a motion to approve the report and J. Olson 2nd the motion. Approved

Old Business:

1. Siskiwit River Protection and Access – Update

A group of citizens have formed "Friends" of the Siskiwit River Protection and Access, to put together answers concerning the Siskiwit River Protection and Access project. The Bayfield Regional Conservancy(BRC) has received a letter from the DNR that the grant from Knowles-Nelson stewardship program has tentatively been awarded to them to support the acquisition of the two adjacent parcels in the Town of Bell for conservation and public recreational purposes. The Town of Bell and Bayfield County Boards also received a letter dated Dec. 21, 2016 from the DNR about the tentative award and stating that the Boards can adopt a resolution in support or opposing land acquisitions funded by the Stewardship program. The resolution for or against this grant will be nonbinding and the Department is required to consider the resolution, if it is received in 30 days of receipt of the letter. The DNR has been informed that the Town of Bell board does intend on sending a resolution to them either supporting or opposing the BRC land acquisition through the DNR stewardship program. The Bayfield County board has also informed the DNR that they intend to send a resolution, after hearing the town's position. The DNR has given an extended deadline of February 28th, 2017, because of being notified of the intent to file a resolution. M. Lazorik proposed having several more town hearings to gather more information about the grants, costs and how this transaction happens, where people can talk and the electors can vote. He talked about the board giving input to the DNR, about the DNR stewardship grant being tentatively awarded to the BRC. The date set for the public hearing is set for Wednesday, February 8th at the Town of Bell Community Center at 7:00 p.m.. A representative from the DNR will be present to discuss what the transaction is and to answer any questions. The town board resolution to the DNR would be based on the vote of and letters received from the electors on recommendations regarding the BRC land acquisition through the DNR stewardship program. The letters must be received by the Feb. 8th public hearing. On Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the regular town board meeting, the town board will vote to send a resolution either supporting or opposing the grant. M. Lazorik asked people to write down any questions that they have for the DNR and to submit them. He will then provide the list of questions to the DNR by email and that they will answer them. Information is available on the BRC website. Erica Lang, with the BRC will have copies of the project description and people can contact her with questions. Information about the project proposal will be available on the town website. A Q & A form is in the

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process of being created.

2. Siskiwit River Protection and Access -request to rescind supporting resolution
This was tabled until next month.
3. Birch Hill natural area – Update
No update
4. FEMA - Pre-Application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Update
A letter was received that the Hazard Mitigation Grant submitted by the town would not be funded. In an email along with the letter, Katie Sommers the hazard mitigation officer said that for this grant, they concentrated funding on acquisitions and demolitions of structures on flood prone properties. The funds they had were not enough to do all these requests they received. She is encouraging us to continue seeking funding for possible mitigation in the future. M. Tillmans recommended forming a River/Harbor committee to continue with possible mitigation or sediment control. M. Lazorik made a motion to approve forming a River/Harbor committee to look ahead into the future. M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Approved. The committee members will be Matt Lazorik, MaryBeth Tillmans, Matt Hipsher, Mark Halvorson, Dave Tillmans, Will Tillmans and Alan Hahn.
5. Commercial use of Town land- update on new ordinance
Nothing new to report.
6. Income Survey – Community Development Block Grant – Update
M. Tillmans spoke with Angela Davis who is the Dept. Admin. Income Survey Specialist. She will be working with the town on the process. It was recommended to form a committee to help with the process. M. Lazorik made a motion to approve forming an Income Survey Committee and J. Olson 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Approved. The committee members will be Y. Fleming, V. Lewis-Hay, M. Tillmans, Bill Sloan and George Lazorik.

New Business

1. Resolution that supports or opposes the land acquisition for the Siskiwit River Protection and Access to the BRC from the DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program
The town board resolution to the DNR would be based on the vote of and letters received from the electors on recommendations regarding the BRC land acquisition through the DNR stewardship program from the public hearing held on Wed., Feb. 8, 2017. On Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the regular town board meeting, the town board will vote to send a resolution either supporting or opposing the grant.
2. Set date for public hearing for input on the resolution that supports or opposes the land acquisition for The Siskiwit river Protection and Access to the BRC from the DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program
The date for the hearing was set for Wednesday, February 8, 2017 , 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Bell Community Center.
3. Add wording to any DNR documents necessary regarding the Siskiwit River to insure future Mitigation can take place- discussion and action
M. Tillmans recommended wording or language to be part of the resolution to the DNR to be certain that the door is kept open for any future river mitigation or sediment control that the town may want in the future. All approvals of state or federal regulations would be met. She approached the Planning Commission for approval. The Planning Committee recommended approving the wording with a vote of three in favor with two members abstaining.

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4. Loan for new dump truck- discussion and possible action
This will be on next month's board meeting.
5. Repair of dock wall in the marina- decision to advertise for bids
Marina committee meeting was held discussing the failing wall south of the shops. They discussed repairing the wall with interlocking sheet steel with the old wall in place. The old wall would be torn out after the new wall is in place. They would also finish the open end too. The cost of the sheet piling and wooden posts is estimated to be approximately \$300,000. Y. Fleming made a motion to advertise for bids to fix the wall and do the new sheet piling. M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Approved.
6. Abandoning Town road 15- discussion
M. Lazorik has the documents from the court house that say where the road is suppose to be and the actual easement. More research needs to be done.
7. Swearing in for the commissioners on the Bell Sanitary District
Frank Roman, Don Frey and Larry Chernoff were sworn in as sanitary district commissioners.
8. Plan Commission appointments that are up this year- ask for nominations to be submitted
There is one vacancy – Joni Vaughn. An appointment will be made at the April board meeting. Nominations for candidates can be submitted to the town clerk.

Committee/Project Reports:

Fire Department/Ambulance- The ambulance had five runs. Two were to Cornucopia and three to Port Wing. The fire department has been responding to cars in the ditch and one roll over.

Roads-They are staying ahead of the snow and maintaining equipment.

Planning Commission-Discussion was held about the Siskiwit River Estuary project. They discussed wording presented by M. Tillmans for a document to accompany a DNR contract for a Knowles -Nelson stewardship to BRC. The Planning Committee recommended approving the wording with a vote of three in favor with two members abstaining. They continued with the sign permitting criteria. They did research on the brightness of LED lights. There are ways of dimming them on signs. They could be bright during the day, but dimmed at night so that they are not a distraction to drivers. This will be added to the sign criteria. They are working on their year end review.

Marina-None

Parks and Lands/Green Shed-They are looking for more members for the committee.

Community Center-It was discussed using a microphone system regularly at town meetings.

Notices/Library-New messages are continually being added to the website.

Recycling Center-Dan Tervo is the recycling center manager until Lin Smith returns. Business has slowed down for the winter.

Airport-None

Cornucopia Business Association-They are working on the spring fling. They have a new sign for the scenic byway kiosk.

Scenic Byways Committee- This month's meeting will be held in Herbster. Meeting frequency has been to quarterly. They are still looking for a new Town of Bell representative.

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Correspondence –Jerin Frey – Letter in favor of conservancy for Siskiwit preserve, but concentrating on land near the river (300ft) and leaving some for possible buildings.

Friends of Siskwit- Letter with signatures in support of the land acquisition to the DNR.

Carnegie Hero Commission – Letter awarding the Carnegie Hero medel to Dennis Swenson for his attempt to rescue his mother from their house fire.

Allyn & Wayne Starr-Friends of Siskiwit – In favor of Swenson property being dedeed to the Town of Bell.

Bills were paid. At 8:55 p.m. M. Lazorik made a motion to adjourn the meeting and J. Olson 2nd the motion. Approved.

Respectfully submitted

MaryBeth Tillmans - Clerk