

Minutes to be approved at the next board meeting

**TOWN OF BELL  
BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, October 10, 2017  
at 7:00 p.m.  
at the Bell Community Center**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Matt Lazorik, Mike O'Bryon, Janice Olson, Y. Fleming, MaryBeth Tillmans and Lynda Nedden-Durst.

Vicki Lewis-Hay was absent.

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

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

**Public Comments:**

1. Judy Kerr – She is the Town of Bell South Shore school board member. Anyone with any concerns or wanting information about the South Shore school, can contact her.
2. Don Frey – He asked the board for consideration of improvements for the roads in town. The ATVs are working them up. He would like the town to budget for improvements.
3. Susan Keachie – She has worked on the Town of Bell Comprehensive Plan in 2006 until now. It is very specific in a lot of places, from the survey results that our citizens want to preserve the town's history and our natural environment. The Siskiwit River project fits into both of those priorities of the Comprehensive Plan.
4. Jackie Eid – She has questions for M. O'Bryon and Y. Fleming to elaborate on later.  
Question to M. O'Byon - At the Aug. 1, 2017, Parks and Lands committee meeting, reference was made that there was no budget money available for the Siskiwit River Estuary Project. We as a town, were told that this was not supposed to cost the town anything. She would like him to explain that.  
Question to Y. Fleming – On the Sept. 5, 2017, Parks and Lands committee meeting, there were two statements made. They were concerning the Siskiwit River Estuary project rezone. The statements were: "This rezone is a concession." and "An additional trail head can be added at a later date." She asked that these comments please be explained.
5. Gina Emily – Is there a form to submit considerations for the 2018 budget? Any considerations, can be submitted to any board member.
6. Roger Lindgren – The town needs to provide a better way for snowmobiles to get into town. He would like to see this as an agenda item.

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7. Larry Fickbohm – He is the Bayfield County Supervisor for this district. He believes in local control. When the town had its first vote, the Siskiwit River Estuary project was scheduled to go in front of Bayfield County Tourism and Forestry at the county level. The town vote was against the Siskiwit River Estuary project. He had them removed from the agenda because of the vote, because he believes in local control. The town had a second vote, in favor of the Siskiwit River Estuary project. The county is waiting to see what the Town of Bell will do. The number one industry in the county is tourism. This year they will set records for three years in a row, with dollars coming into Bayfield County, because of tourism. The county's four campgrounds, bring in \$80,000 a year. The county is waiting for the Town of Bell to make a move on this. The county is very supportive of this. If the family of the Siskiwit River Estuary project approaches the county, because the town is unable to move forward on this, he is prepared to take it forward on the county level. He does not want to threaten the town's people. He would prefer that it stay with the town, because town members would have control over the advertising, parking and that type of thing. If it goes to the county, a lot of that will be lost.
8. David Tillmans- The Tillmans family has applied to the county for a conditional use permit to continue operating their marina as a marina. This came about as they have asked the county to do some improvements on some of their buildings that they have at their marina. They need to establish that it is a marina with the county. It has been around a long time and it is pre 1976, when zoning was established in Bayfield County. Because of this it is considered nonconforming. The conditional use permit would make it conforming. They are asking the town to endorse their application.

**Correspondence -**

- Letter from Greg Harrold, the lawyer that was hired to give the town input on the Siskiwit River Estuary Project. The town board tabled the county rezone recommendation, so that they could get this letter. The board did have a chance to read it. M. Lazorik read that letter that was dated yesterday.
- Letter from Brent and Sherry Surouwic –Property owners of Siskiwit River Estuary Project. The board members did have chance to read it. M. Lazorik read the letter.

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**Old Business:**

1. Siskiwit River Protection and Access – Update, discussion and possible decision

Y. Fleming made a motion to take from the table the issue of a rezone of all three Surouwic properties, before sending a letter of support for the grant monies from the DNR and NOAA. M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Y. Fleming continued the discussion. Surouwic have sent a letter that they want to work with the town to make this property part of our community and zoning has said that the present zoning ordinance does not prohibit recreation and public access on the two remaining parcels, and they do not have to be zoned RRB. Y. Fleming was asked about comment saying that the town put the 36 acres next to the highway as a concession to the people that are against the zoning as it stood. That was her personal feeling that the town would try to communicate to the citizens here, our intent to cooperate with their efforts to make a zoning change that would allow recreational use. It was done as a concession to move this project along. She wants to see this move ahead and get the letters off to NOAA and the DNR to accept their grant monies. She has done this by telephone and by email. For their records, they need a letter. She feels that they have the support from the attorney. She would like to see that happen. J. Olson was concerned about the quote from the attorney Greg Harrold, "although the town could be named in a law suit challenging the appropriateness of trail use on property zoned single family". She expressed concern about the town being financially liable for any problems that may come about. No guarantee that the town will not liable in any zoning situation. Y. Fleming stated there are no guarantees and that zoning said to bring it on. She does not believe any of our citizens would bring a suit against the town, for something would appreciate the towns value and bring in money to the local businesses. A vote was taken (2-2) Yes – Y. Fleming and M. O'Bryon. No – M. Lazorik and J. Olson. Motion failed.

Y. Fleming made a motion to move forward with the Surouwic request to transfer their property to a local government by turning this issue over to the County of Bayfield. M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. M. Lazorik spoke about that throughout this process, especially the most recent process of the town trying to table the zoning request from the town to the county and having the county walk over the town on that one issue. He believes that this happened because there are members of that committee that want to see this process continue. This is not the reason why the board asked for it to be tabled. It was asked, so that the town could receive a letter from its attorney, pertaining to this matter and they could make an appropriate decision. The town has not asked the county zoning previously to table any other zoning recommendations. If the county wants to make decisions for the town, then they can own the land. A vote was taken (4-0) – Yes- M. Lazorik, M. O'Bryon, J. Olson and Y. Fleming . Motion passed.

2. Town Board Recommendation – Surowiec Property – Siskiwit River Property – Trailhead Rezone

This is the recommendation on the rezone. The town tabled it and asked the county to table it, until legal advice could be received. The town did acquire Greg Harrold and a letter with legal advice was received. Even through the county board went ahead and made their decision, M. Lazorik felt that the board should discuss it and make their recommendation to the county. Y. Fleming made a motion that the town board recommend the rezoning of the one parcel to RRB. M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. A vote was taken (4-0) – Yes – M. Lazorik, M. O'Bryon, J. Olson and Y. Fleming. Motion passed.

3. Brick on Community Center addition – decision to complete project

The town crew started work on it three years ago. M. Lazorik spoke with Meierottos about doing the work. They have found brick that matches. Y. Fleming will contact them about completing the project.

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**New Business:**

1. Bayfield County Senior Meals – Laurie Perkins  
Senior meals are being served at Bear Paw in Port Wing. The meals are served on Tuesday from 2-4pm. The suggested price is \$4.00. The age requirement is 60 and over. The meals are well balanced and dietician approved. There are no income requirements.
2. Resolution for DNR grant for the Siskiwit River project- discussion and possible decision  
Y. Fleming made a motion to postpone indefinitely the resolution to the DNR grant and M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Vote: (4-0) Yes-M. Lazorik, M. O'Bryon, J. Olson and Y. Fleming. Motion passed.
3. Resolution for Wisconsin coastal management grant for the Siskiwit River project- discussion and possible decision  
Y. Fleming made a motion to postpone indefinitely the resolution to the Wis. Coastal Management grant and M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Vote: (4-0) Yes-M. Lazorik, M. O'Bryon, J. Olson and Y. Fleming. Motion passed. Y. Fleming made a motion for a letter of thank you for their recognition of the Siskiwit River project and their appreciation of their involvement and M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion.  
Vote: (4-0) Yes-M. Lazorik, M. O'Bryon, J. Olson and Y. Fleming
4. Town Board Recommendation –David and MaryBeth Tillman –Conditional Use Permit to continue operation of an existing Marina  
J. Olson read the minutes from the Planning Commission meeting pertaining to the request. It was unanimously approved by the planning commission. J. Olson made the recommendation that the town board approve the conditional use permit for the Tillmans to continue operating as a marina and M. O'Bryon 2nd the motion. Unanimously approved. Motion passed.
5. Commercial use of Town land- Fees and access- Discussion and possible decision  
M. Lazorik made a motion to postpone this item until next month and Y. Fleming 2nd the motion. Unanimous decision. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

Fire Department/Ambulance – The fire department had one call for a brush fire.  
Roads-The road crew is wrapping up the work on Klemick.  
Planning Commission- Everything was tabled until next month.  
Marina-None  
Parks and Lands/Green Shed-None  
Community Center- Working on treating the front and back of the building with rust inhibitors.  
Notices/Library-The new chairperson for the library is Phillip Moye. New board members are Bitsy Sloan and Nancy Lindgren  
Recycling Center-None  
Airport-None  
Cornucopia Business Association-None  
Scenic Byways Committee-None

Bills were paid. At 8:50 p.m. J. Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and M. O'Bryon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Approved.

Respectfully submitted

MaryBeth Tillmans - Clerk