

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
March 14, 2007

Mayor Larsen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members present: Evelyn Larsen, Kay Costello, Edward Bolstad, Tim Kennedy and William Lenz

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Don Davison, and Kim Dunsmoor

Mayor Larsen invited the public to speak during a period of open forum. Open Forum is limited to one half-hour. No person may speak more than 5 minutes or more than once.

Sue Hakes, Sawtooth Cottages Advisory Committee and a Realtor, attended the Economic Development Authority meeting. Her concern is heightened regarding Northern Communities Land Trust and does not believe the project will be good for lower income people, local contractors, or the Grand Marais economy. This project will not solve the jobs or affordable home problem in Grand Marais.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda, February 28, 2007, Minutes, and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Jan Sivertson, Grand Marais Business Council, explained the purpose of this newly formed organization. The GMBC was formed to protect, promote and facilitate the vitality of business in Grand Marais. The GMBC intends to complement the Grand Marais Area Tourism and Grand Marais Chamber of Commerce. The GMBC wants to work with government groups and get involved with political issues facing Grand Marais.

RLK Kuusisto recommends approval of Downtown Infrastructure/Streetscape Improvements Change Order No. 10 that increases the contract amount by \$76,461.39. This is a compensating change order, which is an adjustment to the final quantities installed in the field. RLK Kuusisto also recommends approval of Downtown Infrastructure/Streetscape Improvements Final Pay Estimate No. 10 of \$126,714.96 to Louis Leustek & Sons, Inc. This includes Change Order No. 10 and retainage amounts. We will calculate a transfer to close this project and be holding special assessment hearings for the streetscape portion of the project.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve Downtown Infrastructure / Streetscape Improvements Contract# 2002-537 Change Order No. 10 in the amount of \$76,461.39 and Final Pay Estimate No. 10 in the amount of \$126,714.96 to Louis Leustek and Sons, Inc. Approved unanimously.

The land description for the rezoning of the EDA property has been altered, therefore, it is recommended that Ordinance 2007-01 be tabled to make the appropriate change.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to table Ordinance 2007-01. Approved unanimously.

Jane Shinnars presented the Grand Marais Area Tourism Budget. GMATA has a new marketing approach and has hired a professional marketing company. In addition, they will focus on marketing issues and one festival: Moose Madness.

Mayor Larsen's Report:

- 1) Met with Pool Committee members to talk about plans and ideas for the pool.
- 2) Jim Oberstar has invited the council for a breakfast meeting on Saturday, March 17, 2007, at the Pie Place 8:00 a.m.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Library Board continues to look at expansion needs.
- 2) The Joint Powers Recreation Board will meet March 19, 2007, to discuss by-laws.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Park Board reached consensus for a mooring buoy amendment, is moving forward with handicap accessible trail improvement plans by Sweethearts Bluff, and tabled a wetlands discussion until next month.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Planning Commission will make recommendations and hold a public hearing regarding a ordinance definition change to allow home businesses in accessory buildings in the R-1 zone using the same language as is allowed in the SC zone.
- 2) The Safety Committee met and set a schedule for safety training for the year. There were some comments about the public works facility by the park and the need to secure the buildings, lack of space, limitations of equipment, and containment. The council should give some time to this issue. In addition, the electric department was given an APPA Award for no accidents or injuries in 2006.
- 3) The EDA will be recommending the preliminary plat for the Sawtooth Cottages development in April. The plat encompasses 37 lots 10,000 square feet to approximately one acre in size. The EDA also approved in concept the agreement with Northern Communities Land Trust to sell 10 lots at \$1 in an effort to provide affordable housing. This agreement received criticism from several local contractors. The EDA would like to hear from contractors who feel they can build affordable housing. The EDA will continue a hearing on March 30, 2007.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The county and city have met with the DNR regarding a possible land exchange for the acreage north of the city or an outright sale of the property.

City Attorney Davison's Report:

- 1) The Duluth Area Community Foundation is holding a session on March 29 regarding retaining and attracting young people to the community.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.