

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
September 13, 2006

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

Members present: Mark Sandbo, Kay Costello, Bob Spry, Edward Bolstad and Tim Kennedy

Members absent: None

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

Mayor Sandbo 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.

Harley Toftey, Commercial Fisherman, requested that the council send a letter to the DNR Commissioner restating the council's original motion in support of commercial fishing. At the recent meeting, the DNR denied commercial fishing of lake trout because they felt the philosophy of gill-netting sport fish (lake trout) was not plausible in Northern Minnesota. Toftey questioned when lake trout was designated as a sport fish. Other states on Lake Superior allow commercial fishing of lake trout.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Spry to send a letter to the Department of Natural Resources Commission restating the council's original motion of support for commercial fishing of lake trout with copies to the legislators. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the Agenda with addition of alley issues; approve the August 30, 2006, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Tom and Shelley Alvin are requesting a variance from the minimum lot size standards to construct a 30' X 40' garage on a 60' X 135' lot not served by city sewer and water located at Lots 6-7, Block 15, Central Addition. The Planning Commission found that it was beneficial to allow this parcel to be used, and that a storage building that would not require water and sewer was an appropriate use. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the variance by a 5-0 vote with the restriction that this parcel may only be used for garage/storage.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Bolstad to approve Resolution 2006-17 Tom and Shelley Alvin Variance with the provision that the garage cannot be used for residential habitation. Approved unanimously.

Dehlia Siem, Attorney for Gunflint Gals, discussed the East Bay Suites Handicap Ramp Easement and Maintenance Agreement. Item number 8 defines the termination clause. City Attorney Davison recommended that the council not agree to the easement as

presented because the proposed easement turns over a substantial portion of sidewalk to a private party, the easement is permanent and is in essence a gift to the East Bay Suites.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello, to refer the East Bay Suites Easement Agreement to be negotiated between the city attorney, city administrator and East Bay Suites. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Sandbo to formulate the Easement Agreement with no financial consideration. Ayes: Spry, Sandbo, Kennedy, Costello Nay: Bolstad

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to approve Resolution 2006-18 Preliminary 2006 Tax Levy Collectible 2007 at \$724,370.00 with the idea to reduce the levy by December. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Costello to approve the following liquor licenses for the period October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007:

Number	Licensee	Business	License Type	Fee
2006-01	My Sister's Place	My Sister's Place	Wine/Beer	\$440
2006-02	BSR Inc.	Harbor Light	Liquor/Sunday	\$2500
2006-03	Raven Resources Inc.	Birch Terrace Supper Club	Liquor/Sunday	\$2500
2006-04	Sven & Ole's Inc.	Sven & Ole's Pizza	Liquor/Sunday	\$2500
2006-05	Jeffrey William Gecas	Gun Flint Tavern	Liquor/Sunday	\$2500
2006-06	Am Legion 413	American Legion Lounge	Club	\$700
2006-07	The Crooked Spoon Café, Inc.	The Crooked Spoon Café	Wine/Beer	\$440
2006-08	Mike's Holiday	Holiday Stationstore	3.2 Beer Off-sale	\$110
2006-09	Schulte Enterprises	Grand Marais Superamerica	3.2 Beer Off-sale	\$110

Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Amendment to Services Agreement Safety Compliance Program between the City of Grand Marais and Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association in the Amount of \$11,000 annually. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to approve the revised library budget due to an increase in health care coverage and reductions in other line items such as book budget and continuing staff education. Approved unanimously.

The council discussed the alley issues behind city hall. Jackie Larsen has brought up the issue of drainage problems. The paving of the alley during the downtown street project anticipated alleviating the drainage problem, however there is not enough grade to effectively alleviate the puddle: however, the puddle is a lot smaller than prior to the project.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Spry to have another engineer look at the alley problem behind city hall for recommendations. Approved unanimously.

Mayor Sandbo's Report:

- 1) Attended the DNR Meeting regarding commercial fishing of lake trout in Minnesota's Lake Superior. Currently, two fisherman can net 600 fish in the spring and in the fall. Under the commercial fishing proposal, 2400 fish would be able to be taken per season. In 1960 lake trout were considered commercial fish, but are now considered sport fish. The DNR did not like the concept of netting sport fish.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Library Board is continuing discussion of renovating the library. The property has many limitations. There is no parking and people are attached to the green space and trees.
- 2) The committee for a joint powers recreation board is structuring a prototype joint powers agreement. Bill Hennessy, County Attorney, has been helping the process.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The SMMPA Meeting was held in Grand Marais this month. Currently, they are discussing a policy for capital improvement financing. Our membership in SMMPA, as our electricity supplier, drives our electric rates.
- 2) Received a complaint about skateboarding in Harbor Park. Skateboarders had set up a rail in the middle of the circle. As long as skateboarders are not damaging property and are not bothering other people, they can be in Harbor Park. However, as issues arise, we may have to clarify use of Harbor Park.

Motion by Spry, seconded by Kennedy, to adjourn the meeting. Approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.