

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS  
MINUTES  
January 28, 2009

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

Members present: Sue Hakes, Jan Sivertson, William Lenz, Tim Kennedy and Kay Costello

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Ben Silence, Linda Chappell, Don Davison, and Kim Dunsmoor

Mayor Hakes 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.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the agenda; January 14, 2009, Minutes; and payment of bills. Approved unanimously.**

Ben Silence, Fire Chief, discussed ongoing equipment needs and wishes. There are currently 24 volunteer firefighters and 8 first responders. In 2008, the fire department responded to 6 fires, 3 car accidents, 10 false alarms, and 5 training and residential false calls. There is ongoing training every year and a requirement of new volunteers to take Firefighter 1. The council was invited to the Fireman's Annual Dinner on February 4, 2008, at 6:30 at the Birch Terrace. School children will be touring the Fire Hall and Ambulance garages on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Motion by Hakes, seconded by Lenz to appoint Walt Mianowski to the Park Board for a 1-year term. Approved unanimously.**

There are 3 more vacant board/commission seats. The Planning Commission needs two members, and the Economic Development Authority needs one member.

Ann Possis and Linda Chappell introduced a community book read event: Better Together: Restoring the American Community. People may check out the book at the Library, WTIP, and Cook County Extension Services or they may buy their own copy from Drury Lane Books. There will be several community events such as an ice carving event, teen gaming, on-air discussions, family story time. This project is aimed at bringing the community together and building social capital.

The North Shore Federal Credit Union is requesting use of a portion of the right-of way to place a propane tank.

**Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Costello to approve the location and concept of the North Shore Federal Credit Union Request subject to completing paperwork and conditions such as a time limit, naming city as additional insured, and placing bollards. Approved unanimously.**

Council will hold a one-day session tentatively on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss city priorities.

**Motion by Costello, seconded by Sivertson to approve the 2009 American Legion Post 413 Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo on March 20, April 3, April 17, and May 1. Approved unanimously.**

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Broadband Committee requested proposals from several vendors, had received and is reviewing RFP's. The committee will select a vendor in the next week or so.
- 2) SMMPA is asking its 12 communities to sign new contracts for electric supplies through the year 2050. The communities are cautious about this request and are evaluating the appropriateness of this request.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The Economic Development Authority held a special meeting to approve the EDA's sale of the old Baptist Church building to Cook County Higher Education. Higher Education will hold an open house in February.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Joint Recreation Board will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. John Muus' term has expired and Tim Cochran is submitting his resignation. This board has not met since July and is largely dependent upon the 1% sales tax outcome. Since the committee does not have direction at this time, Costello recommends not appointing any new members until the direction is clear.

Mayor Hakes's Report:

- 1) Jim Wiinanen, Emergency Management Director, will meet with the Mayor to discuss the city's role in county-wide emergency management.
- 2) Have certificates to present to Past Mayor Evelyn Larsen and Past Councilor Ed Bolstad acknowledging their contribution of leadership in the city.

City Attorney Davison's Report:

- 1) Noted that the US Postmaster is considering cutting mail service to 5 days per week. Suggested that the city oppose such a measure when the mail service is so important to rural communities.

City Administrator Roth's Report:

- 1) The city was unallotted \$38,000 in Local Government Aid at the end of 2008 and anticipates the projected unallotment of \$49,500 for 2009. With

Pawlenty's proposed budget cuts, we could lose as much as \$103,000 by 2010.

Council discussed making a calendar of events for various city, EDA, park, and planning commission meetings. Boreal Access may be a place to create the calendar.

A budget worksession is set for February 25, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. A tentative all day worksession to discuss priorities and capital projects is set for March 2, 2009, at North House Folk School.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.