

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
January 30, 2008

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

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

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. No one spoke.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda; January 9, 2008, Minutes with amendment to Councilor Lenz' report; payment of bills; MDHA Raffle Permit; and 2008 Tobacco Licenses for Birch Terrace, Buck's Hardware Hank, Gene's IGA, Grand Marais Superamerica, and Mike's Holiday Stationstore. Approved unanimously.

Ben VanTassel gave the council an update about the North Shore Management Board's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) goal. GIS has several uses for public administration including mapping, land use, zoning maps, land parcel record keeping, utilities location, erosion, roads, emergency planning, etc. The North Shore Management Board has begun the process of identifying if GIS is being utilized and what could ease the utilization of GIS. Next, they will identify what needs exist and what barriers are holding communities back from using GIS. They hope to use this information to help communities access GIS information.

Citizens petitioned for Creechville Improvements years ago. December 19, 2007, the council ordered a feasibility study for Creechville Utility Extension and Street and Utility Reconstruction of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th Avenues W. The feasibility studies were given to the council. Creechville Utility Extension is estimated at \$856,317 and considered feasible. Street and Utility Reconstruction is estimated at \$2,168,870 and considered feasible. Justification for this project include areas that have failing septics and are undeveloped. Some of these areas are not yet annexed.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Costello to set the Creechville Utility Extension and 2008 Utility Reconstruction Improvement Hearing for February 27, 2008, at 5:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Bolstad, seconded by Kennedy to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2007-05 Regulating Mooring Buoys in the Grand Marais Harbor, Amending Grand Marais Ordinance 2004-03. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Bolstad to approve Resolution 2008-01 Authorizing Submission of a Minnesota Small Cities Development Program Application with Lake County and the Cooperative Agreement between Lake County and the Cities of Two Harbors, Silver Bay and Grand Marais In Support of a Small Cities Development Program Project. Approved unanimously.

If the Minnesota Small Cities Development Grant is approved, it would provide income based rehabilitation grants and loans to homeowners for insulation, energy efficient improvements, and connections to city water and sewer. We are continuing to take pre-applications and are hoping to extend the program to other areas.

The hospital needs to purchase a new ambulance. This is a service that does not pay for itself. This should be a joint county, city, school, tribe discussion item on February 28.

Matt Geretschlaeger, EDA Director, is requesting office space for a Housing Coordinator in the City Hall building. The Housing Coordinator would need approximately 150 sq foot of space and be willing to pay \$250 per month for office space. The Library Friends currently store books in the old Chief of Police Office. This space would be suitable for the Housing Coordinator. A lease agreement will be available for discussion at the next meeting.

The city has been working on annexations for several years now. The third attempt to annex these areas can be done through a joint resolution with the County Board for an orderly annexation between the City of Grand Marais and the County of Cook Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §414.0325. The city would like to hold a joint meeting with the county on February 26 to consider these annexations.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Park Board representatives met with the DNR this morning to discuss the possibility of new docks and an extended boat launch ramp in the southwest corner of the harbor. It appears that the DNR is willing to what we want with a 20-year maintenance agreement with the city. At least one of the docks would need to be handicap accessible.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Joint Powers Board is researching the pool.
- 2) The County Board decided not to pursue the 1% Sales Tax this year.

Councilor Bolstad's Report:

- 1) There were no power outages during the high winds we had yesterday.
- 2) New rates: Electric increased 3%, Water increased 5%, and Sewer had no increase. The Public Utilities Electric Rate is still less than Arrowhead Cooperative.

- 3) The North Shore Management Board has no enforcement authority: however, if recommendations are not followed, it is possible that legislation to enforce recommendations will follow.

Mayor Larsen's Report:

- 1) Mayor Larsen and Councilor Lenz have been in contact with the DNR, Army Corp and Oberstar's Office regarding the Safe Harbor and Marina Project. The DNR responded that they are willing to help: however, are no funds available for the Grand Marais Safe Harbor and Marina Project. Oberstar's Transportation Bill was approved, but not funded. It also appears that there is no funding to address the water quality issue in the marina. The Safe Harbor and Marina Project will not be pursued further until funding is available.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.