

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
December 9, 2009

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

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Mike Roth, Kim Dunsmoor and Chris Hood by teleconference

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. No one spoke.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda with addition of Cook County Curling Club Consumption and Display Permit Renewal and Librarian Job Description; Approve November 18, 2009, Minutes; Payment of Bills and Approve Cook County Curling Club Consumption and Display Permit Renewal. Approved unanimously.

Council discussed the 2010 Budget. The governor decided not to unallot the 2009 December payment: however, the 2010 LGA could be impacted. The council set the preliminary levy amount at their September 9, 2009, meeting. There is an amount that was set aside for capital projects of \$46,700 in the preliminary budget. The amount could be used to start various council priorities such as planning a Maintenance Facility, Safe Harbor and Marina design work, Municipal Building space needs plan, offset a 2010 LGA unallotment, or a levy reduction.

Staff is recommending a 2.5% Cost of Living Increase for supervisors consistent with the union employee contract.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve a 2.5% Cost of Living Increase for Supervisors. Approved unanimously.

There are several board openings: 2 Park Board, 2 Library Board, and 1 Public Utilities Commission. All board openings will be advertised. Interested persons fill out a simple application form and the council appoints the positions at their first meeting in January.

The Personnel Committee met with Anne Prinsen and Linda Chappell to review the Librarian I job description. The Personnel Committee recommends approval of the revised job description. Council changed the recommended description by changing D.4. to strike "competency" and replace with "ability to learn". The points for this job description will be reviewed in January.

Motion by Costello, seconded by Lenz to approve the updated Librarian I Job Description. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) Planning and Zoning Commission is reviewing G&G Septic's proposal to pursue development of a septage/sludge discharge facility in the Cedar Grove Business Park. The EDA is holding a public hearing for purposes of selling the lot.
- 2) District Heating met and reviewed another grant opportunity. After further review, the committee decided not to pursue the grant, but is continuing to discuss financial aspects of the project.

Councilor Lenz' Report:

- 1) The Park Board approved a modest increase in campground fees. The amount is about enough to cover the increase in sales tax. One change in the fees is a charge per additional vehicle and a charge for boat trailers at each site. Campers who rent a site for one month during the prime rate will see a \$100 per month increase. The Park Board also decided to include ½ price golf for park guests.

Councilor Costello's Report:

- 1) The Library Board held a second strategic planning session. It helped to clarify jobs and was helpful to the library staff.
- 2) Watched a screening of the Precious Waters film about sulfide mining on the range. Encourage the council to learn about this controversial issue.

Councilor Sivertson's Report:

- 1) The Economic Development Authority held a special meeting to hire Gunflint Realty to market the Cedar Grove Business Lots. They are moving forward with pricing of lots and ongoing discussions. The EDA will need re-evaluation of special assessments in the business park. The EDA and the City need to resolve this very complicated issue.

Mayor Hakes' Report:

- 1) Concerned citizens have called regarding Gunflint Realty marketing the Business Park even though the city attorney has determined that it is within the law. The City Council does not have authority over the E.D.A.
- 2) The Economic Development Authority is waiting to receive IRR funds for the golf course cart paths in order to repay the City \$100,000 plus interest.
- 3) Hakes and Roth will meet with the Border Patrol at 10:00 a.m. on December 17, 2009.
- 4) The Community Center Project is on hold until the County Board decides whether they will hire an administrator. Hakes presented the city letter and expressed a desire to help with the 1% Sales Tax Projects. The county board is resistant to moving quickly. The 1% Sales Tax will be implemented in April.

At 6:00 p.m. the Budget Public Hearing was called to order. There was no one from the public present and no comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 6:05 p.m.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to Approve Resolution 2009-15 Final 2009 Tax Levy, Collectible in 2010 in the amount of \$802,657.38. Approved unanimously.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.