

CITY OF GRAND MARAIS
MINUTES
January 25, 2012

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

Members present: Larry Carlson, Tim Kennedy, Jan Sivertson and Bill Lenz

Members absent: Bob Spry

Staff present: Kim Dunsmoor and Chris Hood by telephone

Mayor Carlson 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 Kennedy, seconded by Lenz to approve the Agenda with addition of American Legion Bingo Permit; January 11, 2012, Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.

Paul Nelson, George Wilkes, and Gary Atwood updated the council on the Cook County Biomass Energy Feasibility Study. Phase I was completed September 2011. They determined that there is adequate residual biomass available today for large-scale systems fueled by hog fuel, forest harvesting guidelines allow for sufficient additional harvest to fuel potential wood chip-fired systems and that financial performance for district heat configurations indicates realistic simple payback periods ranging from 7 – 16 years. Phase II concentrates on detailed and focused assessment of environmental and economic impacts of specific configurations. It will also provide a formal process for considering the financial and non-financial factors important to making decisions at the household, community and county levels including the trade-offs involved. Two specific projects to be studied for Grand Marais include: district heat for public buildings north of 5th Street and district heat for the business district and public buildings.

Jim Boyd has been working on a Business Retention and Expansion Program. The goal is to have extended community discussions on where we would like the county to go over the next 20 years, develop a Leadership Team, develop a survey, sample existing businesses and find out what they need to be prosperous and growing. Desired outcomes: demonstrate community support for local businesses, help solve immediate business concerns, build community capacity to sustain business growth and development, increase local businesses ability to compete in the global economy and establish/implement a strategic plan for economic development. Jim Boyd is asking for a motion of support for this program. Further discussion is tabled to the next meeting.

The council discussed the Priority Concerns Input form for the Local Water Management Plan Update. The proposed input addresses the concerns of the council.

Motion by Kennedy, seconded by Sivertson to approve and submit the Priority Concerns Input form to Cook County Soil and Water. Approved unanimously.

AFSCME has requested some changes to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the two new park job descriptions. This matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Motion by Lenz, seconded by Kennedy to approve the American Legion Post 413 Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo March 24, April 14, May 5, and November 17. Approved unanimously.

Councilor Kennedy's Report:

- 1) The Active Living Committee met. The Fit City Program has been eliminated. People are appreciative of the sidewalk plowing that has been done by the city. The Bike Rodeo is scheduled for May 17 and Get Active Week is May 21-27.

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