

## COLERAINE ZONING AND PLANNING

2-17-2021

Members Present= Gordy Skaar, Theresa Troumbly, Kenny Smith, Harry Smith, Lloyd Anderson

Public present= Alex Guyer

3:00pm= Call to order with the Pledge of Allegiance

Approve minutes of last meeting with changes/corrections, 1/20/2021. M/S/C Gordy Skaar/Lloyd Anderson.

Lloyd's report= Lloyd handed in a blight and building permit reports for 2020, submitted a building permit for a sign for H&H Wood Products in the industrial park. Lloyd will give approval.

Alex Guyer= Here to discuss the sewer hook-up issue for his new house on Eagle Drive. Issue is whether he must hook directly to City sewer with a grinder system or can he use a holding tank and pump just wastewater and pump the septic tank once a year? This issue sits with the Public Works Dept. May need a variance. Alex will also contact the county.

Ken brought up the planting on boulevards, he talked to the city of Grand Rapids which does not allow plantings. Coleraine does have an ordinance in place for planting.

Status on unlicensed vehicles= The vehicles that were tagged by law enforcement are still in the court system. We need to talk to the city police about these vehicles.

Zoning committee see's no need for issuing permits for tree houses at this time.

New Business= Discussed the sale/lease of the old firehall, city council has a request for leasing it.

Questions on permits, Briana will provide permit sheets and possible ordinances.

Look at ordinance up-dates.

Meet with City Police about unlicensed vehicles and parking.

4:40= Meeting adjourned. M/S/C Gordy Skaar/ Lloyd Anderson

Next Meeting= 3/17/2021.

Minutes submitted respectively by Harry Smith

## COLERAINE ZONING AND PLANNING

1/20/2021

2/17/2021 updated corrections

Present= Lloyd Anderson, Kenny Smith, Gordy Skaar, Theresa Troumbly and Harry Smith

3:05 Chairperson Lloyd Anderson opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved minutes of October 21, 2020. M/S/C Kenny Smith/Harry Smith

Discussed Lloyds list of issues.

Alex Guyer: [Not in attendance] Questioning if permissible to have a Septic System instead of hooking up to city sewer on a new Golf Course lot?

Discussed how to administer blight conditions.

Lloyd wishes to relinquish his duties as Chairperson, Lloyd will retain zoning officer duties for town proper and the annexed area. (Centennial Acres). Kenny Smith has agreed to accept the chairperson position. M/S/C Gordy Skaar/Harry Smith.

Motion to approve member time limits, M/S/C Kenny Smith/Harry Smith

Gordy Skaar= 1 years, Harry Smith=2 years, Kenny Smith=2 years, Lloyd Anderson 2 years. Theresa Troumbly is liaison from City Council,

4:21 Meeting adjourned. M/S/C Gordy Skaar/Kenny Smith

Minutes submitted respectively by Harry Smith.

**Range Association of Municipalities & Schools**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**Northeast Service Cooperative Building**

**Call to Order:**

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Appearances:**

Neel Kashkari, President of MN Federal Reserve Bank, and Alan Page, former Supreme Court Justice, appeared via Zoom to review the proposed Constitutional Amendment on public education in Minnesota. Mr. Kashkari stated he was surprised by the educational inequalities in Minnesota, which are based on racial and economic disparities. Good efforts have been made in the past twenty years, but Mr. Kashkari felt politics were getting in the way and only minor changes around the margins were being made. The Minnesota State Constitution was written in 1857, and includes an education clause which states it is the State's duty to establish an "adequate" system for public schools. Mr. Kashkari questioned the word "adequate" and felt the language should be changed to create a civil right for every Minnesota child to receive a high quality education and to make that the highest priority in the State of Minnesota.

Alan Page, former Supreme Court Justice, stated children of color, indigenous children and poor children are being left behind. The current language focuses on a system of education in Minnesota, the funding of that system and the legislator's responsibilities. Mr. Page wants the disparities to go away and, instead of teaching to the ideal children, teachers should teach to every student in the class.

Mr. Page reviewed the proposed constitutional amendment, as follows: "All children have a fundamental right to a quality education that fully prepares them with the skills necessary for participation in the economy, our democracy and society, as measured against uniform achievement standards set forth by the state. It is a paramount duty of the state to ensure quality public schools that fulfill this fundamental right."

Nevada Littlewolf, Page Amendment Campaign Manager & Executive Director, was also present. Ms. Littlewolf, feels passing the Page Amendment will ensure that all children would have a right to a quality public education. The work they are doing today in a nonpartisan way will impact children for generations to come. They are hoping to place the amendment on the General Election ballot in November of 2022. The website [www.pageamendment.com](http://www.pageamendment.com) is available for additional information.

Mr. Page stated it was important to pass the constitutional amendment, as it would mandate that a change take place and any future Governors would not wipe it off the books. Mr. Kashkari stated it would be up the legislators to determine what the change would look like. The amendment is the catalyst for the change and is long overdue.

Director Giorgi states he will watch how the amendment develops during the legislative session and it may become an agenda item for RAMS in the future.

**Roll Call of Board:**

**Present:** Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Charlie Baribeau (City of Virginia); Cyndi Worshek (ISD 2711-Mesabi East); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Richard Aldrich (Supt Assn); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Bob Berrini (Morse Township); John Champa (City of Chisholm); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Shane Hoff (City of Silver Bay); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Paul Kess (City of Ely); Orlyn Kringstad (City of Tower); Stu Lehman (City of Buhl); Milan Luziach (Great Scott Township); Kim McLaughlin (ISD 701-Hibbing); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); Dr. Noel Schmidt (ISD 2909-Rock Ridge); Stacey Sundquist (ISD 2909 Rock Ridge); Dave Worshek (City of Aurora); David Zins (City of Hoyt Lakes)

**Absent:** City of Hibbing; Nashwauk Township

**Also Present:** Steve Giorgi, Executive Director; Costin Group-Jeff Anderson; Lois Roskoski, RAMS Adm Assistant (Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

**Review and Approve Agenda:**

Moved by Kalmi and supported by Saari to approve the agenda, with the addition of Item G. under New Business, Vaccine Distribution. Motion carried.

**Approve Meeting Minutes:**

Moved by Fisher and supported by Saari to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held December 10, 2020. Motion carried.

**Director's Report:**

The Director's Report was emailed to the Board and no comments were made.

**Old Business:**

- a. Update on investment.

Director Giorgi stated the funds from the Certificate of Deposit and Companion Savings that matured on December 19, 2020, were reinvested in an 18-month Certificate of Deposit with the Boundary Waters Bank of Ely, at 0.75 percent interest.

**New Business:**

- a. Introduction of newly elected members.

President Medure welcomed and introduced the three newly elected RAMS Board Members:

- Orlyn Kringstad, Mayor of Tower.
- Dale Adams, Grand Rapids City Council.
- Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent, Rock Ridge School District.

- b. Brief overview of Executive Board responsibilities.

Director Giorgi stated he sent an email to three new members on the responsibilities of the RAMS Executive Board. Responsibilities include setting policy and providing direction to the Executive Director. Director Giorgi noted the biggest challenge is that board members are voting on behalf of the region, and not on behalf of the entity they represent.

- c. Nominations & Election of Executive Officers.

Director Giorgi reviewed the election process for the Executive Officers and noted the President position is a one-year position that can be held for two consecutive years. The current RAMS President Pat Medure has served the two-year maximum term. Because of the Zoom meeting format, the board members would have to vote orally if there were more than one nomination for any position.

- 1. President

Cyndi Worshek nominated Charlie Baribeau for the President position for the year 2021.

There were no further nominations. Charlie Baribeau accepted the position and was declared the President for the year 2021.

- 2. Vice President

Charlie Baribeau nominated Cyndi Worshek for the Vice President position for the year 2021.

There were no further nominations. Cyndi Worshek accepted the position and was declared the Vice President for the year 2021.

- 3. Secretary/Treasurer

Cyndi Worshek nominated Barb Kalmi for the Secretary/Treasurer position for the year 2021.

There were no further nominations. Barb Kalmi accepted the position and was declared the Secretary/Treasurer for the year 2021.

Director Giorgi noted the three Executive Officer positions serve an Advisory Executive Board, if needed.

d. Committee Opportunities.

1. Legislative Policy Committee: President Baribeau, Cal Saari and Jim Fisher were appointed.
2. Constitution and By-Laws Committee: President Baribeau, Dale Adams and Stacey Sundquist were appointed.
3. Finance Committee: President Baribeau, Secretary/Treasurer Kalmi, Pat Medure and Glenn Anderson were appointed.

e. Resolution opposing "Prove It" Legislation.

Director Giorgi reviewed the revised legislation that has been introduced in the Senate, titled "Moratorium on issuing permits for nonferrous sulfide ore". He stated the proposed legislation is a death nail for any exploration of precious minerals in the State of Minnesota. Director Giorgi reviewed a Resolution opposing the "Prove It First" legislation that would cast aside Minnesota's exceptional environmental review and permitting process for determining the viability of mining operations.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Anderson to adopt Resolution No. 01-2021, No Need for "Prove It First" Legislation. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Director Giorgi stated the Resolution will be sent to the State and Federal delegation. He will also email the resolution to the RAMS membership in case they want to adopt a similar resolution at a local level.

f. Request from Discovery Center.

Director Giorgi reviewed the request from Jordan Metsa, Fund Development & Marketing Coordinator, Minnesota Discovery Center, regarding the creation of an educational video on the history of mining on the Iron Range for use in the classroom. The video would be filmed by a local videographer, at a cost of \$10,900.

Moved by Fisher and supported by Baribeau to approve the donation of \$5,000 to the Minnesota Discovery Center towards the creation of a film on the Iron Range mining heritage. Motion carried.

g. Vaccination distribution.

President Medure stated he met with the Grand Rapids School Superintendent and medical professionals to discuss COVID and the vaccination distribution. Their school district employs 600 people and, last week, they got 20 vaccinations. They felt there were too many hands involved at the State level and a letter should be sent to the State of Minnesota requesting that the vaccines be sent to the local public health department in each County for distribution. The County Health Departments could coordinate with the hospitals and clinics for distribution.

Kim McLaughlin requested that language be included in the letter that so many elderly people that don't have access to computers to enter in the vaccine lottery.

Moved by Kalmi and supported by Fisher to request the State of Minnesota to send the COVID vaccinations to the County Health Departments and allow them to coordinate the distribution of vaccines with local hospitals and clinics for better distribution. Motion carried.

**Board Member Updates:**

Glenn Anderson provided an update on the City of Babbitt:

- West Babbitt Development Project. They are trying to get a contractor to extend infrastructure. A lot of people are moving back to the area and Babbitt only has three available lots for sale. Housing is almost full again.
- RV Park Development. Because of COVID and a change in location, the project was backed up one full year. They are hoping to get the water and sewer installed this Spring.
- Babbitt wanted to clean up the big chunk of taconite that is located in the middle of a shopping center but found out it is a historical landmark.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant. Babbitt has determined that the current plant needs to be totally redone, at a proposed cost of \$7.5 million.

#### **Legislative Update:**

Jeff Anderson, Costin Group, provided an update on the legislative session, where lots of Zoom meetings have been held. Governor Walz introduced the two-year budget proposal, which was met with resistance from Republicans in the House and Senate. Governor Walz's budget includes the creation of a fifth tax tier for incomes over \$1 million, increase in funding for K-12 education, changes to the capital gains tax, foreign earnings, cigarette tax increase. He also wants to tap into the rainy day fund. Not much more will happen until February. Jeff encouraged RAMS members to reach out to the Costin Group if they have concerns about specific legislation. He also noted the State is working on a bipartisan plan for redistricting, as the loss of a seat will create more controversy.

#### **Finance Committee Report:**

Cyndi Worshek reported on the December and January Finance Committee Meetings:

Moved by Fisher and supported by Saari to approve the following financial reports from the Finance Committee meeting held December 29, 2020:

1. Expenditures for the period November 25-December 31, 2020, totaling \$20,262.42.
2. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual.
3. Balance Sheet.

Motion carried.

Moved by Anderson, supported by Pittman to approve the following financial reports from the Finance Committee meeting held January 28, 2021:

1. Expenditures for period January 1 – January 27, 2021, totaling -\$8,771.46.
2. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual.
3. Balance Sheet.

Motion carried.

#### **Other:**

Director Giorgi provided an update on the Broadband border-to-border grants and stated the City of Cook and a portion of Field Township received some funding. He stated \$63 million in census parcels was awarded to LTD Broadband, but the bad news is that none of our local providers will be able to work in those census parcels, so Balkan, Sandy, Wuori, Britt and Pike Townships will lose out.

Director Giorgi thanked outgoing RAMS President Pat Medure for being a significant contributor in assisting and counseling him in his Director position for the past two years.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next RAMS Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

#### **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

## **Networking Opportunities Team Meeting**

Networking to improve efficiency, maintain service levels and save money  
while preserving our individual community identities

**February 24, 2021**

**The next meeting will be March 24, 2021 at the Timberlake Lodge, 11-1, lunch included.**

**Present:** Peggy Clayton (Harris), Lilah Crowe (Historical Society), Greg Tuttle (Cohasset), Brett Skyles (Itasca County), Terry Snyder (Itasca County), and Mary Jo Wimmer, Coordinator.

### **VRBO discussion**

#### **Open Market**

##### **Harris Township**

- Annual meeting will be March 9 at the Itasca County Board Room and live streamed on Paul Bunyan and Media Com.
- Road improvement project funding will help with the \$1.2M costs. Sunny Beach road is on the list of roads needing attention
- Board of Approval and Equilization meeting April 29 and 9 a.m.
- Budgets are now complete

#### **Historical Society**

- Continuing to pursue Blandin Foundation funding
- Escape rooms are a good source of income

#### **Itasca County**

- Jail update – bids will go out late March or early April. Cost is currently estimated at \$75M.
- Essar has a May 1 deadline for their lease to be effective. Past royalties of \$11M have been paid.
- The County will inquire again about using a county sales tax to fund the jail
- Currently working on union contracts



**Cohasset**

- Still working on new business development to be announced soon
- The marina/hotel is getting development money, negotiating with the DNR and Army Corps. A design is under development.

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