

TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

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RECEIVED

MAR 29 2021

CITY OF COLERAINE

March 19, 2021

City of Coleraine
PO Box 670
Coleraine MN 55722

To Whom It May Concern:

Per consensus of the Bboard, Trout Lake Township will be applying dust control on Baich Road in 2021.

If you have any questions, please call my cell @ 218-259-8491.

Regards,

Gwen Rutherford

Gwen Rutherford
Clerk/Trout Lake Township

Networking Opportunities Team Meeting

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

March 24, 2021

The next meeting will be April 28, 2021 at the Timberlake Lodge, 11-1, lunch included.

Present: Peggy Clayton (Harris), Lilah Crowe (Historical Society), Greg Tuttle (Cohasset), Brett Skyles, Burl Ives, Terry Snyder (Itasca County), Briana Anderson (Coleraine), Mike Baltus (Spang), Sarah Carling (IEDC), and Mary Jo Wimmer, Coordinator.

Budget discussion
CARES recap – Brett

Open Market
Spang Township

- Meeting via teleconference
- The township association may meet again in June

Harris Township

- Has an opening for a township supervisor position
- Is looking for someone to fill their clerk position
- Board of Approval and Equilization meeting April 29 and 9 a.m.
- Has a rezoning request on highway 169 from residential to commercial
- Will have a road vacate on Sunnybeach Road
- Is tentatively planning a spring road tour in May

Historical Society

- The new River Room will open in a few months
- Is planning a new Escape room on the “Roaring 50’s”

LaPrairie

- Are revising their website

- Have a party interested in property north of Hwy 2

Itasca County

- Will be taking down the care-taker house at the fairgrounds
- Canisteo Pit legislation has been put forward to trench to the LaPrairie River

Sarah Carling

- Avenue of the Pines is moving toward being promoted as a scenic by-way on Hwy. 46.
- Greenway park expansion will be funded. This is recreational space with the cost covered by partners with the exception of \$600,000
- ESRI mapping

Cohasset

- The marina/hotel is getting development money, negotiating with the DNR and Army Corps. A design is under development.
- Working on tax replacement projects
- Are building a speculation building in the Industrial Park designated as a business incubator

Coleraine

- Have 4 new council members
- Are experiencing a very low debt load
- Have developed a capital improvement plan
- Put out an RFP for a realtor to sell the old fire hall
- Have sold some property in the industrial park

Mary Jo Wimmer, Trillium Leadership Development, mjwimmer80@gmail.com

Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <mpca@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Briana Anderson - City of Coleraine
Subject: Upcoming Street Sweeping Webinar

*Can you let
anyone who
may be
interested.*

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Upcoming Street Sweeping Webinar

The MPCA is hosting a live webinar on street sweeping, Thursday May 13, 9:30-11:00 AM. The webinar will feature distinguished speakers covering the following:

- Opening statement - the importance and value of street sweeping: [Randy Neprash, PE, Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition, Stantec](#)
- Discussion of nutrients in urban stormwater, focused on impacts of trees: [Dr. Sarah Hobbie, Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Dept. of Ecology, Evolution & Behavior, University of Minnesota](#)
- Overview of recently developed street sweeping calculator: Aileen Molloy, Tetra Tech
- Overview of draft guidance for street sweeping: Hillary Yonce, Tetra Tech
- Discussion of additional research needs: [William Selbig, Research Hydrologist, USGS Upper Midwest Water Science Center](#)
- Q&A

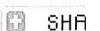
Information for joining the webinar, speaker information, and links to information on street sweeping can be found at https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=May_2021_street_sweeping_webinar.

The mission of the MPCA is to protect and improve the environment and human health.

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Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 25, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

Northeast Service Cooperative Building

Call to Order:

President Charlie Baribeau called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Charlie Baribeau (City of Virginia); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Richard Aldrich (Supt Assn); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Jennifer Hoffman-Sacoman, City of Hibbing; Angela Campbell (City of Ely); Stu Lehman (City of Buhl); Milan Luziach (Great Scott Township); Kim McLaughlin (ISD 701-Hibbing); Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); Dr. Noel Schmidt (ISD 2909-Rock Ridge); Dave Worshek (City of Aurora); David Zins (City of Hoyt Lakes)**

Absent: **ISD 2711-Mesabi East; City of Babbitt, City of Chisholm, City of Silver Bay, City of Tower, ISD 2909-Rock Ridge; Nashwauk Township; Morse 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 Fisher and supported by Lehman to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

Moved by Saari and supported by Fisher to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 28, 2021. Motion carried.

Appearance:

Dr. Noel Schmidt provided an update on the Rock Ridge School construction project. They are currently in the process of constructing the new Eveleth/Gilbert elementary school and Rock Ridge High School at the site adjacent to Progress Park in Eveleth. The new Eveleth elementary is approximately twenty percent complete. The new high school is approximately ten percent complete. The projects are currently within budget. Donations totaling \$625,000 have been received to date. The existing Roosevelt Elementary in Virginia will be demolished in 16-18 months, while the existing Virginia High School remains on site. A new Virginia elementary school will be constructed and will house Grades 3 through 6 and include an outdoor learning space and sliding hill. The Eveleth elementary is scheduled to open in 2023, new Rock Ridge High School in 2024 and new Virginia elementary in 2025. Some of the sports have already been combined. All the sports will be merged prior to opening the new Rock Ridge High School.

Director's Report:

Director Giorgi emailed a copy of his calendar for the month of February and provided a brief update:

- The Governor's Task Force started up again and Director Giorgi will serve on a committee for broadband speed limits and mapping.

- Director Giorgi participated in a year long process to prepare the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for Minnesota Power. The report has been completed and submitted to the MN Public Utilities Commission and outlines how Minnesota Power is transitioning to green energy. Minnesota Power has already achieved fifty percent of renewable energy from their production lines and closed the Boswell coal fired plant, which will have a significant impact on Grand Rapids and Itasca County with the loss of the tax base. By 2030, Minnesota Power will be at 80 percent renewables from their power grid.

Old Business:

- a. Constitutional Amendment on Education – Bills introduced

Director Giorgi asked for feedback from the RAMS membership on the presentation from the last meeting and received very little support. Consensus from the Superintendents Association is the proposed constitutional amendment is not the solution and there is a lot of concern that schools would lose dollars from the voucher program and be faced with potential litigation. Director Giorgi stated he will also obtain information on the new social studies standards for the RAMS Board to review at a future meeting.

New Business:

- a. H. F. 496 – 9 member advisory committee on property tax levies.

Director Giorgi reviewed HF 496, introduced by Tax Chair Marquart that would require communities of 500 population or more to establish a 9 member Citizens' Property Tax Advisory Committee to ensure community participation in the budget and property tax levy planning. A one page summary would be included in annual property tax statements. The objections from the RAMS membership are on file with the committee. Director Giorgi will continue to monitor this issue.

- b. Letter by 3 Duluth St Louis County Commissioners on NO mining in Rainy River Watershed.

Discussion was held on a letter from three Duluth St. Louis County Commissioners expressing concerns on the proposed copper mining in the Rainy River Watershed. In January, Commissioner Nelson brought forward the resolution opposing the "Prove It" legislation, which was approved by the County Board on a 4-3 vote. The approved resolution was sent to the legislature, so the County Board official position is on record. The three County Commissioners that opposed the resolution sent a letter to the nominees of the Secretary of Agriculture and Interior, Senator Klobuchar and Senator Smith. It was the consensus of the RAMS Board that the letter from the three County Commissioners should have gone out of their own personal letterhead, rather than the St. Louis County letterhead, as the official action of the County Board did not support their opinion.

- c. Unemployment snafu.

Director Giorgi stated a fraudulent claim was filed on his behalf for Minnesota unemployment benefits and he has been working to clear it up.

- d. Legislative Update – Jeff Anderson

Jeff Anderson, Costin Group, provided a legislative update:

- The Legislature will discuss their February forecast tomorrow, and then Governor Walz will submit his revised budget. The legislature uses the forecast to create their budget for the next biennium.
- The final Coronavirus relief bill will be on the President's desk by mid-March. The proposed bill of \$1.9 trillion, includes \$350,000 billion in aid to the States and an anticipated \$130,000 billion to local governments, equally divided among cities and counties. There is no deadline for the funds to be expended.
- The proposed \$35 million appropriation to assist the City of Minneapolis law enforcement failed in the House.
- Some Senate Democrats joined Senate Republicans to end Governor Walz's emergency powers on public schools, which prohibits the Governor from altering school schedules.
- Will be monitoring legislation to allow cities to ask for reimbursement from FEMA for previous Covid relief expenditures. An amendment will be submitted as an option for cities.

- Two bills were introduced that could save cities and schools sales tax on construction materials or equipment. Currently, there is a long process to exempt tax.
- Discussion was held on HF 445 that reimburses local government expenses for providing mutual aid. If payment is not received from the City that owes the money, it will be deducted from their LGA.

Director Giorgi summarized some of the legislation introduced by Senator Eichorn in 2021. Highlights include:

SF 926	Sales tax exemption for building materials and supplies for Grand Rapids Civic Center renovation.
SF 636	Establish the Hill Annex Mine State Park Advisory Council.
SF 599	Expansion of the Iron Range Fiscal Disparity Program.
SF 1097	Reimbursement of fees paid to loggers who purchase significant timber permits from DNR and have no place to market the harvest.
SF 597	Require inclusion of fiscal disparity adjustment on proposed property tax statements.
SF 441	Allow unlimited deduction of Social Security and private pension benefits.
SF 590	Declaring Minnesota to be a mining-friendly state.
SF 755	Establishing a Wild Rice Stewardship Council.

The RAMS Board encouraged Director Giorgi to continue to highlight legislators on a monthly basis.

Board Member Updates:

Dave Worshek provided an update on the City of Aurora:

- A joint water project with the Town of White and City of Aurora is moving ahead. A new water source intake was approved off of Embarrass Pit and a new water plant will be built in Aurora.
- Aurora is in the process of resolving issues at their wastewater treatment plant.
- The “Caring for Kids” group helped raise funds to build a splash pad at Pinegrove Park and they are hoping it will be open by next summer.
- Working with Nashwauk Market to open a new market in Aurora by this summer.
- Their Deputy Clerk retired, who was their most experienced employee. She did a great job and was good with the public. They are in the process of hiring a new Deputy Clerk.
- Superintendent Greg Allen is retiring. School district narrowed the Superintendent applicants to two finalists and has entered into negotiations with one of them.

Finance Committee Report:

Barb Kalmi, Secretary/Treasurer, reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held February 25, 2021.

Moved by Lehman and supported by Fisher to approve the following financial reports:

- Expenditures for the period January 28-February 24, 2021, totaling \$18,333.59.
- Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual.
- Balance Sheet as of February 24, 2021.

Motion carried.

Other:

The next RAMS Board meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.