

**TOWN OF CABLE
TOWN BOARD MEETING - DECEMBER 15, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.
CABLE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Call to Order

Chairman Haag called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Supervisor Merrill, seconded by Supervisor Weber to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Haag thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He cautioned folks to be careful and prepare for the coming storm. He wished everyone a very Happy Holiday.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Haag noted receipt of resident concerns regarding the November 17, 2021 Town Board meeting minutes. The main concern is that not enough detail was provided on the discussion of the rezoning issue. Chairman Haag explained that it is hard to take notes on extended public dialogue. Minutes should record board action. The minutes are posted 90 days on the town website.

Motion by Supervisor Hambrecht, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to approve the following meeting minutes as posted:

- November 5, 2021 Work Meeting
- November 17, 2021 Town Board Meeting
- November 22, 2021 Budget Public Hearing
- November 22, 2021 Special Town Board Meeting

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Supervisor Popelka, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to table approval of the minutes of the Special Elector Meeting on November 22, 2021 to the next elector meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McCauley reported the following balances:

General Account:	\$534,447.92
Cemetery Perpetual Account:	\$ 2,405.80
Annual Care Account:	\$ 4,164.89

Receipt of Reports:

Chairman Haag noted receipt of the following reports:

- Planning Commission October 5, 2021 Minutes
- Forest Lodge Library December 8, 2021 and December 10, 2021 Board Minutes
- Law Enforcement Report October 2021
- Sanitary District November 10, 2021 Minutes
- Airport Commission October 19, 2021 Minutes

Public Comment

Donna Hughes asked what was changed in the November 17, 2021 minutes regarding the rezoning. Chairmann Haag answered that nothing was changed or added.

Supervisor Weber read the November 17, 2021 minutes account of the rezoning of Popelka land in Section 18:

“Supervisor Popelka recused himself from the board for this discussion. Supervisor Popelka provided information to help substantiate his request for the rezoning of his property in Section 18, the Village of Cable. The public was allowed to voice their thoughts and concerns. Chairman Haag then led a discussion with the board.

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Hambrecht to approve the rezoning.

Ayes: Supervisor Hambrecht and Chairman Haag

Nays: Supervisors Merrill and Weber

The motion did not pass.”

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Forest Lodge Library, Lease Renewal,

Forest Lodge Library Director Kristine Lendved explained that the library is owned by the towns of Cable and Namakagon. Space is leased from the Cable Natural History Museum. Signatures of both town chairs (Cable and Namakagon) are required on the lease. There are no changes to the lease except the appropriate dates.

Motion by Supervisor Merrill, seconded by Supervisor Popelka to approve the Forest Lodge Library/Cable Natural History Museum lease renewal with the amended dates.

Motion carried 5-0.

Appointment of Jan Berlin to the Library Board

Ms. Lendved reported that with Kathy Bergin’s retirement, the Library Board is recommending appointment of Jan Berlin to fill that vacancy.

Motion by Supervisor Hambrecht, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to approve the appointment of Jan Berlin to the Forest Lodge Library Board.

Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Joint Library Agreement Between Cable and Namakagon

Ms. Lendved stated that the Forest Lodge Library became jointly owned in 2003 by the towns of Cable and Namakagon. There is a 10-year joint agreement describing expectations and the division of assets should the library dissolve. The proposed joint agreement is the same and would run through 2031.

Motion by Supervisor Popelka, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to approve the proposed Forest Lodge Library Joint Agreement through 2031 between the Towns of Cable and Namakagon.

Discussion

Supervisor Popelka asked if any alterations are needed in the agreement in consideration of the new library addition, such as the land for the parking lot. Ms. Lendved explained that both towns are joint holders of library property. There is no need to alter the agreement at this time. At the time of construction, there may be a need to consider modifications.

Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Approving Resolution 2021-68 Exceeding the 2022 County Library Levy Limit

Chairman Haag read Resolution 2021-68:

“WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes S.43.64(2) provides for the exemption from the County Library Levy for any municipality which has higher municipal library expenditures than the municipality’s share of the County Library Levy; and

WHEREAS, the Town of cable has appropriated and will expend \$46,000.00 on local library service in 2022, and the Town of Cable’s share of the 2021 County Library Levy is \$45,998.77;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Cable hereby applies for exemption from the Bayfield County Library Levy for 2021.”

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to approve Resolution 2021-68, 2021 County Library Levy Exemption.

Motion carried 5-0.

Update Regarding Mt. Telemark Property - Ben Popp

Mr. Popp reported the following:

- 500 skiers at last weekend’s Birkie event. Signage worked well directing traffic around a one-way loop.
- An application for a federal grant has been submitted to build a nordic center.
- Hotel plans continue. Construction is expected to start in April.
- On December 28, there will be a high school event.
- The next Birkie event will be the Birkie Tour in January.

Discussion/Possible Action to Approve Conditional Use Permit Renewal - Nancy Kelley and Marlena Wegener

Kaitlin Pepper was present for this item. She stated that this is a renewal of the original permit with no changes. The Planning Commission has recommended approval. Planning Commission Chair Tony Erba added that the permit includes restoration to grassland.

Motion by Supervisor Hambrecht, seconded by Supervisor Weber to approve the Conditional Use Permit Renewal for Nancy Kelley and Marlena Wegener.

Discussion:

Supervisor Popelka asked the reason for permit approval.

Chairman Haag suggested the motion be amended to include compliance with the Town of Cable Land Use Plan. The amendment was accepted by Supervisors Hambrecht and Weber.

Amended motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Possible Action To Allow Short-Term Rental Conditional Use Permit - Jan Taher/Mike Furtak, Agent

Approval for the Short-Term Rental Conditional Use Permit submitted by Jan Taher is recommended by the Planning Commission with the requirement that Town of Cable inspections be conducted according to the Short Term Rental Ordinance. The permit complies with the Town of Cable Land Use Plan as it encourages development that includes renter occupied units for housing.

Motion by Supervisor Popelka, seconded by Supervisor Weber to approve the application from Jan Taher for a Short-Term Rental Conditional Use Permit with the condition that all requirements of the county, Town of Cable Short-Term Rental Ordinance, and Room Tax Ordinance be met.

Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Final Report from AIS Grant - Scott Gooler

Scott Gooler reported that 2021 was a very busy year with 699 lake monitoring hours reported. He thanked the Tahkodah Lake Association and Cable Lake Association for their monetary contributions to the program. The application for the 2022 grant has been submitted. Sue Thurn is working on the final report for DNR reimbursements, which total approximately \$9,000. It is hoped to attract more employees for 2022.

Supervisor Popelka asked if invasive species have been found in the lakes. Mr. Gooler responded that there is a map where invasive species have been found in the past. This year only loosestrife was found in Lake Tahkodah.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding NorthEnd Ski Club Land Use Permit for February 6, 2022

Shelly Wilson stated that North End Ski Club will provide its own signage and monitor all crossings.

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to approve the North End Ski Club Land Use Permit for February 6, 2022, with utilization of crossings at Timber Line and Randysek Roads.

Discussion:

Supervisor Popelka asked if an event checklist has been submitted to the town. Ms. Wilson responded that the completed checklist will be emailed to the town. North End has its own ambulance service and trained people on site. Proof of insurance will be submitted.

Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Mike LaBree's Offer to Use His Land in Village of Cable

Mr. Mike LaBree has informed the town that in years past he agreed to vacate a corner of his land for snow storage in return for a \$45.00/quarter payment. He is now requesting \$45 for the winter quarter for the town to store snow on his land. There is no record of prior payment or reimbursement to Mr. LaBree.

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Hambrecht to approve the \$45/winter quarter payment to Mike LaBree in return for use of the corner of his property for snow storage in the Village of Cable.

Discussion:

Supervisor Hambrecht expressed concern about setting a precedent but agreed the town needs to retain that option for snow storage. It has been common practice to use that location for snow storage in the past. There are several private properties around town where snow is piled. The LaBree property is a prime location and a savings to the town.

It was the consensus of the board that reimbursement for other property owners will be considered if a request is made.

Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Cable Area Chamber of Commerce Lease Revisions

Supervisor Merrill stated that the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce lease expired a couple of months ago. It was a 30-year lease and a lot has changed. He suggested the board review lease terms at a work meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Merrill, seconded by Supervisor Popelka to table execution of a lease with the Cable Area Chamber of Commerce to the next board meeting, January 19, 2022.

Discussion:

Supervisor Merrill offered an amendment to the motion for the lease to be reviewed at a board work meeting. Supervisor Popelka accepted the amendment.

Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Revisions, Suggestions for Special Event Checklist

Supervisor Weber noted the suggestion that large organizations with multiple events in Cable each year be allowed to file one Event Checklist each year with all required information and pay one fee per year rather than a fee for each event.

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Hambrecht to approve the Event Checklist form with the addition that an organization with multiple events in Cable each year can fill out one form for all events and provide proof of medical insurance one time with a fee of \$1000 for events of participants up to 1000 and \$1500 for 1001 or more participants.

Discussion:

Supervisor Merrill stated that the fees are too low. This action is unfair to an organization that pays \$500 for 500 participants once a year while larger organizations with more events are paying only \$1000 for the whole year.

Supervisor Weber responded that the work to set up signage and do cleanup afterward is the same for all events. The fee is not an effort to make money but to compensate the town for the extra time it takes employees for setup and cleanup. The fee of \$1.00 per participant is structured on the basis of what the event takes in.

Tony Erba questioned the rationale for collecting a fee as employees who perform this work are doing it during regular working hours when they are getting paid anyway. If event work involves overtime, that is different.

Chair Haag explained that the board is trying to create an inclusive checklist so that the town is alerted of an event and the fee covers cost of permit review, ambulance notification and any work needed by the Highway Department that takes employees away from their normal duties. The fee encompasses all of the notifications, setup and cleanup that must take place.

Mr. Erba stated that If the fee is to fund extra work, it is disingenuous to say the fees are for compensation to town employees.

Supervisor Merrill noted that events are also a lot of wear and tear on roads, the parking lot and trails.

Mr. Ben Popp added that there is a large precedent for municipalities to charge fees for events. Large events do incur municipal costs. The Birdie has no objection to this fee. He asked how CARE would pay the fee as their event is a fundraiser. Chair Haag explained that a non-profit organization can make a request to the board to be made exempt from the fee.

The motion was repeated:

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Hambrecht to approve the Event Checklist form with the addition that an organization with multiple events in Cable each year can fill out one form for all events and provide proof of medical insurance one time with a fee of \$1000 for events of participants up to 1000 and \$1500 for 1001 or more participants. Motion carried 5-0.

When the checklist is finalized, it will be posted on the town website.

Discussion/Possible Action Regarding Employee Christmas Bonuses

Chairman Haag stated that employee Christmas bonuses have been brought to his attention. Part-time employees receive \$50; full-time employees receive \$100. He has never heard of a municipal agency giving Christmas bonuses.

Supervisor Weber stated that he would like to see a decision on whether to give bonuses or a Christmas party and that it be shown in the budget. If there is no Christmas party, he would like to see more substantial Christmas bonuses.

Supervisor Hambrecht agreed that the bonuses are a minimal amount and that needs to be addressed. He disagreed with choosing either a party or bonuses. The Christmas party is a social gathering that brings the town group together. It serves a different purpose.

Supervisor Merrill suggested approving the Christmas bonuses for now and address the issue next year.

Motion by Supervisor Webrer, seconded by Supervisor Hambrecht to approve Christmas bonuses in the amounts previously given.

Vote: Ayes: Hambrecht, Merrill, Popelka, Weber
Nays: Haag

Approval of Checks:

Town of Cable	10197 through 10222
Forest Lodge Library	3795 through 3803
Fire Department	#3320

Supervisor Popelka noted check No. 10213 from the Town of Cable to 5 Star Electric in the amount of \$4,921.70 dates from 2017. The argument is that it is payment owed for

completion of the new garage. If the charge is part of the town garage cost, it was not approved as an extra and should not be paid

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to approve the following:
Town of Cable check Nos. 10197 through 10222, except check No. 10213
Forest Lodge Library check Nos. 3795 through 3803
Fire Department check No. 3320

Chair Haag offered an amendment to void the written check No. 10213. Supervisors Weber and Merrill accepted the amendment.

Amended motion carried 5-0.

Next Meeting: **January 19, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.**
Work meeting: **January 19, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.**

Adjournment

Motion by Supervisor Weber, seconded by Supervisor Merrill to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.