

TOWN OF LAKESIDE
ANNUAL MEETING April 20, 2021

Agenda:

- **Meeting:** Called to order by Chairman Scott Luostari 7 p.m.
- **Roll Call:** Present: Jon Winter, Supervisor Mary Peterson, Chairman Scott Luostari, Supervisor Gerald Tutor, Tom Karas, Vicki Karas, Tom Schnepfer, Mark Saari, Luann Teige, Bethany Pflug, Tracy Ruppe, Kevin Norbie, Andrew Castleberry, Robert Dahlberg, Nova Nordrum, Susie Castleberry, Steve Castleberry, Treasurer Vicki Luostari and Clerk Ruth Ann Schnepfer.
- **Introduction of the board:** Scott introduced himself and all the board members to the meeting attendees. He also asked how the attendees would like to vote if necessary, it was decided to vote by a show of hands (3 attendees non-voting).
- **Approval of 2020 annual meeting minutes:** Ruth Ann read the 2020 minutes. Jon W made a motion to accept the 2020 annual meeting minutes as presented, Steve C, seconded. 12 yays, 0 nays, 4 abstain. Approved as presented 7:09 pm. Scott thanked everyone for coming with COVID still a concern.
- **Treasurer's report:** Vicki presented: 2020 end of year balances \$424,394.45 total, with \$23,195.25 in the checking account, \$47,555.06 tax collections and \$90,642.31 in the savings account and \$263,001.83 in the remaining money market/savings accounts. Steve C motioned to accept the treasurer report as presented, Jon W seconded, 14 yays, 0 nays, 2 abstain, approved as presented, 7:12 pm.
- **Department and committee reports:**
 - **Fire department:** Nova presented, attached to minutes. Scott thanked the fire department for all they do. They are still working on getting the cascade system and looking into new fire engines.

- **Town Employees:** Mark S presented. Replacing culverts, grading there are only 3 roads he has not gotten to; but things are soft. The grader is 14 years old and needs to be replaced, the pickup also needs replacing. They did not have to steam many culverts so far this spring. Town roads were opened to AVTs as of 4/1, they have been placing the signs, but there seems to be an issue with people stealing signs right now, not just in Lakeside but other townships as well. Road survey to be set soon, maybe end of April or first part of May. Tom the permanent part time worker was introduced.
- **Other Business:**
 - **Board raises:** Mark S brought up the board has not had raises in a long time, needs to be discussed at next annual meeting, and does not go into effect until 2023.
 - **Cares Act:** The town will be receiving funds from the Cares Act, but it is still unclear how the funds can be used.

The next annual meeting will be on the third Tuesday in April, April 19, 2022.

Adjournment

Tom K made a motion to adjourn, Steve C seconded, 16 ayes 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Ruth Ann D Schnepfer, Clerk
4/24/2021

Location, Town Hall, Collection Site, Web
These minutes are posted as **unapproved**.

Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders had a full year in 2020 even with the pandemic. Last year we faced new challenges with COVID-19 in trying to maintain and meet our meeting and training requirements. Thank you to all our members for staying safe and working through different mediums to maintain your certifications and trainings as well as continuing to respond when you were putting yourselves at higher exposure risk. We are happy to report that we did not have any calls that resulted in exposures to COVID. Last year the Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department responded to 29 calls. 9 EMS (medical) calls, 13 Fire calls, 4 accidents, 1 Search and Recovery and 2 miscellaneous calls. In tracked hours our members put in 823 hours. Add to that the time spent cleaning the hall, gear and equipment, travelling to classes and testing, reading for classes, instructional hours, public safety hours, after call time, etc. there are approximately another 500 hours that were not tracked.

Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department wants to extend our appreciation to our town residents that have supported us on scene, offered help and equipment while ensuring to stay back and allow us to do our jobs. Your compassion and support is truly appreciated.

Many do not realize the level of commitment a volunteer gives. This is a true volunteer job with no compensation. To initially respond to a call, a minimum of 60 hours of training is required. From there to be able to respond to all types of calls and actively assist an additional 300+ hours are required for Fire and EMS. There are also meeting and ongoing training requirements. The requirements for training, equipment and vehicles have to be in accordance to NFPA, DSPS of WI and DHS of WI. Documentation, public education, Inspections, and many other tasks also fall under this commitment. All of our members have full-time jobs and some are also full-time students. As Chief I also am a part time EMS and Fire instructor to meet the officer requirements which is another significant commitment along. With a full-time job many of us leave work to respond to calls, attend trainings, meetings, staff the hall during 911 outages and assist with public education events. We do not get paid for this time, we do it as part of my commitment to serving our community.

Many also do not realize the emotional toll this job takes. We are responding to neighbors and friends which can make a run of the mill call extremely difficult as we know the patients. We respond to calls where the patient does not survive. Some are the result of horrible accidents, drownings and some loved ones expiring due to age or illness. All of this can take a large toll on the responder.

To the department members, thank you for all you do. This past year we responded to one of the most difficult calls many of us have ever dealt with. It took a large emotional toll on a few of us. Thanks to the incredible commitment and support that our members give, we made it through.

We continue to work to update our equipment to meet the requirements per State and Federal law as well as to meet the needs of our community. We have been budgeting for the following for the past 5 years: Replacing our outdated cascade system which is no longer capable of filling our SCBA bottles and does not include the enclosed fill station for safety.

Updating our Rescue truck to a brush truck to eliminate one vehicle from our fleet. Purchasing a trailer for our 4-wheeler, canoe and the additional rescue equipment that is needed. Purchasing water rescue equipment and mustang suits due to having 3 rivers and Lake Superior along with updating all of our turnout gear as it cannot exceed 10 years in age from the manufactured date. Unfortunately, our budget was cut by \$5000 this year which is going to make it impossible for us to continue with this endeavor.

I am also sure you have all heard we are asking to replace our Engine. That is something we brought to the board over a year ago to ensure it could be budgeted in the same as the grader, front end loader, pickup, etc. Per NFPA, Engines should not exceed 25 years in age. We are trying to be proactive in ensuring that the town is prepared for the expense of replacing our engine as it is 22 years old. We are working on gathering data on what is needed to continue to meet the needs of our town while being cognizant of cost.

In closing, we need you, the members of our community. We have 11 members, 3 who are currently in college and 2 that will be moving away after their graduations. Please, if you are willing and able, join us in helping to keep our community safe and covered for Fire and EMS by joining our department.