

Town of Crystal Bay

Regular Board Meeting
Finland Community Center

Minutes

December 20th, 2022

- I. Attendance: Colby Abazs, Paul Hartshorn, Karl Klinker, Doug Perfetto, Danielle Hefferan, Russ Vance, Patti Paulson, Nancy Anselment, Lise Abazs, Katee Ristuccia.
- II. Paul called the Regular Meeting of the Crystal Bay Town Board to order at 7:01 pm with the Pledge of allegiance.
 - A. MOTION: To approve the Regular November Meeting Minutes. Motioned by Russ, Seconded by Karl, Passed by unanimous consent.
 - B. MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report. Motioned by Russ, Seconded by Karl, Passed by unanimous consent.
 - C. MOTION: To approve paying all bills and claims due. Motioned by Karl, Seconded by Russ, Passed by unanimous consent.
 - D. The board reviewed correspondence received by the Town.
- III. Reports
 - A. Clerks Odds and Ends: Colby
 - B. Road and Bridge: Doug
 1. Doug has gotten Lee Davis to help to be a second person as necessary to clean up from this storm.
 2. A person on the klinker road has been messing up the road with his front end loader. This person has been asked before to not put snow on or across the road. Future infractions will be referred to the sheriff's department.
 3. There have been some complaints to the Town email and on Facebook regarding the time it took to get roads clear.
 - C. Community Center: Honor
 1. Thanks to Doug and Paul for cleaning up the snow around the Community Center.
 - D. Cemetery: Vaughn
 - E. Housing Project: Erik
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Friends of Finland Letter regarding Composting and Recycling Facility
 1. Nancy read a letter, attached, from the Friends of Finland regarding the Composting and Recycling Facility. The letter responded to several of the concerns raised at the last meeting and Friends of Finland believes the project is in the interest of the community and would like to move it forward. Friends of Finland is asking for the Town to support the project by taking on ownership of the major equipment and the land of the preferred location of the facility, the area between the current Town garage and the

County roads material storage. Friends of Finland proposes the final ownership and operation of the facility be under a joint powers agreement of nearby stakeholders.

2. The Friends of Finland asks were discussed by the Board and community members present. The potential benefits and risks of the project were discussed. Comparisons were made with the process of the building of the Finland Community Center and how that project overcame many challenges and is something we as a town can be proud of. There was also discussion on how to have effective opportunities for community input to the board.
 3. MOTION: The Town Board will purchase the Composting and Recycling Facility major equipment with the relevant grant funds as a way to support the continued effort of the project. The Town will also accept the ownership of the land of the proposed building site next to the Town Garage on what is currently partly Township and partly County land. Friends of Finland will then take the necessary steps to move the project forward and continuously engage the community throughout the process. Motioned by Paul, Seconded by Karl, Passed by voice vote Paul-approved, Karl-approved, Russ-opposed.
- V. New Business
- VI. MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm until January 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Finland Community Center. Motioned by Russ, Seconded by Karl.


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After the November Township meeting, Friends of Finland was asked to take on the lead role and responsibility for the Ei Rouska Recycling and Composting Facility Project (a grant from the MPCA to Lake County). Since then, we have been gathering information and considering this role. We believe that this is a project that will benefit the community in the long term. We believe we have gathered enough information to put to rest many of the concerns brought up. We have copies of the grant agreement with MPCA that we can share that lay out the information on how the funds can be spent and under what conditions they would have to be returned. The MPCA and the County are assuring us that if the project is completed in good faith but the business end of it fails, the grant does not have to be paid back. Grant funded equipment and land never has to be returned or paid back unless it is sold, in which 75 percent of the sale revenue would have to be returned to the MPCA. Also, the County wants to see this project succeed for multiple reasons and is willing to provide a certain amount of support to see it happen.

Friends of Finland has come to realize that there is no way for this project to happen without some support from the Township. The County is willing to provide a piece of land near the Township garage. They are hoping the facility can be built partially on that property and partially on the Township's property. They can easily transfer ownership of their piece of land to the Township. It is not as easy (and will take more time) for them to transfer ownership to Friends of Finland. Similarly, they cannot easily purchase equipment (like the tractor written into the grant) and transfer ownership to us. But they can with the Township.

This letter is to ask for the Township's support for Friends of Finland with these specific pieces of the project at this time: land and ownership of equipment. Your vote of support at this time will allow this project to happen in our community.

There are a lot of other details still to be figured out for this project to be successful, but one of the items suggested was a sort of joint powers board of stakeholders including the haulers, restaurants, County, Township and other entities involved who could ultimately own and run the facility. The grant funds can pay for the work to create such an entity.

I regret that I am not able to be here tonight in person to answer any questions. Thanks for your consideration. 

Honor Schauland, Director, Friends of the Finland Community

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friendsoffinland.org