

**MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 3, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Hawkins, Linn, Pozzini-Stedman, Timmers; Town Board Liaison: Prudhon;
Staff Liaison: Short; RCSO: Deputy Dustin Walsh

Absent: Brueckner, LeBlanc and Lee with notice.

APPROVE AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): Pozzini-Stedman moved approval of the agenda as submitted. Timmers seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2016: Pozzini-Stedman moved approval of the Minutes of February 4, 2016. Timmers seconded. Ayes 4.

CONSENT AGENDA: Pozzini-Stedman moved approval of the Consent Agenda as follows: 4A) Receive Animal Control Reports; 4B) Receive Ramsey County Sheriff's Reports; 4C) Receive Sheriff Contract Group Minutes; 4D) Receive White Bear Lake Fire Department Reports. Hawkins seconded. Ayes all.

VISITOR – BEN BOROWSKI – BOWFISHING REQUEST: Ben Borowski attended the meeting to review his request for information regarding bowfishing. He reported that he has been bowfishing for 13 years. He and his fishing partner, Nik Anderson are interested in starting a bowfishing guide service. They notice that Town Ordinance states that bows are not allowed to be uncased or discharged within Town limits. He reported that bowfishing is a fast growing sport in Minnesota. Fishing is done at night. Bow fishing can be done year round but the prime season is from early May to mid-July. The bows they use are 35-40 lbs. A regular hunting bow is 70 lbs. They use a trolling motor and battery operated LED lights so there is no generator noise. The lights are faced downward into the water so do not cause a glare. The fish are in about five feet of water so they often fish near docks. They do not use private property without permission. The object is to shoot fish (invasive species) with a tethered arrow and reel them into the boat. They need a fishing license and they do not have to report the number of fish taken to the DNR. On an average night with a group of four they may take 15-20 fish. Most of the fish are given to a farmer in Stacy who uses them as

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MARCH 3, 2016

fertilizer. The DNR allows bowfishing across the state and requires a tethered line and proper disposal of the fish. Ben Borowski and his partner want to include lakes in Ramsey County in the list of lakes they fish. He explained that the bows are a different type of weapon that contains a tethered arrow and can be uncased or discharged on lake shore or on the lake itself. There is generally less than 20 feet of line on a bowfishing reel that does not allow the arrow to travel more than 20 feet. The members asked Ben Borowski to bring in an arrow and line to the PSC. He stated that he would be happy to do so.

The Clerk provided information on ordinances from other communities regarding weapons / bow fishing. **City of White Bear Lake:** They have two ordinances that would apply to bowfishing. **“Miscellaneous Offenses: Concealed Weapons:** No person shall carry or wear concealed about his person any firearm not regulated by MN. Stat. 624.711 to 624.717, dagger, slingshot, or knuckles of lead, brass or other metal, bowie knife, razor or any dangerous or deadly weapons in the City. **Dangerous Weapons, Exceptions:** No person shall have in his possession, except within his own domicile, or carry, use or discharge any firearm, air-gun, B-B gun, gas operated gun or any other similar type instrument for the purpose of throwing or projecting missiles of any kind whatsoever...”

The **City of Hugo** considers bow a controlled weapon but not a firearm. Bald Eagle Lake is in the Controlled Shooting Area that has requirements, but none that prohibit firearms and controlled weapons on the lake except the 500 feet DNR rule. **Controlled Weapon** is defined as any device that discharges a projectile by means other than an explosive, a gas, or compressed air, which is capable of producing death or great bodily harm. Controlled weapons include, but are not limited to, bow and arrow and crossbow (referred to as “archery equipment”). No person shall discharge a firearm or controlled weapon of any kind within the limits of any city road, country road, public park, or other city property with the exception of events approved by the city council. A person may not discharge a firearm or controlled weapon within 500 feet of a building capable of being occupied by a human or livestock, including buildings located on adjacent properties. A person may not discharge a firearm or controlled weapon within 500 feet of a stockade or corral containing livestock, including stockades or corrals located on adjacent properties. A person may not discharge a firearm or controlled weapon within 500 feet of any public road.

The **City of Lino Lakes** allows archery discharge on private property or in/on public waters (standing in the water or in a boat floating on water). However, discharge of an arrow from a bow is prohibited within 500 feet of any building. Exception to the distance requirement is if the person owns the building or has permission from the building owner to discharge the arrow within 500 feet of that/those buildings. Discharge of bow/arrow from or onto public land is prohibited. Bow fishing can only be done while standing in the water, shooting from a boat, or standing on private property from which the shooter has owner’s permission to shoot. Even then, the individual must comply with the 500’ distance requirement or meet the exception.

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MARCH 3, 2016

Ben Borowski reported that they are starting a guide service and that they do have insurance. A question was asked if this included commercial, such as a guide service. Ben Borowski reported that commercial is not included in the licensing. He reported that they have an insurance waiver that people have to sign. He reported that they do not allow alcohol.

There was discussion how to define bow fishing. It was suggested that it be defined as bow fishing with arrow tethered. A question was asked of Deputy Walsh if bow fishing would be a problem to enforce. Deputy Walsh stated that if the Ordinance is amended and the Deputies are aware of what is allowed there should be no problem. He said if the deputies are aware when a call comes in they will know what the caller is talking about. There was discussion regarding whether 500 feet from a building capable of being occupied by a human or livestock was too long a distance or if 100 feet would be safe. It was the consensus that if the Town does decide to amend the Ordinance that the information be placed on the Town's webpage and in News & Views to educate Town residents of bowfishing and if it is allowed or not. It was the consensus that the PSC generally supports bow fishing with rules. The Clerk will find out more about the distance from a building, etc. and report back.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – TOWN BOARD ACTION: **Bald Eagle Island:** The Conditional Use Permit to allow a Commercial/Residential Recording Film Post Production Studio and Variances to allow construction of a Recording Studio, Home Addition, and a Septic System Drainfield; an exception from Section 5-29 of Ordinance No. 8 to allow construction of an oversized accessory building (studio) has lapsed. The Town Board allowed an extension but the applicant did not meet the deadline. Because the permit has lapsed the applicant is allowed to make re-application. A Public Hearing on the matter is scheduled for early April. **Benson Airport Land Use Safety Zone:** The Planning Commission is recommending that Land Use Safety Zone B be shortened by 200 feet so that the developer can proceed with the project.

OTTER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CARNIVAL – DISCUSSION: Information was provided for handouts for the Carnival. It was the consensus that anything that flashes is always popular with the kids, such as flashing stars. Supervisor Prudhon will contact Cub Foods to see if they will again donate the suckers for the event. It was the consensus that 400 suckers should be sufficient. It was the consensus that the green safety vest be used again this year. It identifies the Public Safety Commission members. At the next meeting members will be asked who is available to volunteer for the carnival.

SEXUAL OFFENDER ORDINANCE – ON-GOING DISCUSSION: Information provided by the Town Attorney was reviewed. The City of Taylors Falls restricts sex offenders from living near all places children congregate including bus stops. Mike Buchite, Mayor of Taylors Falls has stated that he is proud of the number of communities that have contacted him about their ordinance.

**MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MARCH 3, 2016**

On the other side of the matter are those who don't think that there is any evidence that indicates that where sex offenders live have anything to do with where they commit sex crimes. There is evidence that these laws make it more difficult for sex offenders to re-establish safe and successful lives in the community, reunite with their families and generally become law abiding citizens. The members will continue to review the information provided and the matter will be on future agendas for discussion.

LIAISON REPORTS: There were no liaison reports.

NEXT MEETING DATE / ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: The next PSC meeting date is Thursday, April 7, 2016. Items for discussion will include:

- ✓ School Carnival
- ✓ Sexual Offender Ordinance – On-going discussion
- ✓ Bowfishing

OPEN TIME: No one appeared for the open portion of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan J. Clemens
Recording Secretary