

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017**

The organizational meeting of the Nisswa City Council was held Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 5:00 PM at City Hall.

Members Present: Heidmann, Jacobson, Krautkremer, Ryan, Johnson  
Staff Present: Hemish, Hondl, Jones, Blomer

Heidmann stated due to technical difficulties the microphones are not working but hopes the recording works.

Heidmann sworn in as Mayor. Johnson and Ryan sworn in as council.

**Motion** by Jacobson, seconded by Johnson to approve the following Council, Staff, and other Appointments. Further discussion: Heidmann stated he would like to consider an RFP for City Engineering firm. Jacobson stated he thought we were in a contract, but could bring up at another council meeting. Heidmann stated to put on January council meeting after reviewing contract. Carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL, STAFF, AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

Acting Mayor	John Ryan
Clerk-Treasurer	Laurie Hemish
Deputy Clerk	Maggi Wentler
Police Chief	Craig Taylor
Fire Chief	Shawn Bailey
Emergency Management Director	Craig Taylor
Planning & Zoning Admin.	Brent Jones
Public Works Director	Tom Blomer
Spirits Manager	Brian Farrell
Pickle Factory Manager	Terry Wallin
Park & Rec. Director	Alex Hondl
City Attorney	Gammello, Qualley, Pearson, & Mallak
City Engineer	Widseth Smith Nolting
Parliamentarian	Gammello, Qualley, Pearson, & Mallak
City Prosecutor	City of Brainerd
Official Newspaper	Pine and Lakes Echo Journal
Official Depositories	BlackRidge Bank
	Frandsen Bank
Auditor	Schlenner, Wenner & Co.
Financial Manager	Jon Bermeister, PFM
Insurance Agency (Property)	Weizenegger Engel Insurance for LMC Ins.
Insurance Agency (Health)	A.T. Group

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
PAGE TWO**

Jacobson stated he would like to contribute more than just the proposed department assignments of cemetery and cable commission. Johnson stated he would not be able to be Planning Commission liaison as conflicts with work meetings. Respectfully would like to be removed from that assignment. Krautkremer questioned why Jacobson was only placed on committees that hardly meet. Heidmann stated he looked at each person's skill set, career skills, etc. and made decision based upon that. Krautkremer stated Jacobson's skill set is more than qualified. Ryan stated if Johnson has work conflict with Planning & Zoning and Jacobson has done it before, why not put Jacobson back in that position. Heidmann stated he is struggling with Johnson's availability being one of the more experienced council members. Thought scheduled meetings Johnson could attend. Heidmann stated we could move Planning Commission meetings to the evenings. Ryan suggested having Johnson as the Planning Commission Pro Tem. Johnson stated it makes more sense to have Jacobson as Planning Commission Liaison instead of changing the meeting dates/times just to accommodate him.

Krautkremer stated another issue is Heidmann being Public Works Pro Tem. Stated he does not think he is the right person to work with Blomer or benefit the City. Heidmann stated a quick solution was made after meeting with union rep, so now it is time to take the next steps and get it resolved with something legal and binding. Krautkremer said Heidmann can work on his relationship with Blomer, but suggests that Johnson be the Public Works Pro Tem. Jacobson agreed as Johnson has been on that committee for years and knows the history. Heidmann stated he would like Johnson to be Planning Commission Pro Tem. Jacobson questioned what he considers the difference between liaison and liaison pro tem. Heidmann stated it is unusual to have more than one liaison per department, but believes it is good for accountability. Stated the liaison is the one who communicates with the Department Head. Jacobson stated the Pro Tem is then available if liaison is not. Heidmann stated to also help and give thoughts to issues. Johnson stated he still would have work conflict with meeting times. Heidmann stated then discuss issues with primary liaison prior to presenting to full council. Jacobson stated as long as he is not expected to attend the Planning and Zoning meetings, it works for him. Johnson stated for Public Works, he agrees with Krautkremer that either he or Krautkremer be on Public Works for continuity. Heidmann stated this needs further discussion but not here. Krautkremer stated this is the appropriate place to have this discussion. Ryan questioned if there is a problem because of history that I am not aware of. Krautkremer stated yes and read items from Heidmann's Facebook page and stated this is bullying and not leadership. Stated he can still work on the relationship, but a different council person needs to be on Public Works. Ryan suggested we temporarily have Krautkremer or Johnson until issue is resolved, then switch to what has been presented after working thru issue with union.

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
PAGE THREE**

**Motion** by Jacobson, seconded by Johnson to approve the following Department Assignments Appointments with Jacobson as Planning Commission liaison, remove Heidmann from Public Works and switch to Johnson for a period of six months and then revisit the issue. Further discussion: Jones questioned if Johnson to be Planning Commission Pro Tem. Jacobson **amended motion**, seconded by Johnson to include Johnson as the Planning Commission Pro Tem. Carried unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS**

Fred Heidmann, Mayor	City Clerk/Treasurer, Liaison Municipal Liquor, Liaison Pro-Tem Financial Management Public Relations
Gary Johnson	Planning & Zoning, Liaison Pro-Tem Public Works, Liaison Pro-Tem Park & Recreation, Liaison Cemetery, Liaison Financial Management
Ross Krautkremer	Park & Recreation, Liaison Pro-Tem Police Department, Liaison Fire Department, Liaison Municipal Liquor, Liaison Financial Management
Don Jacobson	Planning & Zoning, Liaison Cemetery, Liaison Pro-Tem Financial Management
John Ryan	Public Works, Liaison City Clerk/Treasurer, Liaison Pro-Tem Financial Management

Johnson stated the Planning Commission committee then needs to be changed. Jacobson stated the Public Works committee does also. Hemish brought up the 3 vacant seats on the cemetery commission. Blomer stated they are not needed as the commission only makes recommendations to council and has no authority.

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
PAGE FOUR**

**Motion** by Johnson, seconded by Jacobson to approve the following Committee Assignments Appointments with Johnson being on Public Works and Jacobson on Planning Commission. Further discussion: Ryan questioned if should add the six month time frame for Public Works. Johnson **amended motion**, seconded by Jacobson to have Johnson on Public Works for a period of six months and then revisit the issue. Carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS /  
RED FLAG COMMITTEE**

John Ryan  
Gary Johnson  
Tom Blomer  
Maggi Wentler, Secretary  
City Engineer  
Brent Jones

**BUDGET & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE**

Fred Heidmann      Open Meeting  
Gary Johnson      All Council  
Ross Krautkremer  
Don Jacobson  
John Ryan  
Laurie Hemish  
Jon Bermeister, PFM

**LIQUOR COMMITTEE**

Fred Heidmann  
Ross Krautkremer  
Brian Farrell  
Terry Wallin  
Laurie Hemish

**COMMUNICATION  
COMMITTEE (website)**

John Ryan  
Laurie Hemish  
Alex Hondl  
Maggi Wentler

**CABLE COMMISSION  
(5 citizens of Nisswa)**

Don Jacobson  
John Ryan  
Bill Groves  
Anne Laufman  
Open seats - 1

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
PAGE FIVE**

**PARK & RECREATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Gary Johnson, Council Liaison  
Alex Hondl, Dept. Head  
Ed Carlson  
Reed Larson  
Mark Sjoblad  
Tessa Cappelle  
Justin Isaacson  
Two Open (Non-Voting) Students from  
181 or 186 School Districts  
Maggi Wentler, Secretary

**PLANNING COMMISSION/  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Don Jacobson, Council Liaison  
Gary Johnson, Liaison Pro Tem  
Brent Jones, Dept. Head  
Ann Beaver  
Foster "Woody" Haecker  
Tom Groen  
Jim Swanson  
Peter Mann  
Ann Laufman  
Maggi Wentler, Secretary

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Don Jacobson, Council  
Gary Johnson, Council  
Larry Olson  
Jack Warden  
Ray Benson  
*3 Open Public Seats*  
Tom Blomer  
Maggi Wentler, Secretary

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

John Ryan, Council  
Fred Heidmann, Council  
Laurie Hemish

Heidmann stated he would like to assure staff that there won't be any major changes occurring and the City has a good staff. Understands there are fears and tensions. Would like to see healing happen by adding to an agenda of finding an HR person to find and resolve issues with staff and council. Stated other issues to be addressed this year are: website work, road project funding and committees, and wastewater committee discussions for either expansion or not.

**NISSWA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017  
PAGE SIX**

**Motion** by Jacobson, seconded by Johnson to adjourn. (meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM)

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Fred Heidmann, Mayor

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Laurie Hemish, Clerk