

**COUDERSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023
4:30 PM**

Coudersport Borough Council held a special meeting on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 4:30 pm to discuss the lease agreement for the field used by the Coudersport School District at CARP.

The meeting was duly advertised in the Endeavor News.

Council President Wayne Hathaway called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Present were councilmen Wayne Hathaway, George Hults, Todd Husson, Jack Keifer and Martin Fry.

Also present were: Borough Manager Beverly Morris, Russ Streich, Abbi Rossman, Robert Rossman, Brian Wahlers, Todd Brown Micki Brown, Drew Kyle, John Abplanalp, Henry Fuller, Connie Kallerson, Jacob Milliron, Heather Sherry, John Sherry, Rich Neefe, Scott Andrews, Kelly Bruno, Doug McClintic and Thomas McClintic and June Moore.

DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE OF THE PROPOSED LEASE

Councilman Fry explained that the last proposed lease received from the School District was for the agreed upon terms but no mowing. Borough Council counter with splitting the school district's cost for mowing of \$2,000. The Borough and the School District each contributing \$1,000. The School District responded that the mowing would not be supported by the school board.

Further comments from the floor were an explanation of the costs for the field other than the mowing and what the costs would be to the Borough if the school district mowed.. The answer was other than mowing there is equipment maintenance (fuel, oil, blades) and repairing of divots in the field, and maintenance of the roadway.

Questions were asked if the Service Club has a lease and if the school district was treated differently than them.

Discussion was held on how the Borough taxpayers are losing because of the school district use. It was brought up that the school district uses the entire park and not just the baseball field.

Mowing seems to be the major issue that is holding up this lease agreement and Council is asking that this \$2,000 amount stated by the school district be split between the borough and school district.

Superintendent Kyle stated that a previous agreement had a lower lease agreement and the school would take over the mowing. He stated that Smethport has a lease agreement with their school district and that should be comparable to this contract. When the borough declined that proposal the school district rescinded their offer to mow. Mr. Kyle also stated that he feels it is unfair for the borough to state that the school district is using the kids as pawns. He stated that at this point the school district does not want to split the mowing as this is something the Borough would have to do whether the school district was using the field or not.

It was then motioned by Councilman Hults, seconded by Councilman Kiefer to approve signing the revised agreement received 3/2/2023 for the lease of CARP with the Coudersport Area School District for the agreed upon terms with the school district and the borough splitting the \$2,000 cost for mowing. Roll call Councilman Kiefer Yes, Councilman Husson No, Councilman Hults Yes, Councilman Fry Yes and Councilman Hathaway Yes. Motion carried 4 Yes 1 No.

It was motioned by Councilman Fry, seconded by Councilman Hults that CASD may not use CARP unless and until there is a fully executed lease agreement. Roll call Councilman Kiefer No, Councilman Husson No, Councilman Hathaway No, Councilman Hults No, Councilman Fry Yes. Motion defeated 1 Yes, 4 No.

It was motioned by Councilman Husson, seconded by Councilman Hults that the field in question is the property of the Borough and the Borough can use the property as they wish and can regulate the use of the field at the Borough's discretion. Roll call Councilman Kiefer Yes, Councilman Husson Yes, Councilman Hathaway No, Councilman Hults No, Councilman Fry Yes. Motion carried 3 Yes 2 No.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Morris
Secretary