

NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

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Christine Mallory, Editor

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Hwy 61 Stewart River and Silver Creek blasting work started May 24th

DULUTH, Minn. — Construction on Hwy 61 at the Stewart River bridge and Silver Creek bridge north of Two Harbors will require blasting work starting on May 24. Operations will start at the Stewart River, and once they are completed will move to Silver Creek.

Motorists should anticipate stoppages of traffic of up to 15 minutes during blasting operations, which will be limited to Mondays through Thursdays. Blasting is anticipated to last through June 3; however, durations may be variable due to actual rock elevations.

For more information about the projects, please visit the website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/hwy61-bridges/index.html>

Two Harbors Mayor Again Faces Recall Election or Resign

By: Katee Rose

Another highly intense city council meeting took place in Two Harbors this last Monday evening, May 23, 2022. When all was said and done the city council voted 6 to 1 in favor of giving the residents of Two Harbors the opportunity to recall the current mayor. From there, Mayor Chris Swanson has 5 days to resign and step down from his elected position. If he decides not to do so, which he has stated in the past, there will be a recall election as soon as August.

As the meeting started and public announcements were to begin, the mayor interrupted by questioning the protocol of how and when the public is able to sign up to speak. The chair clarified that there has been no discrepancies with the list of people that were signed up to speak and let the announcements continue.

The first speaker spoke to the recall petition and asked for a resignation. "Through two recall petition drives I have had a chance to hear people's stories, and there are many stories. In small towns they add up....the people have spoken, enough is enough," said one resident.

The Committee for Resign or Recall had followed the charter and

code in pursuing their rights as citizens. The mayor immediately asked that the speaker state who had reached out to the Secretary of State. When time ran out for the speaker and his question was not answered, Mayor Swanson did not settle down until chair president Redden had to bring order back to the meeting. "I'll keep hitting on this, don't worry, it's going to be a good night," said the mayor, to which the public sitting in the room responded, "bring it on".

The conflict within the Two Harbors community has been bubbling over for months. Throughout the rest of the meeting there were additional debates and claims from the mayor, including Swanson claiming the council was not accurately educated or informed enough to move forward with the recall. City attorney Costley assured the council and the public that there is no other choice but to move forward with the recall and that everything has fallen in line with the charter and laws. The council followed up with their vote of 6-1, but not before the mayor held to his narrative that something was wrong with the process and asked to table the vote several times. One reason Swanson gave for tabling the vote was so the council could get a better understanding of what the process was. Another reason he gave was due to Council Member

Jackie Renwald's need to leave the meeting early. In the end, every council member, except for the mayor, voted in favor of the recall election.

The Resign or Recall Committee recently held a second signing drive to collect signatures for the petition due to the requirement of names being public. The committee wanted to be fair to the original signees who were told names would be kept private and only provide signatures of those who knew they could be public. They collected over 600 signatures within 3 days and delivered the petition to the city clerk on May 12th. The signatures were then verified in less than a week.

Timothy Jezierski, head of the Lake County Republicans, and two other residents (John Doe and Jane Doe) renewed a lawsuit with the Lake County District Court against the City of Two Harbors, members of the council, and members of the Resign or Recall Committee. "The lawsuit may be without merit but it doesn't mean it won't cost the city a lot of money," commented a resident. The case should be brought before the district court judge in Duluth, MN within the next week or two.

WTIP Teams With Story Corps for "One Small Step"

By Steve Fernlund

Radio station WTIP in Grand Marais has teamed up with Story Corps to host its "One Small Step" program, producing conversations between two ordinary people in the North Shore community who do not share the same political and/or religious views. Participants may, or may not know the person they will be speaking with. Applicants for participation may request a conversation partner that they know. Maybe a cranky old Uncle who only argues when they get together.

The premise is that most Americans believe the divisiveness that permeates our politics and society today is a major problem. One Small Step seeks to move beyond partisan and ideological labels and have people converse about the life experiences that shape how we each see our world. With participant permission, these conversations will be preserved for future generations at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Conversations will be held over the coming year and they are hosted by a trained third party to help keep the conversation moving, and respectful, asking questions that may

lead to bridging the divides between us

For more information on the One Small Step program and to apply to participate visit the station's website at www.wtip.org or call 218-387-1010

WTIP is one of just six stations selected nationally to host One Small Step in 2022. Others include the Georgia Public Radio network, KSUT in Ignacio, CO, WUTC in Chattanooga, TN, WHQR in Wilmington, NC, and WDET in Detroit, MI.

Story Corps is a public service organization that records people telling their own stories, recording more than half a million conversations over the last 20 years. In addition to broadcasting excerpts of these conversations (with participants' permission) on public radio stations nationwide, the recordings are archived in the Library of Congress. Story Corps launched One



WTIP
North Shore
Community Radio

Small Step in 2018.

For more information on the One Small Step program and to apply to participate visit the station's website at www.wtip.org or call 218-387-1010.

WTIP is a non-profit community radio station that began broadcasting from Grand Marais in April of 1998. From its studios, in Grand Marais, the WTIP signal covers the North Shore from Two Harbors, MN to Thunder Bay, ONT, and up the Gunflint Trail. Its stated mission is:

- To provide timely and accurate reports of local and state events, including weather, news, and

community happenings;

- To provide a forum open to all residents of the area for the discussion of public issues;
- To provide music and entertainment for our audience;
- To provide a diversity of programs designed to educate and inform;
- To promote the general well-being of the area;
- To train local residents to use the medium of radio to express their thoughts, feelings, and talents.