

**FREDENBERG TOWN BOARD
SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
January 6, 2016**

**TIME & PLACE: 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY CENTER**

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jeff Blix. Board members present: Supervisors Liz Blix, Clay Cich, Walter Rapp, Mark Toms, Treasurer Bill O'Brien and Clerk Sherri Armstrong. Six individuals stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1) ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: Chairman Blix used this time to apologize to the individuals present, saying he had taken items said at the previous month's meeting personally when he knew that wasn't the case.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Liz Blix moved to accept the minutes with the correction of adding an "s" before now in the road report. Mark Toms seconded. Minutes were approved with the correction.
- 3) TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer reported we were done with the CPA's review and correspondence recently received from the State Auditor reflected the steps that are being implemented for tighter control over the process. He also reported that looking at Schedule 1 would give a false look at the state of the finances if you took it line by line for the funds; if you look at the bottom Total Line you will get a true picture. Total funds available as of 10 December were \$427,813.77.
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE: Twelve (12) total items of correspondence – 1 email- were received during the month and reviewed.
- 5) REVIEW OF BILLS: Jeff Blix moved to pay vouchers #8404 – 84221 in the amount of \$105,653.11, Mark Toms, seconded and motion **PASSED.**
- 6) REPORTS:

Clerk apologized for not being very available and missing the December meeting as she dealt with family matters. She is currently playing catch-up.

Road Report – is currently on vacation but overall the county is doing a fair job of plowing the roads. Randy Decouer asked if it was possible to have the snowplow deposit the snow in a more convenient spot when doing the E. Birch Acres Rd. This has been addressed with the county, so we will have to wait and see how it turns out after the next snowfall. The slowness in getting the roads done during the last snowfalls was attributed to new drivers this year.

Fire Department – had a relatively quiet month - responding to one mutual aid structure fire, 2 calls involving downed or sparking power lines and one medical call. They participated in several training opportunities and hosted a responder safety class. They completed an initial flood of the rink.

Law Enforcement - nothing at this time

Cemetery – has been closed with the gates locked for the winter.

Parks & Rec - the rink attendant and the Fire Department are trying to get the rink up and running, but the weather is not being the most cooperative. We will not have ice ready for the Christmas break, but hope to have some soon after that. The clerk reported that the donated tennis net is currently in storage downstairs having flown in from Florida and taking up the entire suitcase.

Community Center – the custodians submitted a proposal to replace the outdated light fixtures in the building. This is something they can do themselves and it would result in better and more efficient lighting. It was suggested that rebate programs might be available for the lighting they are looking at installing. The Fire Department found programs when they updated the lights in their hall.

Recycling Center - reflectors have been installed at the entrances to the driveways for ease in locating. We are also proposing to WLSSD that we install a window in the building to help the attendants know when someone is there—especially in inclement weather—and to look at installing a light pole at the entrance for easier drive access. They will be submitted to WLSSD as part of an improvement grant.

Other Meetings - Supervisors Cich and Toms attended the WLSSD training and the Chair and Supervisor Cich met with the new township attorney.

7) OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Park Land on Datka Road** - After meeting with our new attorney and bringing him up to speed on the issue, he drafted 2 letters – one to the Department of Revenue and one to the County Planning and Community Development Department. There was some discussion on the use of the trails within the parkland. . The board is looking to the DNR to define the rules for the snowmobile trails in regard to the park. Ed Proetz mentioned that during the Beargrease; dogsleds utilized the snowmobile trails. Mark Toms pointed out that different stretches of trails are rated for different uses throughout the state and they depend upon the easement granted for that particular trail. After more discussion Jeff Blix moved to sent the letters drafted by the attorney with the appropriate attachments as deemed by the attorney to the above mentioned departments. Mark Toms seconded the motion for the letter to the Department of Revenue. Clay Cich seconded the motion for the letter to the Planning Department and both motions **PASSED** unanimously. The board was also made aware of the formal form required by the county to register complaints about these issues. Jeff Blix is looking at other townships and how they handle the issues.
- b) **Ordinance** – Mark Toms hope to have the draft copy to send to the board within the week for action at the next meeting. A new Public Hearing would need to be scheduled prior to adoption.

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Shredding Day** - Mary Pat Skafte asked the board if they would consider having a truck available one day in the township for people to bring their confidential items to shred. The clerk will research.
 - b) **Fire Contract** - Mark Toms moved to accept the 2016 contract presented by the Fire Department; Jeff Blix seconded and motion **PASSED.**
- 9) ADJOURNMENT: The board was reminded of all upcoming meetings. Jeff Blix moved to adjourn the meeting; Mark Toms seconded and we adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri A. Armstrong, Clerk