

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
May 3, 2017**

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

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Clay Cich, Treasurer Bill O'Brien was not present. Eighteen individuals were present and stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: Hank Harper added later in meeting under new business.

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jeff Blix moved to accept minutes of regular meeting with the corrections: Adoption of the Civility and Code of Conduct presented by Steve Overom, Attorney. Jeff Blix made motion and Jim Ray seconded and motion **PASSED**. Other meetings: Jim Ray and Clay Cich spoke with assessor from St. Louis County at Fredenberg Town Hall. Park/Rec: Correction of Pawlowicz spelling. Old business: Lawsuit, Jeff Blix and Deb Pawlowicz will be attending. Jeff Blix made motion, Jim Ray seconded and **PASSED with stated corrections**.

- TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report stated total funds available on April 12, 2017 are \$420,567.33. He will provide Statement of Receipts/Disbursements/Balance (Schedule 1) for April and May next meeting as he unable to for this month.

- CORRESPONDENCE: Fifteen (15) total items of correspondence were received during the month and reviewed.

- REVIEW OF BILLS: Clarification of Claim #8837, Jasper Drywall/Painting paid but 10% withheld until all work completed satisfactorily. Claim#8900, Jeff Blix had questions regarding how the decision to purchase hockey boards was made, Clay Cich explained the timeline. Deb Pawlowicz motioned to approve and Walter Rapp seconded. 3 YES, 1 NO and Clay Cich **ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED**. Walter Rapp motioned to accept Claims #8837 and #8888 – 8903, Deb Pawlowicz seconded, 3 YES 1 NO Clay Cich **ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED**.

- REPORTS:

Clerk – Beginning May 9, 2017, clerks office hours will be 9am-5:30pm but **OPEN to PUBLIC HOURS** will be 2pm to 5:30pm. It is requested that payroll sheets be in the office at the latest the Tuesday before each monthly town board meeting, they can even be slide under the office door. There is a bin in office for **REQUEST OF INFORMATION** form which we would appreciate being filled out so we can track and complete requests timely. Flag rope (halyard) was found online after calling locally first, Walter Rapp will restrung a new flag for the pole in front of building. We are requesting a little leeway in getting out the monthly newsletter, we are hoping to have it out by the 15th of each month but we are also researching production/mailing to lower cost and manual preparation time. Also in the past advertisers in the paper were billed at year end for the previous year, we will be changing that, hopefully with June letter and billing for all advertisers, with pay cycle this year June to Dec. and then Jan. 1 for entire year. This is similar to

what local papers due for subscriptions. A bill for \$400.00 for FREDENBERG Domain was received, unsure what it is but we will research further and provide supervisors with information. Also we will be providing supervisors with a copy of Township Insurance Policy to review before payment. Jim Ray and Walter Rapp are going to find out what all the keys are for buildings and mark them, Jim will have office door re keyed for security and ONLY 3 keys will be made, 1 for each clerk and 1 for treasurer. We would like to get a new phone with good answering machine as present one has very poor audible quality. Contacted Fire Extinguisher Company and bill was clarified: they did not charge to rehang extinguisher, Greg Humes did it. Charges were for maintenance and to complete full recharge of 1 unit, they did not charge for mileage but had 2 trips out here. We've had a request to rent the hall for a wedding if alcohol can be brought in, Board clarified that hall rental prohibits alcohol and is smoke free also. Mary Skafte provided information on high priority issues for clerk: State Withholding problems, WLLSD grant, difficulty with lack of filing system. Clerks appreciated the patience of Board and community as we move forward.

Road Report – Jim Ray reported that Lakehead graded Birch Acres but not down to the end, Greg Kaneski from Lakehead confirmed that this was now done. Snow fences are down

Fire Department – Fire department responded to 9 calls including one structure fire and eight medical calls. Continue in partnership with American Red Cross for installation of smoke alarms and 8 smoke alarms installed in residents home. Program for replacing their smoke alarms for free online at www.getasmokealarm.org. Several members attended education day sponsored by St. Luke's Hospital, this annual training was designed for pre-hospital emergency medical providers, provides continuing education for our first responders, EMT's and Paramedics. Med-Compass provided respiratory certification to members in April, this OSHA required testing included a pulmonary function test, EKG and a respirator fit test. The ANNUAL FISHING OPENER PANCAKE FEED is on Saturday, May 13 from 7am to NOON at the Fredenberg Community Center, come and join your neighbors for this great annual event.

Law Enforcement - nothing to report

Cemetery – nothing to report

Parks & Rec - Jim Ray reported that the Pickle Ball Association contacted him and want to reserve tennis courts 3 times a week: Tues at noon, Thurs at 5:30 pm and Saturday at 9 am. They would like something to appear in newsletter, contact person, Lori at 218-340-4183. Trying to find tennis court nets also, Connie M. will be contacted.

Community Center – Connie has requested repairs/painting or replacement of outside picnic tables, Jim and Walter will look at. Clay requested that all retouch ups and any other issues for painters be marked with blue masking tape so they can complete and will ask Connie and Mort to do this. Walter and Jim will be looking into proper storage/security for cylinders by warming shack. Jim, Jeff and Clay had concerns about cost of outside lighting around building and possibly switching to LED lights, Clay will check into feasibility and cost. Connie also requested 4 additional tables and more chairs for downstairs hall, Walter will count tables and chairs, looks at condition of them, Jim will get new tables and more chairs if he can find ones that stack together and are similar to presents ones. There have been additional costs for upkeep of septic

and concerns about condition, Tom Rovinski will be contacted to check this out.

Recycle Center – Business is booming, Lakehead did grade driveway but potholes remain in areas of black topped surface. Lakehead Trucking will return and repair.

Other Meetings – Mary and Diane attended 1 day Clerk Specific Training by MAT

- OLD BUSINESS:

a) LBAE held today from 1-2 pm, 5 residents came in person, 2 by mail, 1 commercial property by mail. St. Louis County will compiling a report and send to township. Because no trained town supervisor was present or able to attend, St. Louis County will take over for a period of 2 years.

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b) Web Site: Mary Skafte will contact Web Designer used by Gnesen Township and proceed with getting it up and running again. She will provide cost information when she receives it.

- NEW BUSINESS:

a) Hank Harper, resident of Fredenberg requested Town Board Assistance regarding neighbors outside wood burning unit. He had already contacted: MPCA, Keith Nelson (County Commissioner), Fire Department, MN State Attorney Civil Department. He requested the board to consider an ordinance to help him. The supervisors did not take this up as a motion but offered other suggestions to resolve the issue.

b) SEH Feasibility Study for Usiak/Birch Acres Road and Fredenberg Lake Road Paving was presented by Clay Cich. Written information from SEH and Ann M. Heimbach/Certified General Real Property Appraiser for proposal for feasibility report, quantities and specifications, bidding assistance, centerline staking and construction observation and consulting services for assessment procedure for properties benefiting from the road improvement projects was presented. Costs and down payments were presented and discussed. Motion to move forward with study was made by Walter Rapp, Jim Ray seconded, 4 YES, Clay Cich ABSTAINED, **MOTION PASSED.** Motion made to accept Heimbach proposal made by Walter Rapp, Deb Pawlowicz seconded, 4 YES, Clay Cich ABSTAINED, **MOTION PASSED.**

c) Minnesota Power Rep. Matt Ryan presented informational packet on Main Dam Project slated to begin June 2017 and continue over a period of 2 years. An explanation of the project was given also. The current water level of the reservoir should not be affected. The project will that the recreational area, boat landing and swimming area will be closed June 1, 2017 and be gated off for the duration and water area in front of

dam will be buoyed off. Minnesota Power will put up signage regarding closures at the project site and Minnotte, with alternative sites to launch boats. There will also be public notices and letters to all lease holders.

d) Committee exploring Broad Band for Fredenberg area was formed following the 2017 Annual meeting and they are looking into applying for grants. Clay Cich and Bill Roach are part of committee and presented information.

9) Adjournment: Clay Cich moved to adjourn the meeting and Walter Rapp seconded. We adjourned at 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Palmstein/Clerk

Clay Cich/ Town Board Chairperson