

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
December 6, 2017**

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

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 pm by Chair Jim Ray. Jeff Blix, Walter Rapp, Deb Pawlowicz, and Darrin Wixo were present, also treasurer and town clerks. 22 individuals stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of the Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Reviewed by Board, 2 corrections under Clerk Report: compiled not compiled and Snowplowing Quotes: \$75.00/time and \$45.00/time. Jim Ray made motion to approve minutes with corrections, Walter Rapp seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Closed an old savings account from Bear Island Road Project, \$48,813.79 transferred into checking account. CD is coming to term this month, term and interest rate discussed, which is very low at this time, Jeff Blix made motion to add \$10,000.00 to CD bring it to \$50,000.00 and look into a longer term and better interest rate, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Presented monthly reconciliation of township funds available \$421,519.56.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: 9 items were received and reviewed by Board, 4 mails and 5 e-mails.
4. REVIEW OF BILLS: No corrections, Jeff Blix made motion to accept checks #9095 to 9117, totaling \$30,055.63, Jim Ray seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Resident requested information on why payroll was not included with bills, clerk will check with MAT as to what can legally be provided. It was pointed out that payroll totals can be requested by public from clerks.
5. REPORTS:

Clerk – completed job descriptions were presented with corrections requested by Board, board reviewed completed job descriptions for Clerk and Clerk Assistant and accepted. There have been problems with overuse/theft of toilet paper and paper towels in town hall and locked dispensers are being installed. Clerks would like to purchase lateral locking file cabinet for financials and other mandated locked items, unsuccessful with on-line auctions, a reasonably priced one will be purchased. Clerks working with volunteer Web person from Gnesen and our web designer, hope to have more on site for rentals and fire department. Rentals of Town Hall going great, events have been well attended and a variety of activities from pumpkin carving parties to Santa Breakfast. Clarification on when Annual Reorganizational Meeting is held, board clarified that it is held following the January 3, 2018 Town Board Meeting,

Road Report – Jim Ray was informed by St. Louis County that once the turnaround plowing contracts have been signed, they are for indefinite length of time and not on annual basis any longer. Snow fence on Beaver River & Chesney Road installed. Touch up grading on roads now done. Jim Ray checked with County on recommendation for guard rail, signage and/or large boulders for roadway on causeway on Bear Island Road, waiting to hear back from them.

Fire Department – responded to 5 calls during November one for illegal burning of copper wire. Members trained in: cold weather emergencies, hunting accidents/injuries, bleeding control, splinting & radio familiarization usage. They reviewed standard operation procedures for chimney fire, ice rescue & carbon monoxide calls. Please check your smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors to be sure they are working properly, your **life depends on it**. New smoke alarms are still available, to register go to www.getasmokealarm.org for free smoke alarms. Fire Department will install necessary alarms in your home at no charge. Final testing on new generator completed.

Law Enforcement – nothing

Cemetery – nothing

Parks & Rec – Reservoir Riders brought over a snow blower to use to clear the rink so now 2 are available. They will also help with snow removal on rink as needed. Rink base is now stored at Recycle Center. Tennis and pickle ball nets stored for winter. Board discussed Fredenberg Park signage, information on it is incorrect and needs to be removed or a new sign with current information put up, Jim Ray will contact MAT to verify what needs to be on a township Park sign.

Community Center – rental rates will be re-evaluated at Reorganizational meeting in January so rental prices

cover costs. Septic alarm went off because of running toilet, Walter repaired. Electrician is not done with flag and marquee lighting but heater in warming shack has on/off switch in place. Carlson serviced the radiators/heaters in building, they contacted the manufacturer of the furnace, the unit is failing, no way of predicting how long it will last and warranty has expired. A local manufacturer was also contacted to make sure what is the proper size/specs of furnace needed for building. Jeff Blix made motion to advertise for quotes for new furnace and installation, Darrin Wixo seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray will get specifications for quote ad to clerks to place in Duluth News Tribune.

Recycle Center – there is a meeting with WLLSD on Dec. 14, 2017 at 3:30 to 4:30pm, attendants, Deb Pawlowicz and clerks will attend, the meeting is a requirement of our grant and information on application for 2018 grant will be presented.

Other Meetings – none

6. OPEN FORUM: no one

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Township Comprehensive Plan: 1029 surveys were sent out, 491 returned. Committee is compiling the data & will have an open house informational meeting in January 2018.
- B. Broadband Update: Clay Cich, committee member, informed Board of grant award of 1.8 million dollar to Fredenberg township from the State, in addition a 2.1million dollar grant from Century Link received. Fiber to residential homes will be installed, underground and on poles beginning in 2018. Informational meeting will be held also in the future for public.
- C. Birch Acres Roads and Fredenberg Lake Road Improvement Projects: Jim Ray, Walter Rapp and Mary Skafte meet with Steve Overom, attorney to formulate a timeline. Two options to proceed with for bids were reviewed but not decided on. Waiting for SEH to give specs to advertise for bids. There will be an assessment public hearing held for both projects before anything is finalized.
- D. Hi-Banks Conditional Use Permit: clerks spoke with County Planner and as of Dec. 5, 2017, no completed application was submitted or accepted, no action can be taken until it is. The county reviews/accepts these on only the first Friday of the month and if accepted, the hearing is set for only the second Thursday of the next month. Jim Ray discussed concerns about addressing this before the hearing because January Town Board Meeting is before the first Friday of month and February meeting is the day before a hearing would be. A special meeting maybe scheduled once the hearing date is set.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Kinn Cemetery plot sale: plot was purchased, lot sold was already occupied, family requested new lot, but no updated application/deed completed, and they cannot bury family member. Board reviewed and attested to purchase, signing deed.

B. Clay Cich resume position as town supervisor: Letter dated Nov. 28, 2017 from Clay Cich read to Board, will be returning to Township Board on Jan. 1, 2018. Motion to accept letter and Clay Cich to resume duties made by Darrin Wixo, seconded by Deb Pawlowicz. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT: Jeff Blix made motion to adjourn, Walter Rapp seconded. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Chair/Co-Chair

APPROVED