

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
April 4, 2018**

**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, Clay Cich, and Deb Pawlowicz was present, and Walter Rapp was absent. Treasurer and clerks were also present. 8 individuals stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of the Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 7, 2018 Board meeting minutes reviewed by the Board, Clay Cich made motion to accept minutes without correction, Jeff Blix seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented monthly reconciliation, funds available as of 3/12/2018 is \$470,974.60. Issues last month with payroll / CTAs resolved. Treasurer is planning to meet with Reservoir Riders Treasurer to reconcile their account and surplus still showing on township budget report.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: 3 mails and 10 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board.
4. REVIEW OF BILLS: No corrections, Jeff Blix made motion to accept check #9212 – 9227, totaling \$7,949.24, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
5. REPORTS:
Clerk - requested clarification on who can contact Township Attorney, Board agreed those supervisors, clerks & treasurer and this needs to be specified to Steve Overom/Township Attorney. PERA exclusion reports for past 4 years completed and submitted, employees who are not exempt were set up with account. A previous optional term life insurance provided to supervisor/treasurer/clerk from township was discussed as it was discovered that it lapsed due to nonpayment, Jeff Blix remembered that previous Board had decided to not renew, provided cost and coverage information and Board does not wish to participate at this time. Provided board with Resolution 18-010 concerning moral character of local owners of businesses with beer licenses, all business demonstrated good moral character and were not delinquent in taxes, Jim Ray made motion to adopt Resolution 18-010, Clay Cich seconded, and **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**, clerks will submit information to County. Clerks provided information on motion approved by majority of residents at March 13, 2018 Annual Meeting about donation (recommended by vote, \$10,000.00, as allowed by MN Statues) for Essentia Wellness Center in Hermantown. Resolution was tabled as Board wanted more information and requested Mark McShane do at next Board Meeting in May, when full Board will be present.
Road Report – Inspecting roads, prep work will be done on roads that are scheduled to be paved. Clarification on weight restrictions for Usiak Road, of which there are none. Discussion regarding posting of weight restriction after road is paved. Jim Ray purchased weed killer for Japanese knot weed on North Birch Acres Road. Also, currently there is no township road designated for major repair work this year.
Fire Department – responded to 9 calls in March: 6 for medical assistance, 1 for carbon monoxide alarm Alert, 1 to investigate possible propane leak and 1 structure fire. Members attended class on emergencies related to various types of petroleum emergencies. EMTs completed refresher class. Dept. hosted class on developing and revising Standard Operating Procedure/Suggested Operating guidelines. Dept. wants to remind all residents to make sure their address signs are easily visible from road, not covered by vegetation, snow banks, signs... This aids the Dept. in finding your address in cases of emergency. PLEASE make sure your sign meets St. Louis County 911 guidelines. Guidelines for rural St. Louis County will be in township newsletter as well as information about Northland Alert program.
Cemetery – nothing
Parks & Rec – Jim Ray continues to look for snow blower for rink, costs are high right now, shed for storage will be discussed next meeting to determine costs and size.
Community Center – All Service will be installing furnace but have not started yet. There have been no further problems with septic system
Recycle Center: Deb Pawlowicz made motion to increase attendants, 1 hour each shift to allow for cleaning, Jeff Blix seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray inquired to Northland Constructors about cost of

paving driveway and will get other estimates before presenting to Board.

Other Meetings – Mary & Diane attended March DAT meeting, presentation on Invasive Species very informational, suggested that DNR presentation be done at Township National Night Out this summer. **MEETINGS SLATED before next Board Meeting:** MAT Spring Short Course on Friday, April 6, 2018 at Amsoil Complex/DECC, Public Hearing for Fredenberg Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7 to 8pm at Town Hall. A quorum of Town Board Supervisors may be present at the Township Annual Road Review on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 6 pm.

6. **OPEN FORUM:** Noel Pearman had questions about Township Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing if County was going to have universal plan, also requested monthly update on Town Park. Tom Pawlowicz wanted to know where the deer carcass was found in the Park.
7. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Birch Acres Roads & Fredenberg Lake Road Projects: Jim Ray signed contracts with Northland Constructors and contacted National Bank of Commerce about how long quoted interest rate for financing will be held. The Bank is requesting 3 years of township financial information which treasurer will provide. Treasurer wanted clarification on if Township would have additional costs for road projects and Board didn't believe there would be.
 - B. Banking Change: Bill O'Brien, Treasurer has researched/compared banking with National Bank of Commerce and Wells Fargo Bank, he provided current rates/costs comparisons and explained earned credits versus interest earned. He is concerned about being able to bank outside of Duluth area. He recommended staying with Wells Fargo for Township banking/ checking. He presented information on CD rates for both banks also, National Bank of Commerce is offering higher rate currently but there is a penalty for early withdrawal. Bill O'Brien, Treasurer felt township could take \$50,000.00 more from checking and place in CD, discussion about this amount being used as a designated road fund (in the future) but it was decided that no designation would be made at this time. Clay Cich made motion to invest \$50,000.00 in a CD at National Bank of Commerce if the rate of interest was 1.85% for 15 months. Jim Ray seconded. Vote: 3 YES 0 NO 1 ABSTAIN. **MOTION PASSED.**
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Township Road Quotes: only 1 quote received, Lakehead Trucking quote & rates reviewed, Jeff Blix made motion to accept quote from Lakehead Trucking for 2018-2019, Clay Cich seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
 - B. Township Lawn Mowing Quotes: Only 1 quote received, it was unopened as Town Board felt they needed more to compare prices, requested Clerks contact Lawn Service Business to obtain more quotes. These will be reviewed next meeting in May.
 - C. Annual Road Review: Board decided that the Township Annual Road Review would take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 6 pm, supervisors, Greg Kaneski/Lakehead Trucking and clerk meet at Town hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Jim Ray made motion to adjourn meeting, Jeff Blix seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Chair/Co-Chair