

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
July 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. All Board members were present. Twenty-seven individuals stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1) ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: There were no items from the floor.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: They made the addition of the phrase “National Night Out” in the talk about putting a group together under Parks & Rec and the addition of “Septic” alarm under Community Center; Jeff Blix moved to accept the minutes with the corrections, Mark Toms seconded; and minutes were approved as stipulated.
- 3) TREASURER’S REPORT: The treasurer’s monthly reconciliation; as of 10 June showed funds available in the amount of \$408,568.95, which included the \$80,000 we have tied up in CD’s.
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE: Fourteen (14) total items of correspondence were received during the month and reviewed.
- 5) REVIEW OF BILLS: Jeff Blix moved to pay vouchers #8576 -#8595 in the amount of \$64,322.69, Liz Blix, seconded and motion PASSED,
- 6) REPORTS:

Clerk - reported calls about rentals are coming in, and still people ask about renting out just the tables and chairs. She made arrangements with the custodians for cleaning the upstairs hall carpet, but Mort had thrown out his back. There were requests for documents and the clerk presented a form that the board had talked about creating earlier for these requests.

Road Report – reported that the swamp area along Fredenberg Lake Rd was built up and a culvert replaced in that area. He spoke with land owners along W. Hunter Lake Rd, which is the next target area, about tree removal. They didn’t have a problem with that as long as the red pine wasn’t touched. After the severe storm that moved through the township on Tuesday night, Jim went out to assess the damage and was out until 3am working to clear downed trees from the roadway. The board thanked him for his tremendous efforts. There was some discussion about the township purchasing a chainsaw for him to use, but he declined. Any bills for gasoline and or repair/sharpening should be turned in for reimbursement.

Fire Department – responded to 3 medical calls, 1 public assist water emergency, a tree on a power line and an illegal burn. Several members helped staff a medical aid station for Grandma’s Marathon, treating 114 people with an additional 75 needing minor assistance. The hosted a functional drill sponsored by Minnesota Power about the Emergency Action Plan for the Island Lake Dam. The department also received their ISO rating which changed from a 7/10 to a 5/10. This means that if your insurance company was using the ISO rating system you should see a decrease in your rates. The department is not aware of any other community with this low of a rating. The members are proud of the rating and thank the community for the overwhelming support to help make out township safer. They also asked if the board would consider some extra gravel or grade on their driveway.

Law Enforcement – a sign prohibiting commercial use of the park and the consequences will be posted.

Cemetery – 106 markers have been placed to facilitate finding the rows. After the project was complete, it was found that the cemetery is now 6ft wider on one side and the lawn service was called about the change

Parks & Rec - the ball field has been revamped and is in use. A quote was received for stripping the tennis/basketball court for pickleball, which the board felt was too high. They will ask the price on simply seal coating the court and laying down the lines for pickleball and not worry about the basketball lines as it usually is used just for hoops. Plans for

National Night Out are going forward - with the board participation and the volunteers already willing we think we will have enough as the fire department will also be on hand

Community Center – the sign out front will be worked on in the next week. They are slated to be done with the roof on the old fire hall by tomorrow. The flag pole is fixed with Steve Happy donating his time and equipment. The original flag removed from the pole was found on the ground near the sign.

Recycling Center – the grant for 2016 has been awarded and should be coming soon, so the clerk will contact Lake Country about going ahead with the installation of the security light. The snow fence stored in the shed was scraps rolled up and not an entire roll and as such was recycled.

Other Meetings - the clerk attended Short Course and brought back the gravel maintenance road book and a flag she won for being the first and correct contestant in the quiz portion of the event.

7) OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Fredenberg Lake Rd** - after much discussion and views heard from many as well as the township lawyer and a lawyer for some residents along the road present; the township lawyer stated that 4/5 majority vote could decide the project and would be valid; even if all the residents along the road had voted no, the board has the authority to over ride their feelings if they wished. With 2 of the members abstaining that meant the remaining 3 could still legally vote. Liz Blix moved we hire an independent contractor and do the paperwork and contacting portion over, Walter Rapp seconded; Rapp and both Blixs voted to go ahead with that plan, Mark Toms abstained and Clay Cich voted no.
- b) **Website** – the clerk did not have time to get anything done on this. If she can't get it done she will ask the host to take it down and we can start from scratch. She has downloaded all materials on the site as a contingent action.

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Cooperative Maintenance Agreement.**– the county has a new agreement for the snowplowing season. Although the clerk only changed the name on the sent by the county they are sending a new form as that is apparently not allowed. Walter asked if we had no snow would we own then nothing, answer was the county probably would not see it that way, but as the likelihood of no snow at all here is remote, we will never know. The board moved to accept the agreement and signatures will be put on it when it is received.
- b) **Election** - Although the election is not until November, the filing period will be From August 2 - 16. We will have 4 open positions on the board, two each 4-year and 2-year positions. If you are planning on filing you must declare which seat you are going for A, C, D, E with the later 2 letters being 2-year terms. We do not do ranked voting, so it isn't the 2 individuals with the most votes win the seats.

- 9) ADJOURNMENT: The board was reminded of all upcoming meetings. Jeff Blix moved to adjourn the meeting; Mark Toms seconded and we adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri A. Armstrong, Clerk