

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
November 4, 2015**

**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 and Clerk Sherri Armstrong. Sixteen individuals stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1) ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: The chair announced Rex Greenwell had asked to speak and would have 5 minutes.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Toms moved to accept the minutes, Jeff Blix seconded. Minutes were approved as written.
- 3) TREASURER'S REPORT: The clerk read a report from the treasurer giving them an accounting of the meeting with the accountant and the steps to correct the missing deposits. He has reconciled the books through February 2015 and is continuing to work them month-by-month, He did give an accounting for the meeting which gave the actual balances for the business checking and business market rate accounts which matched the bank records, although the outstanding check balance was estimated, and that was made available as part of the package handed out at the meeting. Total funds available as of 13 October are \$467,294.51. After looking at the expenditures for the new fire hall, he indicated that approximately \$710,661.32 has been spent which leaves \$2830.18 remaining from the bond purchase.
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE: Nine (9) total items of correspondence were received during the month and reviewed.
- 5) REVIEW OF BILLS: Jeff Blix moved to pay vouchers #8355 – 8368 in the amount of \$26, 486.41, Mark Toms, seconded and motion passed.
- 6) REPORTS:

The Clerk reported that there was a low turnout for the school board election. This wasn't totally unexpected, even though it included residents of Gnesen and Canosia voting here as well as there were only 2 names on the ballot. The day include two different ballot counters malfunction and a flood from the downstairs bathroom however. All judges agreed we were glad it happened how and not next year for the presidential election.

Road Report -The Road Foreman reported the snow fence has been purchased, but still needs to be installed along the roads. The fencing on the community center grounds has been put up. The damaged area long 2nd Avenue is done as well as a few nearby sunken cracks filled. A culvert was installed in the driveway entering Miller Lane to prevent washouts. There is some washboarding along the Stuberud Rd, but there is also a phone cable along the roadside that needs to be taken into consideration. Depending on the weather, grading season is almost complete.

Fire Department – members participated in various training events and activities during October, with several taking their initial Emergency Medical Responder class and others completing their EMT refresher. They also attended classes regarding Hazardous Materials including both railroad and propane emergencies. Two members also attended State Fire chief's training conference held in Duluth. They held a Fire Truck and Treat event for Halloween with approximately 30 children and their parents attending. They learned about fire safety as well as received treats from the volunteers. Calls for the month included a water emergency, structure fire, one mutual aid structure fire, a standby for a structure fire and two medical calls.

Law Enforcement - nothing at this time

Cemetery – Walter Rapp has the information for ordering the materials for staking out the cemetery. He will get with the clerk to get them ordered, although we probably won't be doing anything with it until next year now. The clerk also presented the board with the index compiled by the Twin Ports Genealogy group. The index is also on file with the public library and the historical society. The cemetery will be locked up for the winter.

Parks & Rec - we didn't receive any application for rink attendant, even though someone had contacted the clerk about the position. We will try again. The clerk also indicated that we had a donated tennis net coming our way next spring from a tennis club down south.

Community Center – the custodians have reported that the the immediate problems with the electrical in the kitchen/back stairwell has been resolved, but we are still having an electrician come in to look things over. We are also going to have him look at the light fixtures in the basement, classrooms and boardroom for a quote to upgrading.

Recycling Center - The grant money received was \$18.53 less than what we had requested. The dumpsters will also be moved slightly to allow for better snowplowing this season.

Other Meetings - Supervisors Cich and Rapp met with the title company over the easement issues on East Datka Road,

7) OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Datka Road Park Update** – Rex Greenwell addressed the board, quoting various state statutes, the SLATCO website and other sources as to opposition of the township taking on this land and ending with the statement that “...the silent majority is not in favor of” Having used up his allotted time he was then asked to sit down. The ordinance, which was presented at a special meeting 2 months ago, is still being revised and applies to all township properties now and in the future and is not exclusive to the Datka Road Park.
- b) **Independent Auditor Review** – The accountant indicated that he would be in contact with the state auditor to inform them of the corrective actions taken. We are working to reconcile each bank statement month-by-month, and hope to be done by the next meeting, but if not definitely by the end of the calendar year
- c) **Resolution #15-005 – Datka Road Parcel** - Chairman Blix explained that they were looking to adopt the rules and regulations that had been presented at the last meeting and which had gone back to the committee for revision. The document was read in its entirety and then Jeff Blix moved to adopt the resolution, with the rest of the board seconding the resolution, which was declared as **ADOPTED**.

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Resolution #15-006 Conflict of Interest** - The resolution allows Mark Toms to contract with the township to handle the snowplowing for the coming season and to act as an independent contractor while doing so and filing an affidavit with each invoice claiming such. Jeff Blix moved to adopt, Walter Rapp seconded and the resolution was **ADOPTED** with Mark Toms abstaining from the vote.

- 9) ADJOURNMENT: The board was reminded of all upcoming meetings. Mark Toms Blix moved to adjourn the meeting; Clay Cich seconded and we adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri A. Armstrong, Clerk