

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
April 19, 2017**

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

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Walter Rapp. Supervisor Clay Cich and Treasurer Bill O'Brien were not present. Nineteen individuals and the township lawyer, Steve Overom, stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1) ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: Added later was the community garden.
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jeff Blix moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting with the correction of spelling of "Diane" under clerk position in Old Business. Jim Ray seconded and minutes were approved with stated correction.
- 3) TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report stated total funds available as of March 10 are \$420,600.50 which included the \$78,829.24 in CDs. He had taken the CD and rolled it into one for \$50,000 and it will reflect on the next report.
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE: Nine (9) total items of correspondence were received during the month and reviewed.
- 5) REVIEW OF BILLS: Due to circumstances that had taken place, the Claims Approval list was not available for the meeting. In the end the board decided to recess the meeting until the following Monday to handle the bills.
- 6) REPORTS:

Clerk – Rex Greenwell asked why Sherri was sitting with the board rather than Diane and Mary. Their letter of resignation was read and then discussion followed on Diane's meeting with Steve Overom. Steve explained he had talked to several of the board members as well as MAT. He recommended that the Board adopt the Civility and Code of Conduct he presented, Jeff Blix made a motion to accept and Jim Ray seconded, motion PASSED. The township cannot run without a clerk, and after meeting with Diane, he presented the board with 3 options for filling the clerk position. There was much discussion following Steve's presentation. Deb Pawlowicz moved to accept the option reinstating Diane and Mary back at the salary initially stated; Jim Ray seconded and motion PASSED. Jim Ray moved that the sentence in that option which stated the clerk would accept direction from the Chair only be deleted; Walter Rapp seconded and motion PASSED. Jim Ray moved to reinstate Diane and Mary in a clerk/assistant respectively position. Deb Pawlowicz seconded and motion PASSED on a 3 for 1 against vote. Jim Ray then moved to have Sherri still be available for help as needed, Jeff Blix seconded and motion PASSED. Jeff Blix moved to have the entire board attend Civility and Code of Conduct training from MAT; Jim Ray seconded and motion PASSED.

Road Report – the Road Foreman reported that some of the roads had been graded. The snow fence was ready to be taken down.

Fire Department – Fire department was read by Jim Ray.

Law Enforcement - nothing to report

Cemetery – Walter has opened the gates.

Parks & Rec – recently purchased hockey boards were picked up by Lakehead Trucking and are stacked up by the warming shack.

Community Center – there had been some questions as to whether the carpet installed was the one first looked at, but it is indeed the one offered. There is still some touch up work that needs to be done from the painter. There seems to be a

difference of opinion on whether there were two coats of paint done or not. The board is holding back 10% of the bill for the painter until all work is done satisfactorily.

Recycling Center – the driveway is becoming quite rutted and Lakehead Trucking stated they would put down some gravel to fill in the holes.

Other Meetings – Jim Ray and Clay Cich attended short course. Jim Ray and Clay Cich talked to the county assessor at the Fredenberg Community Center about property taxes while he was there. The county stated there will no longer be private assessors within the county, although their office is busier than ever. He also picked up a couple of township manuals.

7) OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Lawsuit** - a date has been set for mediation, Jeff Blix and Deb Pawlowicz will be attending that on behalf of the township. Ed Proetz asked Steve if there was a time limit for the board to give the park land back to the county. Steve stated that as the lawsuit was still pending it wasn't advisable to be discussing it. Further questions from Ed were tabled.
- b) **LBAE** - Jeff Blix is the only certified member of the board and will be out of town the day of the meeting. This will mean that the meeting will become an open book meeting and revert back to the county.
- c) **PARK** - There is still much concern about the legality of the park acquisition and the money the lawsuit may end up costing the township. It was stressed again, that there isn't much that can be done until the lawsuit is settled.

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Road Review** - the board had set this for the same day as the LBAE, since it is also the day of the board meeting, they have moved the road review to May 10 at 5pm. The board will meet at the hall and proceed from there. Deb said she may be late, but will catch up.
- b) **Fire Department Contract** - Jeff Blix moved to accept the contract, Deb Pawlowicz seconded and motion **PASSED.**
- c) **Website** - Mary Skafte met with the individual who had created the website for Gnesen Township, but was not at the meeting. Item tabled.
- d) **Mowing Contract** - Walter Rapp moved to accept Nick's Lawn Care, Jim Ray seconded and motion **PASSED.**
- e) **Road Work Contract** - Jeff Blix moved to accept Lakehead Trucking, Walter Rapp seconded and motion **PASSED.**
- f) **Community Garden** - Debbie Hellsveig is in charge of the community gardens and asked if it could be expanded as all 24 plots had been reserved and more people are interested in getting a plot. She will also get together with the clerk to check on the funding.
- g) **NNO** – Deb Pawlowicz asked about funds for National Night Out. There wasn't a set amount for this event. The Fire Department may have better records on amounts ordered for items.

9) RECESSED: The board was reminded of all upcoming meetings. Walter Rapp moved to recess the meeting; until 7

pm on Monday April 24th to pay the bills; Jim Ray seconded and we adjourned at 9:13 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:05 with the same supervisors and with the addition of Bill O'Brien, Diane Palmstein, Mary Skafte and Sherri Armstrong. There was 1 additional individual in the audience.

There was some discussion over bills for the painter, plumber and F&I- fire extinguisher. In the end the board moved to pay bills # 8853 to 8874, total \$36,529.34

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri A. Armstrong, acting clerk

APPROVED