

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
April 1, 2020**

**TIME & PLACE: 7:00 pm
VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

Mary Skafte/ clerk informed the Board supervisors & audience on the phone of meeting etiquette on a phone conference to allow for completion of town business. Clay Cich/Chair made a motion declaring a State of Emergency for Fredenberg Township, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7 pm by Chair Clay Cich, Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, Tim Wagner. Mary Skafte & Diane Palmstein/clerks present, Bill O'Brien/Treasurer present. The Board recited the Pledge of the Allegiance. 23 persons were listening via phone conference.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 4, 2020 meeting minutes reviewed by the Board, Walter Rapp made motion to accept without corrections, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Monthly reconciliation as of 3/11/2020 in checking is \$341,269.29. Total funds available is \$505,194.82, includes 4 CD's totaling \$201,164.70. Nothing unusual to report for the month, 3 CD's are maturing on 4/24/2020, previously Board asked him to meet with bank to check out best rates before reinvesting, because of current health crisis, this may have to be by phone conference and the Board was okay with this.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: 49 total: 5 mail and 44 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board. Also 7 e-mails received today were available for review.
4. REVIEW OF BILLS: Mary Skafte/clerk informed the Board that the Excellence in Education Banquet was cancelled and requested a motion to rescind Resolution 2020-004, \$100.00 donation, Clay Cich made a motion to rescind Resolution 2020-004, Tim Wagner seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Also informed Board of Como Oil contract price for coming year: \$1.099/gallon propane. Board reviewed bills, no corrections. Walter Rapp made motion to accept check # 9944 to 9970, totaling \$14,432.71, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
5. REPORTS:

Clerk – on March 25, 2020, Ryan Sauve from St. Louis and Local Board of Appeal & Equalization, contacted the office to discuss holding our Board remotely with the County and using write in appeals only (there are no provisions/laws to not conduct the Board of Appeal & Equalization in state of emergency), decision needed to be made immediately as tax notifications were being sent out on March 27,2020 and information about write in appeals could be on that notice, or else a special notice would have to be sent out to each Fredenberg parcel owner. This will not impact in person appeals in the future. Clerks contacted each supervisor individually; it was unanimous **5 YEAS** to have write in appeals only. Jim Ray made a motion to conduct the Fredenberg Local Board of Appeal & Equalization as write in appeal only for 2020 on April 29, 2020 from 1-2pm in the Fredenberg Board Room, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Office has received 4 applications for Town Treasurer, each was made aware that in person interviews would not be held at this time but had many questions about work and hours, Clerks asked the Board to allow Bill O'Brien/treasurer to contact applicants to answer questions and provide information pertaining to job duties. Board agreed with plan and Bill O'Brien accepted. Mary Skafte/clerk requested supervisors come to Community Center, Board Room to sign forms but only 1 at a time tomorrow.

Road Report – quiet month, will be assessing road conditions following the winter.

Fire Department- Members responded to 3 medical calls including 1 mutual aid. The new boiler has been installed and working well, 2 new outside doors were replaced. The Department is focusing on preparing for the COVID19 pandemic, information has been gathered, equipment inventoried, procedures developed, and training held to help with responses during the epidemic. If you need to call 9-1-1, please be prepared to give the dispatcher the following information: Does the patient have a fever? Headache? Muscle pain? Cough? Flu symptoms? Nausea or vomiting? Diarrhea? Abdominal pain or unexplained bleeding? The dispatcher will relay that to the responders so the proper personal protective equipment precautions can be used. This is both for the patient's and the responder's protection. Only 1 or 2 responders will make contact with the patient to provide care, others will be staged outside in case they are needed. Please keep yourself safe, wash your hands, stay home, maintain the proper distances when you need to be out. We are all in this together keeping each other safe. The Fire Department will not be accepting aluminum cans

for the time being. We will let you know when we will be able to resume the collection. The Annual Fishing Opener Pancake Breakfast is tentatively being held on Saturday, May 9, 2020, 7:00am to Noon at the Fredenberg Community Center. More information will be coming out as we get closer. Thank you for all your support.

Cemetery – now closed but should open by May 1.

Parks & Rec – closed to activities, porta-potty removed from sliding hill.

Community Center- closed and posted on all posting sites, keys removed from Minnow Ette. Doors and locks will not be addressed until Stay at Home order expired. Clay Cich spoke with Linda Bergstrand from Fire Dept. and she feels 2 grills are necessary, Board approved \$2,500.00 - \$3,000.00 for grill but costs will be up to \$5,000-\$6,000 with 2 grills. Clerks stated Township has tax exempt status for purchase. Jim Ray made a motion to increase budget for grills to \$6,000.00, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Recycle Center – WLSSD closed facilities on March 17, 2020, they left it up to individual centers to decide to close, our Center closed on March 26, 2020 until further notice. WLSSD grants to townships may be delayed.

Other Meetings- Public hearing on CUP for 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road, attended by Jim Ray and Clay Cich on Thurs. March 12, 2020, at 9:45am. Telephone conference with MAT and state townships on March 26, 2020 from 6-7pm, attended by Clay Cich, Deb Pawlowicz, Tim Wagner, Mary Skaft & Diane Palmstein.

6. OPEN FORUM: no one

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. East Cook Lake Road paving request: no update. Information Meeting with Base 1 on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:15pm at the Fredenberg Town Hall, remains tentatively set but depends on Stay at Home Order.
- B. Conditional Use Permit for Lakehead Trucking at 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road: clerk read email from Jennifer Bourbonais, St. Louis Planning and Zoning regarding date of original application (Jan. 21, 2020) and revision (3/18/2020) but County has not put in place a plan to hold public hearings and still exploring 60-day rule. Also read email from Kevin Gray/St. Louis County Administrator: postponement of Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment (except planned virtual/write in only Boards). The Township has not received any new or revised CUP for this property.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Quotes for 2020 Township Mowing: Board reviewed 4 quotes received, lowest quote from Don Olson: per time, \$85.00 for cemetery, community center \$140.00, recycle center \$50.00, firehall \$85.00, with cemetery and firehall done 2 x month. Jim Ray made a motion to accept mowing quote from Don Olson, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- B. Quotes for 2020/21 Township Road Work: Board reviewed 1 quote received from Lakehead Trucking. Walter Rapp made a motion to accept quote as outlined in proposal from Lakehead Trucking, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- C. Ordinance for Gravel Pit Moratorium for Township & Resolution #2020-007: Board had both documents in their packet to review. Walter Rapp informed the Board that he spoke with Matt Johnson, Director of Planning & Development and he recommended letters of concern be sent to them as they do carry weight in there decision making and Walter is not in favor of the Township getting back into zoning. Jim Ray voiced concerns about ARDC contract and cost, recommendations made by ARDC and their impact on the community and that the Township had to hire a company to do the study to comply with MN statute for moratoriums. Clay Cich didn't feel the Planning Commission had the best interests of Fredenberg, the Commission didn't consider the public or townships' concerns and recommendations. Deb Pawlowicz felt the Township needed to have more ability to control gravel pits in the area, as clarified by Steve Overom/township attorney, ARDC cost is not a lump sum and can be stopped by the Board if they choose, which she feels comfortable with. Jim Ray stated there were still unanswered questions and felt moving forward with a moratorium and may have the answers. He did feel doing our own zoning can get ugly. Tim Wagner stated he was okay to make a decision with the information presented tonight. Steve Overom/township attorney present at this time and stated he would not give a legal opinion on this matter at this time. Residents given an opportunity to speak: Oly Olson, Patty Wheeler, Greg Flanagan, Deb Roach, Ken Johnson, Katherine Harris, Janet Olson, Bob Terry, Sally Williams, Bonnie Anderson, Patty Monson-Gertz all spoke in favor of the resolution and ordinance for a Moratorium on Gravel Pits in Fredenberg and in opposition to the Conditional Use Permit for 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road by Lakehead Trucking. Mary Skaft, resident on Hunter Lake Road, stated she was a resident in the township when zoning was given to the County and the decision was voted

on at an Annual Township Meeting, before the Town Board approved, zoning became neighbor against neighbors & lawsuits. Diane Palmstein/ resident on 5th Ave, Bear Island Road, asked how the entire township was being notified about an ordinance that was presented and passed in one meeting. Clay Cich made a motion to accept and approve Resolution #2020-007, Approving contract for Professional Services with Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **3 YEAS 2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.** Clay Cich made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-01, Declaring a Temporary Moratorium on Gravel Pits, Borrow Pits & Crushing or Batch Plants Within Fredenberg Township, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **3 YEAS 2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED, ORDINANCE APPROVED** and will be published in Duluth News Tribune.

D. Second Township Board Meeting in April on Wednesday, April 15, 2020: Clay Cich made a motion to hold this meeting, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **3 YEAS 2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED TO HOLD MEETING.**

9. OTHER MEETINGS: Telephone conference with MAT and northern MN townships on Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 6-7pm. Local Board of Appeal & Equalization, Wednesday, April 29, 2020 from 1 – 2 pm in the Fredenberg Town Board Room, Board Supervisors with St. Louis County assessor (remotely). Appeals by written form by mail or email to Township.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Clay Cich made a motion to adjourn meeting, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Clerk




Board Chair/Co-Chair

APPROVED