

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
AUGUST 19, 2020**

**TIME & PLACE: 7:00 pm
TOWN HALL PAVILION**

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 was absent. 28 individuals stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Diane Palmstein/clerk asked the Board to decide on time limit for open forum, 3 minutes per person would be timed. She reminded the Board and those present about maintaining civility during this meeting. She also informed the Board that Steve Overom/attorney had sent a copy of Bear Island 8th Ave Road township road establishment paperwork being sent to MN Power for their review/approval and it will be presented at the September 2, 2020 meeting.

1. OPEN FORUM: Noel Pearman, submitted a letter for the Board, he provided a recap of issues at Finners Pit and information on unsuccessful rate of CUP's being revoked in court. Jeff Blix wanted to know the cost of defending the moratorium, he had no issues living near a gravel pit. Ed Proetz stated there were 24 cracks on Birch Acres Road and they needed filling, Jim Ray/road foreman informed him, he was aware and working to find a company to do the work this year. He was opposed to hiring lawyers to settle the pit dispute and recommended the Board try to settle without another lawsuit. Patty Wheeler didn't feel negotiating with LTI was possible. LTI is clearing property and very noisy. She supports guidelines and restrictions, zoning for gravel pits. Dick Wenaas, informed the Board there is a meeting for a group from Waters of Life Church trying to build a retirement community with Section 8 housing on Bear Island Road and the meeting is on Saturday at 2 pm at the Eagles Nest, and this is another issue the County will be making a decision for our township. Peter Seglum didn't feel there were any positive benefits for the gravel pit on Fredenberg Lake Road and there was already noise. Melissa Bell, had noise from gravel pit, supports hiring an outside attorney and taking back zoning. Deb Roach supports hiring an outside attorney to defend the moratorium. Kathy Stingl, felt there were enough gravel pits, supports hiring an outside attorney for moratorium. Kathy Pearson felt the Board needed to make ARDC aware of the Township Comp. Plan survey so they can use that information and stated residents themselves hired the attorney to oppose Finners pit. Oly Olson, supported hiring an outside attorney and feels the township would win in court. Bruce Anderson didn't feel Fredenberg Lake Road was the right place for a pit and supports hiring an outside attorney. Mike Anderson, questions the set back of 100ft being followed on Miller Lane, supports hiring an outside attorney. Deb Johnson affirmed that Finners pit litigation was funded privately, and St. Louis County never reclaimed the land as promised. Julie Johnson has heard a lot of noise and trees coming down from the pit. Greg Flanagan stated the pit will be disruptive, County doesn't care about the township, opposed the pit, and concerned about safety issues.
2. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits & ARDC study: Justin Otsea/ARDC was present and provided a brief scope of project (background study, gathering public input). He explained that because of pandemic, this is not their usual operating method. Walter Rapp felt the report was something that could have been found on our web site and contained no new information and wanted to know what ARDC was going to tell the township. Clay Cich felt that our Comp.Plan should be on our website, the clerks explained that it had not been accepted by St. Louis County as they formulated a county wide plan and our plan was a guide for them. Deb. Pawlowicz felt a survey was warranted and provide answers to what the residents wanted the township to do. She felt the township should have a say in zoning and was in favor of a survey being sent. Jim Ray stated zoning is a big decision and felt the survey would provide direction for zoning. Tim Wagner is not in favor of zoning and has had a personal experience with zoning problems and special interest groups. Justin Otsea/ARDC will provide the township with a legal opinion in writing regarding if the township can take over only part of zoning. Jim Ray made a motion to have a survey sent to Township registered voters using the draft with an introduction, 1 question (would you like to see the Township take on at least some zoning authority; yes or no). Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** ARDC will receive and tabulate surveys, clerks will assist with mailings. Jim Ray presented a draft of a letter penned by Steve Overom/township attorney to be sent to Lakehead Trucking regarding enforcement of the township moratorium for gravel pits. Supervisors reviewed document. Jim Ray made a motion to send out the letter via Steve Overom, Clay Cich seconded. Walter Rapp felt clerks could handle this and not pay for cost of

attorney, but the Board felt a paper trail was necessary. **3 YEAS 2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.** Clerks will notify Steve Overom.

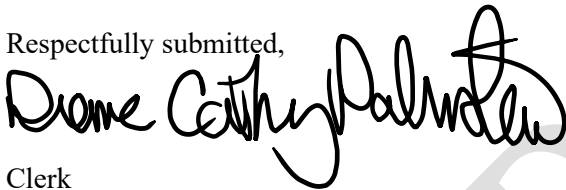
3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of new township treasurer: Pam Blekestad was present and introduced herself. Clay Cich made a motion to appoint Pam Blekestad as the new Township Treasurer, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- B. Hiring an outside attorney to defend the Township Moratorium on gravel pits: Clay Cich stated our present attorney will not take on in-court cases, another attorney needs to be available to handle for our township. Jim Ray spoke with Kennedy & Graven from Minneapolis and provided general information on the moratorium issues. Any current costs would be for the firm to get up to speed on the current situation at approximately \$185/hour. Jim Ray made a motion to have Kennedy & Graven do research on moratorium issues, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **4 YEAS 1 NAY. MOTION PASSED.** Jim Ray will be the contact for working with this Law Firm and contact them.
- C. Changing time of September 2, 2020 Board Meeting from 7pm to 6pm: Clerks asked the Board to consider changing the September 2, 2020 Board Meeting to 6 pm because it is held in the pavilion and darker earlier. Walter Rapp made a motion to change the September 2, 2020 Board meeting from 7pm to 6pm, Clay Cich seconded. **4 YEAS 1 NAY. MOTION PASSED.** The meeting will be posted for 6 pm.

4. OTHER MEETINGS: none

- 5. ADJOURNMENT: Clay Cich made a motion to adjourn meeting, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Clerk



Board Chair/Co-Chair

APPROVED