

**FREDENBERG TOWN BOARD MEETING
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MN**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
August 5, 2020**

**TIME & PLACE: 7:00 pm
TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY CENTER 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. 29 individuals were present and stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of the Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 1, 2020 meeting minutes reviewed by the Board, Jim Ray made motion to accept without corrections, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: as of July 10, 2020, reconciled checking account balance is \$339,089.56. Total funds available: \$529,770.01, which includes 4 CDs totaling \$202,917.51.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: 28 total: 4 mail and 24 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board.
4. REVIEW OF BILLS: Check # 10062 is rental refund, #10081 was rewritten check for voided one over 90 days, #10070 for mowing was 2 months of mowing. No corrections. Jim Ray made motion to accept check # 10061 to 10081, totaling \$13,061.04, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
5. REPORTS:

Clerk – very busy with elections, obtaining equipment, complying all orders from the State of MN for COVID-19 during elections. The Board directed clerks not to accept any Town Hall/Community Center reservations until directed to by the Board.

Road Report – Jim Ray requested the Board to approve an additional road project not on 2020 Road Review: Beaver River Road to improve conditions, especially for the winter. Jim Ray made a motion to do the additional work, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Century Link still has not moved pedestal on Wood Duck Lane. Not doing much work on roads currently as most are in good condition.

Fire Department- In June and July responded to 3 fires in Fredenberg, four mutual aid structure fires in neighboring townships along with six medical calls. Holding our business meetings via Zoom and working on equipment, training through social distancing and online opportunities. Had Emergency Apparatus Maintenance come to perform annual maintenance on the trucks. Summer brings unique response challenges for Responders. Address/Fire numbers have been obscured by foliage. Please be sure your address sign is clearly visible from the road. It helps us reach your home faster if we do not have to search for the address. If you have a longer driveway that branches off to several homes/cabins, please be sure to have your address marked clearly by your driveway as well as the main road. Our can trailer is back at the fire hall, thanks to everyone who drops their aluminum cans off. Clerks spoke to Linda Bergstrand/Chief and several other firefighters and it was recommended to set up AED in the Town Hall as many in the community are already trained, so AED is set up in its' case in the Town Hall.

Cemetery – Looks good

Parks & Rec - Still unable to get a quote from electrician for rink lights. Deb Pawlowicz researched some activities for our Town Hall area, there is a grant through the DNR for equipment, such as disc golf course, available in December to apply for and clerks will apply.

Community Center- Griddles and kitchen prep table arrived and ready to go, front panel on one griddle will be replaced as it was damaged. Sell Hardware came and looked over Town Hall doors and to replace is very pricey but recommended they all be tuned up and serviced, no estimate as of yet, but Clay Cich asked for the Board to approve spending up to \$2,000.00. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to authorized up to \$2,000.00 for Sell Hardware to service Town Hall doors, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Dehumidifier in place but moisture in election room storage, Walter Rapp washed and bleached area, will apply sealant and vent area before used again.

Recycle Center – Cleaned out areas on FREE tables and brought to Goodwill. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to replace both garage doors on the recycle shed, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Snowplow person for township will help install as he damaged one last winter. Portapotty needs to be changed out, Walter Rapp will speak to Steve Happy. Fran Williams and Brianna Wagner are working well, Fran is doing Wednesday pm and Brianna on Saturdays. Some new dumpster tools were purchased.

Other Meetings – Base 1 info meeting on July 16, 2020 attended by Jim Ray, Clay Cich, Deb Pawlowicz & Tim Wagner. ARDC Report Phase 1 on July 29, 2020 via zoom, attended by Clay Cich, Jim Ray, Walter Rapp, Deb Pawlowicz & Tim Wagner.

OPEN FORUM: Melissa Bell supports moratorium on gravel pits and hiring an attorney to defend and has had issues with Century Link and getting fiber buried. Jim Ray will attempt to contact rep. at Century Link and residents will be asked to contact township office with their names and addresses if they are having issues also, this will appear in the newsletter. Dan Svercl informed the Board that the road upgrade from 1980's was never completed, and he has his dad's records from when he was road foreman for documentation. He wanted to know who will be on the zoning board for gravel pits, recommended absolving the current Board and have Fredenberg become unincorporated. Ben Pearson questioned where road specifications are to bring a road up to township standards before accepting.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. East Cook Lake Road Paving Request: Base 1 meeting on July 16 but was poorly attended. Clerks & Jim Ray contacted engineering firms for estimates on feasibility studies and only 1 written from Bollig for approximately \$6,000.00 (preliminary costs only). SEH sent nothing and Hallberg did not respond. Jim Ray provided an overview of St. Louis County using Base 1, for base on roads to be paved only. Patty Monson-Geertz also provided information from the meeting and speakers. Jim Ray suggested that if the road is interested in Base 1 use that they get a petition to present to the Board to consider as presently there is a petition presented to the Board with over 50% support to pave East Cook Lake Road. Clay Cich made a motion to do a feasibility study for East Cook Lake Road through Bollig Engineering & Environmental, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- B. Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits and ARDC study: Zoom meeting on July 29, 2020. Their report is on Fredenberg.org. ARDC presented the Board with a Draft survey for township residents, the Board discussed if a survey is needed, what it would address, who would receive it (residents, nonresidents), who would do mailing and oversee results. It is difficult to get a mailing list through voter registration as was done with Comp. Plan because elections are next week, and it will change. In 2018, 1060 residents received a survey for the Township Comp. Plan, which included a return/stamped envelope. Clay Cich feels we need a public survey to make an informed decision about the moratorium and zoning in the township. Jim Ray felt he needed more resident input to make a decision and would like to work with ARDC to survey residents. The Board opened the discussion to the audience. Dan Svercl, resident, recommended leaving zoning to St. Louis County as it was decided by the Township in the 1980's and did not support the moratorium on gravel pits. Kathy Pearson, resident, felt there was not enough information or citizen input to take zoning back. Deb Johnson, resident, was opposed to the gravel pit on Fredenberg Lake Road, was living across from one and verbalized how it ruined her home and supported the moratorium on gravel pits and to take back zoning for gravel pits. Mark McShane, resident, feels there is a need for more education and information on the issue of zoning or components of zoning and cautioned the Board about moving too hastily. Deb Roach, resident, felt that St. Louis County Planning Commission did not listen to the concerns of Fredenberg residents and had made up their minds on the CUP before the hearing. Patty Wheeler, resident, feels all property owners should get a survey. She is opposed to the gravel pit on Fredenberg Lake Road and its impact on adjoining property. She felt that the County did not inform residents in the area about the CUP soon enough to make a stand. Bruce Anderson, resident, initiated the petition presented to the County and felt the pit was in the wrong place and that gravel pits impact properties and residents more than people realize. Oly Olson, resident, didn't feel enough notice was given to residents to respond to the CUP hearing for 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road and felt the road for the entrance to the pit with the amount of trucks coming in and out was very unsafe for drivers and persons walking. Dan Chesney, resident, asked if the township was going to regulate new home/building sites because of the location & increased traffic and congestion. Noel Pearman, resident, felt if a person acquired property, it is their responsibility to know what the area is zoned for and not come back later because of a new development. He also felt the property owner could sell to whoever he wanted without neighborhood approval. Chris Older, resident, owns a gravel pit, he felt the Board passed an ordinance and moratorium against gravel pits without any public notice or input. He felt the moratorium effects all gravel pits in the Township, which are businesses in this area. Jim Ray made a motion to have ARDC conduct a written survey for township residents regarding zoning and a moratorium for gravel pits in Fredenberg, which may incur additional costs. Clay Cich seconded. **4 YEAS 1 NAY. MOTION PASSED.** ARDC will be notified so results will be available in September.
- C. Petition from West Island Lake Road to become a Township Road, Resolution 2020-013; Accepting the Application for Dedicating the Township Road: Resolution 2020-013 was presented and reviewed by the Board, Jim Ray informed the Board that because MN Power has not completed all documentation for plat/survey of this road, it will be dedicated by June 2021 per the resolution but the township will take over control as of the

application. Clay Cich made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-011, accepting the application to have West Island Lake Road as a dedicated township road, Tim Wagner seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- D. Petition from South Bay Road to become a Township Road, Resolution 2020-012; Dedicating the Township Road: Resolution 2020-012 was presented and reviewed by the Board, there is a legal description and plat for this road, Walter Rapp has inspected the road and found it to be up to township road standards. Clay Cich made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-012, Accepting South Bay Road as a dedicated Township Road, Walter Rapp seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSTAIN. MOTION PASSED.**
- E. Quotes for Township Annual Roadside Mowing: Two quotes received were reviewed by the Board, low quote was from Rodda Grading & Excavating for \$2,500.00 to complete all roads. Jim Ray made a motion to accept quote from Rodda Grading & Excavating for \$2,500.00, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- F. Township Snow Fence offers: One offer was submitted and reviewed by the Board. Jim Ray, road foreman is going to keep 500ft snow fence for the township and will adjust the cost based on how much he actually takes for the township. Only 1 offer was received, Kathy Pearson for \$2.00 over maximum offer. The Board did not feel the offer was an adequate dollar amount to sell the snow fence. Jim Ray made a motion to not sell snow fence at this time, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Kathy Pearson was present at the meeting and informed of this decision.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Update on 2020 Primary and General Elections: Clerks held a training for election judges on July 21 at the town hall and 3 judges took course on-line. We have our supplies and our Election Machine Testing was held on August 4, 2020 at 11am, no errors noted. Gov. Walz mandated use of masks at polling places but we cannot stop a person from voting who will not wear one, we will recommend curb side voting. All social distancing measures will be in place and we will comply with limiting number of individuals in the Town Hall at one time. **Resolution 2020-011: Election Judges for Primary/General Elections: Resolution 2020-011** was presented and reviewed by the Board, Clay Cich made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-013 approving election judges for 2020 Primary & General Elections, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **3 YEAS 2 ABSTAIN. MOTION PASSED.**
- B. Petition from 8th Ave Bear Island Road to become a Township Road: Nancy McVean presented a petition and letter from MN Power requesting to become a township road, clerks have confirmed residents on petition are registered voters/lease holders of properties. Jim Ray, road foreman confirmed that road work is complete and up to township standards. Jim Ray made a motion to accept the petition and begin legal work to have 8th Ave. on Bear Island Road become a township road, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- C. Township Treasurer Position: Walter Rapp, Clay Cich and clerks sat in on interviews with 2 candidates that scheduled interviews. Walter Rapp and Clay Cich recommended Pamela Blekestad as new township treasurer. Walter Rapp made a motion to appoint Pamela Blekestad, if she accepts the township offer, Clay Cich seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSTAIN. MOTION PASSED.** Clerks will contact Pamela Blekestad and have her contact Clay Cich/Chairman of Board with her decision.
- D. Second Meeting of the Board on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7 pm: will be held in the Town Hall Pavilion. Clay Cich made a motion to hold the September 2, 2020 Board Meeting at 7pm in the Town Hall Pavilion, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. OTHER MEETINGS: Primary Elections on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 from 7am to 8pm in the Fredenberg Town Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to adjourn meeting, Tim Wagner seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Clerk


Board Chair