

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
Sept. 2, 2020**

**TIME & PLACE: 6:00 pm  
TOWN HALL/COMMUNITY CENTER PAVILION**

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 6 pm by Chair Clay Cich. Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, Tim Wagner. Mary Skafte & Diane Palmstein/clerks, Pam Blekestad/treasurer & out going treasurer, Bill O'Brien present. 41 individuals were present and stood with the Board to recite the Pledge of the Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 5, 2020 meeting minutes reviewed by the Board, Jim Ray made motion to accept with corrections: West Island Lake Road Resolution mis-numbered, is Resolution 2020-013 and Election Judge Resolution mis-numbered, is 2020-011 and Century Line to Link. Tim Wagner seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** August 19, 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board, Jim Ray made a motion to accept without correction, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: Only outstanding checks are from August 2020. As of 8/12/2020, reconciled checking account balance is \$328,434.35. Total funds are \$531,351.86, which includes 4 CDs totaling \$202,917.51.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: 31 total: 4 mail and 28 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board.
4. REVIEW OF BILLS: Mary Skafte/clerk informed the board that claims include August Primary election judges. Jim Ray questioned bill #10123 for \$1,000.00, it was from Hull Forest Products for road blockage by a town board supervisor at 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road. Walter Rapp made a motion to not pay Claim 10123 for \$1,000.00, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSTAIN. MOTION PASSED**; clerks will send an explanation to the company. Jim Ray made motion to accept check #10094 to 10122, totaling \$21,426.96, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
5. REPORTS:

**Clerk** – ARDC surveys went out by August 26 to every registered voter. Clerks did training with new treasurer. Requested 2 Handicap Parking signs on posts for lower entrance of the town hall, Jim Ray ordered, and they will be up by elections. Sent in South Bay Road to be recorded with the County. 12 residents have called the office with issues having their fiber buried by Century Link, Jim Ray took the list and will work with Century Link to resolve. The bill for the griddles was submitted \$2,000.00 over quoted amount, been in contact with US Foods and bill is now \$152.89, and still trying to resolve this extra charge (township has not paid amount in question).

**Road Report** - Work completed on intersection of Amundson Road & Usiak Road, South Sunset Ridge Road covered with crushed blacktop to prevent wash out. Beaver River Road had ditch work and brush removal done. Pedestal is still not moved on Wood Duck Lane. St. Louis County Public Works measured all new township roads for plowing season.

**Fire Department**- Fire Department members responded to 4 medical calls and 1 mutual aid fire/medical call during August. During August and September maintaining and testing equipment is our focus. To maintain our low insurance rating for the community we bring in outside vendors to help with our hose and ladder testing as well as our pump maintenance and pump testing. 6,750 feet of fire hose was tested with no failures, as well as 150 feet of ladders were tested with no failures. The week of August 31 brings maintenance and pump testing for each of the fire engines. September is National Preparedness Month. The theme is Disaster Don't Wait. Make a Plan Today. This week promotes family and community disaster planning throughout the year. The nation continues to respond to COVID-19. Week 1: Sept. 1-5, Make a Plan Week 2: Sept. 6-12, Build a Kit Week 3: Sept. 13-19 Prepare for Disasters Week 4: Sept. 20-26 Teach Youth About Preparedness. Watch our Facebook page for tips & hints for each weekly topic. Also check: Ready.gov for more info. A window in the hall was broken by a rock thrown by the lawnmower. Tim Wagner has info, pictures and in contact with lawn service.

**Cemetery** – One headstone was put in by family

**Parks & Rec** – Electrician had ordered lights unsure of when they will be installed. Walter Rapp re-welded the basketball hoop.

**Community Center**- Unsuccessful getting a vendor to fix the doors on the Center, Clay Cich will be working on them. Walter Rapp washed/painted/sealed election room.

**Recycle Center** – running well. New garage doors in recycle shed and will be installed, Walter Rapp replaced door trim and casing.

## Other Meetings - none

### OPEN FORUM:

Kevin Gagne: questioned the information on the flyer brought to his home on how to vote on the survey, information was not factual. Mike Clabaugh: concerns about proposed PUD (Planned Urban/Unit Development) on Bear Island Road, which MN Power is not selling land for. Jim Zerwas: was impacted by proposed PUD and not in favor of and supported the township doing zoning. Patty Wheeler: stated that 175ft from lake on flyer was taken from St. Louis County information, presented a video for audience of 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road. Dave Pelofske: zoning in the township had a bad history with major issues and neighbor against neighbor and if a Board Supervisor blocked a road, he should be accountable. Peter Seglum: didn't think it was legal for Fredenberg Lake Road to be used to haul logs by logging company. Ben Pearson: felt zoning would allow residents to tell neighbors what they can have in their own backyard and would be a waste of tax dollars. John Pearson: spoke with Mark Toms, previous owner of the 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road and trees cut were past their prime and needed cutting 5 years ago and felt that property owners had the right to decide if they wanted trees cut. Oly Olson: did not think the CUP for 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road met the criteria for zoning a pit, doesn't want a pit in that spot and felt Lakehead was doing a good job thinning trees. Melissa Bell: questioned Keith Nelson regarding voting against a township, played a recording of March & May St. Louis County Planning Commission in which he spoke. Greg Flanagan: felt even though 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road is zoned for a pit, other criteria was not met, not opposed to all pits and that the township is in a better position to decide what is compatible for them. Deb Roach: confronted Keith Nelson as to why he stated to her that Gnesen and Fredenberg cause him the most problems, that there are resources to assist the township with zoning and questioned by all the gravel for Duluth projects comes from this area. Bruce Anderson: felt virtual zoom meetings didn't do justice for the community and the Commission, felt the pit on Pioneer Road was causing murky water in homes and 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road was the wrong place for a pit. Mike Anderson: doesn't feel the neighborhood is compatible for a pit, logging has been noisy, felt the pit and noise will be going on for a long time. Debbie Johnson: feels there are good pits and bad pits and she lives near one on Pioneer Road, residents fought to stop it and lost on a legal technicality and has contacted the County about that pit, with no response.

### 6. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. East Cook Lake Road Paving Request: Jim Ray surveyed the road with Bollig Engineering, not much engineering will be needed. Bollig may be able to assist with financing.
- B. Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits & ARDC study: Clerks clarified that the green dot on return envelopes for the survey were just to specify who at ARDC is getting returned surveys. Kennedy/Graven received information to review.
- C. Petition for 8<sup>th</sup> Ave Bear Island Road to become a Township Road: Resolution 2020-014 Accepting Application for Dedication of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bear Island Road as a Town Road: Board reviewed signed documents from MN Power and Resolution 2020-014, Jim Ray did a final tour and found the road to meet requirement for a township road. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-014, Clay Cich seconded.  
**5 YEAS 0 NAYS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Keith Nelson, St. Louis County Commissioner: Provided 3 documents for Board and public: MN Statute, a map and spread sheet on the work the County has done in the area. He is concerned with Township Board supervisors making accusations about him at Board Meetings. He stated the County Board does listen to all of its citizens. He has been the township voice on the Board because those are his grassroots. The Planning Commission delayed a decision because the township didn't want a township road used for this CUP. Reminded the audience that there 78 townships in St. Louis County and only a few still do zoning. He reviewed MN Statute regarding CUP's. Mr. Nelson also read a correspondence (not a legal opinion) from St. Louis County Attorney Stanley regarding taking over only 1 part of zoning, which has never happened and untested in the courts. He reminded the audience that the Planning Commission decision on the CUP for 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road was unanimous and that Fish Lake Road was analyzed by Victor Lund/engineer and found to be adequate and safe. Mr. Nelson did visit the site at 6464 Fredenberg Lake Road today and felt Lakehead Trucking was doing a good and respectful job.
- B. Update on 2020 Primary & General Election: Primary Election had approximately 185 voters and everyone complied with new safety measures, there was some confusion with the ballot, voters were voting on both sides of ballot but incidents were logged for the county to see. Clerks are recruiting more judges for November and have been successful, contacting Hermantown High School Civics/Government instructors

and word of mouth within the township. Clerks requested the Board consider using Election Judge Helper (which is allowed in MN election law), persons under 18 years of age working election and set an hourly pay rate. Clay Cich made a motion to allow judge helpers for our primary and general elections and set an hourly rate of \$10/hour, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Clerks also asked for Board approval to mail to every registered voter reminder card (which was presented for their review). Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to mail out voter reminder before the November General Election, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** These election costs can be submitted to the State for election reimbursement.

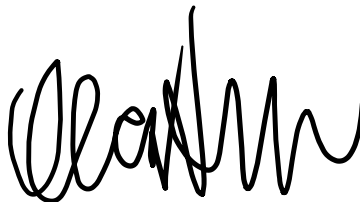
- C. Advertise for snowplowing for Winter 2020/2021: Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to advertise for 2020/2021 snowplowing in the township at 2 locations: Town Hall/Community Center and Recycle Center, per time quotes at each location separately. Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Clerks will place an ad.
- D. Resolution 2020-015: Board reviewed final tax levy for 2020 collectible in 2021, which was approved at the 2020 Annual Township Meeting in March and Resolution 2020-015. Jim Ray made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-015, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- E. There will be a Town Board Meeting on Wed. Sept. 16, 2020, Clay Cich made a motion for meeting to begin at 6:00pm in the Community Center Pavilion. Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Walter Rapp made a motion for the Oct. 7, 2020 Board Meeting to be held at 6:00pm in the Community Center Pavilion, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to change the Wednesday, November 4, 2020 Board Meeting to Tuesday, November 10, time and place to be decided at Oct. Board Meeting because of the elections on Nov. 3, 2020 and to include the Board of Canvass for the township in that meeting. Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. OTHER MEETINGS: none

9. ADJOURNMENT: Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to adjourn meeting, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS 0 NAYS MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Diane Cathy Palmstein/Clerk

  
Clay Cich/Board Chair