

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

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
January 6, 2021**

**TIME & PLACE: 7:00 pm
HELD VIA ZOOM IN COMPLIANCE WITH
MN GOVERNOR WALZ EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

The monthly meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 7:01 pm by Chair Clay Cich. Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, & Tim Wagner. Mary Skafte & Diane Palmstein/clerks & Pam Blekestad, treasurer also present. 22 individuals were present via zoom, the Board recited the Pledge of the Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jim Ray made a motion to accept Dec. 2, 2020 meeting minutes without correction, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray made a motion to accept Dec. 16, 2020 Budget/Salary meeting minutes without correction, Tim Wagner seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: as of 12/10/ 2020, reconciled checking account balance is \$463,232.53. Total funds are \$615,677.61, which includes 4 CDs totaling \$202,917.51. Clay Cich made a motion to accept treasury report, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Treasurer has called Ehlers and sent an email and is still waiting to hear back regarding refinancing of the Fire Dept. Bond. She will discuss paying down on bond also and check on any penalties associated.
3. CORRESPONDENCE: 23 total: 3 mail and 20 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board.
4. REVIEW OF BILLS: Mary Skafte/clerk informed the Board that the Top-Notch claim was for 3 months of plowing, ARDC final payment is pending from Dec., Clay Cich stated he had contacted them, but the charges were not clarified, and he will contact them again before it is paid. MN Locksmith & Advantage Air received checks covered under the CARES Act Funding but still holding payments to Vesel Construction, (Clay Cich stated the doors ordered have not arrived yet to install), Mary Skafte stated that our township checks expire after 90days, to comply with funding the checks needed to be approved by Nov. 15, 2020 deadline and need to be cashed by Feb. 10, 2021. Advantage Air Invoice includes charges for an air conditioner unit in addition to venting in bathrooms. Walter Rapp objected to payment for an air conditioner that was not approved by the Board. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to pay Advantage Air invoice for \$1,200.00 for the air conditioner, Jim Ray seconded. Deb Pawlowicz & Jim Ray – **2 YEAS** Walter Rapp & Tim Wagner – **2 NAYS** Clay Cich - **ABSTAIN. Motion was tabled.** Jim Ray made a motion to remove check #10225 for \$7,223,28 to ARDC, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray made a motion to pay checks #10239 to 10258, taking \$1,200 from check #10256, totaling \$136,960.40, Tim Wagner seconded. Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, Tim Wagner – **3 YEAS** Clay Cich & Deb Pawlowicz – **2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.**
5. REPORTS:
 - Clerk** – clerks requested supervisor reports for Annual Meeting be submitted by Feb. 10, 2021. Received and working on 2021 Recycle Grant, a resident reported that the rink attendant was smoking in the warming house, Jim Ray will address with him. Clerks asked if the Town hall will open in the near future as calls to use facility are coming in. Deb Pawlowicz didn't feel it should open until Town Board Meetings are in person and that was the consensus of the Board.
 - Road Report** – Birch Acres turn around has been made larger. North Sunset Ridge Road turnaround has not been completed. Jim Ray contacted St. Louis County for an easement which was denied, and he spoke with Steve Overom/township attorney, who stated that the township is not obligated to do the work. Deb Pawlowicz asked about setting up a dedicated road fund for future needs on paved road as discussed at Budget meeting. Jim Ray wants to present this information at the Township Annual Meeting and will prepare information to present.
 - Fire Department**- December was a quiet month, responded to 5 medical calls including 2 mutual aid calls. Dept. flooded the skating rink 2 x applying 2500 gallons each time. Medical responders received their first COVID vaccine through St. Louis County Dept. Members are attending virtual trainings, meetings & performing truck/hall maintenance each month.
 - Cemetery** – closed
 - Parks & Rec** – rink is flooded & skatable. Lights on rink are completed. Jim Ray informed the board that the warming shack remains closed because of COVID – 19 restrictions. Jim Ray discussed equipment needs. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to purchase an adequate push shovel for the rink, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Community Center- Jim Ray made a motion to approved air conditioner unit for the townhall, Deb. Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Deb Pawlowicz discussed need for Zoom account for the township, currently using account of a clerk and paying for one for the study committee, Clay Cich made a motion to set up a township zoom account, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. Clay Cich, Deb Pawlowicz, Jim Ray – **3 YEAS** Walter Rapp & Tim Wagner – **2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.** Clerks will set up an account.

Recycle Center – busy with the holidays. Fran Williams submitted her resignation as of Dec. 31, 2020, Brianna Wagner will be taking over her Wednesday shift in addition to Saturday. Thanks to Fran for her dedicated service.

Preparedness Plan Update- Clay Cich didn't have an opportunity to complete.

Other Meetings - none

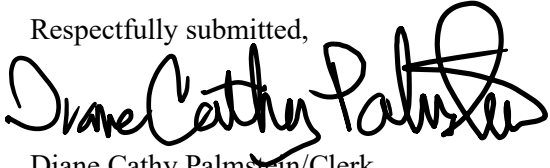
6. OPEN FORUM: Dan Svercl stated that the property addressed in correspondence regarding biosolids is located at 5640 Taft Road, owned by Dan Kaneski, farmed by Brad Hansen. Inquired if the study committee was doing the same thing that ARDC would. Jeff Blix asked who gave Melissa Bell permission to contact attorneys for the township per her email in correspondence and in minutes of study committee meeting, she clarified that she had not, but Clay Cich had and she was only forwarding the email to the township. He asked the Board to be civil to each other and residents, when Deb Pawlowicz spoke, he asked her to shut up & give him his 3 minutes. Bonnie Anderson stated she was the appointed minute taker for the study committee and has not written that Melissa Bell contacted attorney. Deb Pawlowicz asked Jeff Blix for an apology. Patty Wheeler asked again for civility to everyone at meetings. Oly Olson inquired about finances of the township as our checking account balances are significant and what was the plan for the future in the township. Bruce Anderson inquired about how a dedicated road fund differs from the Road & Bridge Fund in the budget. Jim Ray clarified that a dedicated fund for future paved road needs/repaving... would be a line item in the accounting of the township and the Road & Bridge Fund is used in a specific year for township roads & bridges. Mark McShane agreed with the plan for a dedicated fund for future paved roads, finding it fiscally wise as costs can be high. Pete Emerson thanked the Board for their support and continued work on paving East Cook Lake Road and beyond and pursuing the Road Grant.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. East Cook Lake Road Paving Request: Jim Ray discussed high costs anticipated from Bollig Engineering to complete the project and that it was impractical, financially high for residents and proceeding further was not feasible. The Road Grant opportunity for this will be discussed in New Business.
 - b. Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits: no new information
8. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Study Committee on Gravel Pit Ordinance & Zoning: Melissa Bell provided an update, stating the committee continues to review data and compile a report for the Board.
 - b. Annual Contract between the Township & Fredenberg Volunteer Fire Dept.: The Annual contract was presented and reviewed. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to approve the Fredenberg Fire Dept. contract, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
 - c. Township Hazardous Waste Day: Deb Pawlowicz stated she had contacted WLLSD and scheduled to have Township Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 11:30am to 2:30pm at the Townhall Parking Lot. She did not set up a Township Shredding day this year but would if there was interest.
 - d. Grant for Township Road Improvement for East Cook Lake, West Island Lake & Wood Duck Drive: Clay Cich has been researching through the State of MN a road improvement grant program, which was just offered for towns with a population of 5,000 residents or less. He has contacted various governmental agencies to gather information. Fredenberg would qualify to apply for this grant money, about \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00 to pave East Cook Lake Road to the township line. He contacted SEH Engineering and they would write the grant with the expectation that they could contract for the work. Diane Palmstein/clerk clarified the error in numbering and attachments on the resolutions the Board reviewed. The Board reviewed Resolution 2021-001, Approving Contract for Professional Services with SEH, Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-001, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** The Board reviewed Resolution 2021-002, In Support of an Application for the Local Road Improvement (LRIP) Grant, Clay Cich made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-002, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
 - e. Grant Program for Playgrounds from MN DNR: Clay Cich researched the grant, accepting the grant comes with stipulations regarding what the township can use the property for in the future, which is very binding. He made a motion to move forward with spending up o \$30,000.00 to improve the current township community center recreation area. Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED**

UNANIMOUSLY.

10. OTHER MEETINGS: none

11. ADJOURNMENT: Clay Cich made a motion to adjourn meeting, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Diane Cathy Palmstein/Clerk


Jim Ray/Board Vice Chair

APPROVED