

## **Empire Township Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020**

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Holmes at 8:00 PM.

**Present were:** Terry Holmes, Jamie Elvestad, Ed Gerten, Charles Seipel, Jeff Hince, Denise Williamson, Jane Kansier and Brian Hillgardner.

**Agenda:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the agenda. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Meeting Minutes:** Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting of December 23, 2019; the Planning Commission Meeting of January 7, 2020; the Park and Rec. Commission Meeting of January 13, 2020. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$51,995.74 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$13,059.65 plus investments. The report noted a transfer in the amount of \$400,000 from Savings to Checking on 1/14/2020. The treasurer's report also showed the balance sheet as of 12/31/2019, the budget performance as of 12/31/2019, and the total disbursements for engineering expense related to the 170th Street Roundabout.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the financial report. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

### **Visitors:**

Dakota County Sergeant Hosking was present to report that a predatory offender that moved to the Township last year is no longer in the Township. If the offender moves back to the Township at a later date, the Town Board will be notified.

John Simon expressed his frustration that the hockey rink was not up and running by Christmas this year and in years past. The Town Board and staff ensured that there were obstacles in getting the rink up and running, including the need to pump water from across the street and the warm weather, but ensured Mr. Simon that they will try harder next year to get the rink up running earlier. Additionally, the rink now has more lighting and a liner that should help improve use of the rink.

Greg Feely requested the possibility of renting the parking lot of the Public Works Building on June 20th as overflow parking. The lot would not be available if there is an event at the facility that day. It was recommended that Mr. Feely rent the Public Works Building that day to ensure access to the parking lot and to serve as a backup location for his event in case of rain.

**Bills to be Paid:** Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$391,776.23. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges**

Jeff Hince reported that a recently completed water pumping and usage report, prepared for the DNR, showed that pumping and water usage was down from last year. This is likely the result of leaks that have been fixed and the wet summer this past year.

The Town Board reviewed a request to host an outdoor winter volleyball tournament at the Public Works building in March. The Town Board recommended that this event not be held at the Public Works building as the Township has a policy that activities related to rentals at the Public Works building must be contained within the building.

#### **Engineering:**

Brian Hilgardner reported that everything has been signed and recorded to proceed with the 170th Street Roundabout this summer.

Brian also reported on the possibility of applying for a grant from the Federal Recreational Trail Program. Because the program is a \$125,000 maximum, it may be possible to apply for the construction of a trail spur if this grant is awarded. Seipel should work on gathering information for the application.

#### **Planning:**

It was reported that the City of Apple Valley is proposing an amendment to its comprehensive plan to allow for the rezoning of an existing golf course on 140th Street to low density, flex residential. The Town Board had no comment on the comprehensive plan amendment. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to respond to the City of Apple Valley with no comment regarding the amendment to its comprehensive plan. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

It was reported that there is a building right violation in the rural portion of the Township at 1950 210th Street West. It was recommended that the Township consult with Mike Couri to notify the property owner that they are in violation of building rights and will need to acquire a building right for the property.

#### **Old Business:**

The draft Personnel Policy was discussed. It was determined that except for the Town Clerk, overtime will be accumulated for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week and in excess of 8 hours per day (24 hour period).

**New Business:**

The Town Board reviewed a draft Dakota County CBDG application as well as a resolution to approve the application. It was recommended that the Township submit the application to request funding assistance for the proposed water service area study to be conducted in partnership with the City of Farmington. The study would document areas in Farmington and Empire Township that can be served by the new water tower that will be built near Highway 3 this year. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-1A; “Approving the Application for Fiscal Year 2020 Dakota County Community Development Block Grant Funding”. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**FYI:**

The Town Board reviewed a letter from the Dakota County Sheriff regarding the relocation of a predatory offender from Empire Township and from Charter Communications regarding cable lineup changes.

It was reported that the following have filed for Town Board Supervisor for the March 2020 Elections: Terry Holmes and Greg Feely – 3 Year Term; Jamie Elvestad- 2 Year Term.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

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Terry Holmes Chairman, Town Board

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Charles Seipel, Clerk – Treasurer