

Empire Township Meeting Minutes October 8, 2019

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, and Jane Kansier. Brian Hilgardner was available by phone.

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 September 24th, 2019; and the Planning Commission meeting of October 1, 2019. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$30,225.27 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$5,059.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$710,000 from savings to checking was made on 10/8/2019.

The Financial report also showed the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss by Class as of 10/8/2019.

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

Visitors: Tom Schmidt, operations manager with Aggregate Industries, was present to discuss the draft agreement for the proposed box culvert to be installed under Highway 3 in order to accommodate the proposed Aggregate Industries conveyor line. The draft agreement would be between MN DOT, Aggregate Industries and Empire Township. Tom Schmidt reported that they are waiting to receive the final draft from MN DOT. Brian Hilgardner stated that he will try to set up a conference call tomorrow so they can get a timeline on the agreement from MN DOT. The Town Board reviewed a memo from Mike Couri, explaining some proposed modifications that he had for the agreement. The memo also outlined the possibility of withdrawing the Township from the agreement if necessary, in order to expedite things. The Township's interest in the agreement relates to what happens to the culvert after it is no longer needed by Aggregate Industries as the Township or possibility Dakota County would want to map out a regional trail that would utilize the culvert.

Discussion was held on the possibility of approving the agreement, contingent upon final review and recommendation from the Township's attorney. Ultimately, if the Township's attorney

recommends that it is in the best interest to remove the Township from the agreement, the Township is willing to do so.

Jamie Elevestad made a motion to approve the proposed agreement for the Highway 3 box culvert between Aggregate Industries, MN DOT and Empire Township, contingent upon final review and recommendation by the Township's attorney and a signature by the Township's Vice Chair if the agreement is ready to be signed after Monday, October 14th. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Dakota County Sheriff's Deputy, Tim Gonder, was present to discuss law enforcement activity in the Township.

Bills to be Paid: Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$733,954.08. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that the maintenance crew is finishing hydrant flushing. Public restrooms and irrigation systems will be flushed and shut down for the winter, beginning tomorrow.

Bolton & Menk Engineering

Brain Hilgardner reported that the punch list for the 2019 Street Reconstruction Project is in progress and will continue into the Spring.

It was reported that an agreement was made on the ROW for the Highway 3 and 170th Street Roundabout in the amount of \$26,313. \$1,500 for each week over the estimated eight weeks of construction was also included in the offer. This additional expense would be covered under liquidated damages by the contractor.

The Town Board reviewed a memo from Brad Fischer of Bolton and Menk, providing an update regarding the curb issues at 19362 Canby Court. The memo provided a cost estimate for the project and noted that because of time constraints with the contractor, the project will not take place until next year.

Old Business:

The Town Board is working on review of the draft personnel policy.

Discussion was held on the proposed vacation policy, including how vacation hours would be carried over if employees are allowed to do so. There was also discussion on how vacation time would be allotted to part time employees. Jamie Elevestad would like to provide each employee with a copy of the proposed policy during their evaluation.

New Business:

The Town Board reviewed a memo from John Exner regarding the termination of the Dakota County Rural Solid Waste Commission. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt a Resolution to Terminate the Rural Solid Waste Commission. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed information from Dakota County regarding the Capital Improvement Public Hearing to be held on November 26th; Dakota County regarding a Community Development Workshop on November 14th (Charles Seipel will be attending); Delta Dental regarding renewal rates for 2020; the Spring Lake Park Preserve Open House to be held on October 14th.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk – Treasurer