

Empire Township Meeting Minutes February 25, 2020

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

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

Agenda: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the agenda. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Meeting Minutes: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting of February 11, 2020; the Planning Commission Meeting of February 18, 2020; and the Park & Rec. Committee meeting of February 24, 2020. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$30,459.41 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$19,809.65 plus investments.

Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the financial report. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Visitors: John Brand asked for an update regarding the drainage issues north of the Met Council sewer treatment plant site. Terry provided an update. The Township is still waiting for direction from the Met Council. Al Full stated that the Township needs to press the drainage concern with the Met Council. The Township is aware of the concerns and trying to help any way it can.

Bills to be Paid: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$28,936.87. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that due to warm weather, work on maintaining the ice hockey rink has stopped.

Park & Rec

Denise Williamson reported that the Park & Rec. Committee is beginning the process of going through the proposed Capital Improvement Plan.

Engineering

No report.

Planning

Jane Kansier reported that the next EFPAC Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6th in Farmington. The Highway 3 projects coming up this summer will be discussed.

The Township attorney will be at the March 3rd Planning Commission Meeting to discuss predatory offender ordinances.

The Met Council's review of the comprehensive plan for Empire Township is almost complete. The review is down to one data table.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

It was reported that a nuisance ordinance violation at 21052 Chippendale Court has been brought to the attention of the Township. Several vehicles and a camper are being stored on the parking lot, adjacent to the building on the property. Some of the vehicles have expired tabs and some may be inoperable. The Town Board reviewed photos of the stored vehicles. Additionally, some of the vehicles are encroaching into the right of way, making snow removal on Chippendale Court difficult. Because this property is in the orderly annexation agreement area, it is under the City of Farmington's zoning jurisdiction. Tony Wippler, planner for the City of Farmington, has provided language regarding violations of the zoning ordinance that may be occurring on the property if an automobile repair business is indeed being operated without a conditional use permit.

It is proposed that Empire Township and the City of Farmington would work with the Township's attorney to put together a joint letter to the property owner regarding the violations of Empire Township's nuisance ordinance and the City of Farmington's zoning ordinance. Terry Holmes made a motion to begin the process of nuisance abatement at for the property at 21052 Chippendale Court. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The Town Board reviewed the 2019 financial reports for the Annual Meeting. Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the unaudited financial reports. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Meetings:

The Dakota County Township Officers, Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, 9:00 AM at the Farmington Extension Office.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed a Thank You from the American Red Cross for hosting the February 12th Blood Drive, information from Charter Communications on upcoming changes, and a notice from USDA regarding price loss coverage for Jon Juenke.

The Town Board Meeting recessed at 9:15 PM until the March 3rd Planning Commission Meeting at 8:00 PM.

Terry Holmes Chairman, Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk – Treasurer