

Empire Township Meeting Minutes April 14, 2020

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

Present were: Terry Holmes, Jamie Elvestad, Ed Gerten, Charles Seipel, Denise Williamson, Brian Hilgardner and Jane Kansier.

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

Meeting Minutes: Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting of March 24, 2020. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$28,311.70 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$19,809.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$100,000 from General Savings to General Checking was made on 4/14/2020.

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

Visitors: None.

Bills to be Paid: Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$277,305.55. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

No report.

Park & Rec

Denise Williamson reported that Sunday entertainment for the month of June has been cancelled. She has notified parties that rented the public works facility and the ballfields for the month of May that there is a good possibility that Empire will be unable to host their gathering. Public restrooms and playground equipment have now been closed to the public.

Engineering

Brian Hilgardner presented the proposed Cooperative Construction Agreement between MN DOT, the City of Farmington, and Empire Township and a resolution adopting the agreement. The agreement spells out the funding structure and responsibilities of all three parties for the upcoming 170th Street Roundabout and turn lane construction projects to take place on Highway 3 this summer. Brian stated that Empire Township's share will cover a 10% match on construction costs as well as costs relating to the proposed detour for a total estimated project share of \$323,161.10. It is anticipated that work on the project will begin after July 4th. Jamie

Elvestad made a motion to approve the Cooperative Construction Agreement No. 1035418 and related agreements and resolutions for the 170th Street Roundabout and turn lane construction on Highway 3. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Planning

Jane Kansier reported Empire Township has received a letter stating that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is now complete for review by the Met Council. The plan will be reviewed by the Community Development Committee on May 4th.

Jane Kansier also reported that Ames Construction has submitted an application for site plan review for the construction of a facility at its site in Empire Township. The Town Board recommended that the plans be reviewed at the April 28th Town Board Meeting and that the plans be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their review before that meeting.

The Township has received a request from a contractor to modify the Township's zoning ordinance relating to the construction of residential solar panels. It was recommended that the request be reviewed and a formal application be brought to the Planning Commission.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

It was reported that if the Township were to join the MnWARN mutual aid program, the Township's equipment would be covered by insurance if it is loaned out in the event of an emergency. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the Minnesota Water Agency Response (MnWARN) Mutual Aid Agreement. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Discussion was held on the continued closure of Empire Township facilities to the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Town Board recommended that letters be sent to parties that are scheduled to rent the public works building and ballfields over the next few months, informing them that the facilities might remain closed as long as large gatherings are not permitted.

It was reported that Township staff are working on an application through Dakota County Solid Waste for the procurement of recycling receptacles that would allow the Township to be in compliance with the County's solid waste ordinance, as well as recycling support for the Empire Celebration in August.

The Empire Township Organizational meeting was opened. Discussion was held. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to accept the organizational list for 2020. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed information from Charter Communications on cable lineup changes and the Met Council on biosolids applications on a farm field in Empire Township. It was reported that biosolid applications were not taking place until the gravel roads were in suitable shape to handle the weight of the application equipment.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Terry Holmes Chairman, Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk – Treasurer