

**Empire Township Meeting Minutes**  
**April 23, 2019**

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

**Present were:** Terry Holmes, Ed Gerten, Jamie Elvestad, Charles Seipel, Jeff Hince, 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:** Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting on April 9, 2019; the Planning Commission meeting on April 16, 2019; and the Park & Rec meeting of April 22, 2019. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report showed a General Account balance of \$74,143.36 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$14,564.65 plus investments. Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the unaudited treasurer report as read. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Visitors:** Duane Alley expressed concerns about the lack of existing hookups to the new drain tile behind the homes in his area. It was discussed that individual property owners would be responsible for installing individual hookups into the drain tile, if they would like to do so. It was reported that finishing the soil and sod along the line should take place in mid-May.

George Eilterson with Northland Securities presented information on the proposed 2019 Street Reconstruction GO Bond. The Town Board reviewed different financing options. Brian Hilgardner reported that the total anticipated project costs, including a ten percent contingency, as well as the 190th Street Project, the Highway 3 Project, and engineering fees, would amount to approximately 3.1 million in remaining invoices to be paid. The Board discussed how the proposed financing would fit in with the budget. After further discussion, the Board recommended the consideration of a \$3,000,000 bond at a 10 year term with the total amount to include the cost of issuance. Eilterson reported that such a bond would require approximately \$304,000 in annual debt service, but that could be subject to change based on the Township's upcoming bond rating.

Discussion took place on project invoices that may be incurred prior to bond issuance. It was recommended that the Township pay these invoices out of the general fund, then be reimbursed upon bond issuance. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt a reimbursement resolution for the 2019 Street Reconstruction project GO Bond. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Bills to be paid:** Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$25,833.71. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Jeff Hince reported that the backyard drainage in the Castle Court and Caramel Trail neighborhood is working very well and water is going down after it rains. The Board reviewed photos of the drainage taking place. The Board also reviewed photos taken during the water tower clean out, including a before and after photos of the access door. It was reported that water tower cleaning is complete and KLM is preparing a report for the current condition of the water tower. Jeff also reported that the ballfields are open and hydrant flushing is taking place. Snow plowing on cul-de-sacs was discussed. Jeff reported that when the Township plows cul-de-sacs, they are plowed clean to allow for emergency vehicle access and to prevent children from playing in the center of the cul-de-sac.

### **Park & Rec**

Denise Williamson reported that the Park & Rec committee is working on plans for the Township Celebration to take place on August 1st and that the committee will be visiting the Buddhist Temple this Saturday at 10:00 AM.

### **Bolton & Menk**

Brian Hilgardner reported that the preconstruction meeting for the 2019 Street Reconstruction Project with McNamara will take place on May 2nd. It is anticipated that work on the street project will begin in Mid-May. Bolton & Menk will be sending out letters to residents affected by the street project prior to project commencement.

### **Planning**

Jane Kansier presented a memo regarding the proposed Aggregate Industries Mineral Extraction Permit Renewal for the Hynes/Edelman Site. This permit was approved to move forward by the Planning Commission and would extend the IUP until 2024. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the Aggregate Industries Mineral Extraction Permit. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Board reviewed a proposed decommissioning bond escrow agreement for the MN Solar Connection solar project at 17921 Biscayne Ave. It was recommended that the Township's attorney review the agreement. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the decommissioning bond escrow agreement for MN Solar Connection, contingent upon final review of the Township's attorney. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jane reported that the Planning Commission was considering a permit for the FastSun19 solar project (Feely West) but had concerns that the plans for the project now call for rotating panels instead of the originally proposed fixed panels. The Planning Commission had concerns about the potential for the rotating panels to generate noise. It was the consensus of the Board that if the plans for this solar project have changed since the original IUP was issued, the owners of the solar project will need to apply for an amended IUP.

The Board recommended that the deadline for Planning Commission applications be set for May 10th and that this deadline be posted.

**New Business**

It was recommended by the Board that the rate of pay for summer help at the ballfields be set at \$15.00 per hour.

**FYI:**

The Town Board reviewed information from Dakota County regarding spring flooding and the possibility that no FEMA funds will be received by the County.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

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Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer