

Empire Township Meeting Minutes
April 9, 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: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the agenda after adding the Farmington Fairhill plat to the Bolton & Menk report. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting Minutes: Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting on March 26, 2019, the Planning Commission meeting on April 2, 2019, and the Park & Rec meeting of April 8, 2019. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Account balance of \$38,703.90 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$14,564.65 plus investments. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the unaudited treasurer report as read. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Visitors: Duane Alley expressed concerns about filling vacancies on the Town Board if existing members retire. Terry Holmes stressed that if residents want to get involved, they should start with the Planning Commission as there are existing vacancies, or the Park & Rec Committee. Jared Sachs stated that he visited with representatives from Xcel Energy and NuEnergy at the Feely West solar site and it didn't seem that the proposed plans match up with the plans presented in their permit application. Jane Kansier stated that their permits have not yet been approved and any changes to the plans need to be submitted. Town Board asked Jane to invite the solar farm and Xcel Energy representative to the next planning commission meeting. Allen Full expressed concerns about water on 190th Street and asked if a meeting with the Met Council regarding the issue has taken place. Brian Hilgardner stated that a meeting date has not yet been set, but he should have a date confirmed after May 1st. Trent Larson asked if there was an ordinance in place that allows the Township to charge out of town customers for fire bills. Town Board discussed forwarding the research on such an ordinance to the Planning Commission. The cost to the Township for false alarm calls was discussed.

Bills to be paid: Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$136,352.13. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that rinks have been pulled off, baseball bases have been installed, they are waiting for the asphalt plant to start up to fix some potholes on 200th Street, there are issues with frost boils on the gravel roads, and there is a water leak coming from a private line to a residential property. Discussion about who is responsible for repairs on private waterlines was held. The Town Board recommended that the Planning Commission look at examples of ordinances that determine where Township and property owner responsibilities lie.

Jeff reported that he has received an inspection report for two lift station pumps. The pumps are 25-30 years old and are getting worn out. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$18,000 to replace both pumps. Town Board directed Seipel to budget for replacing the pumps in next year's budget.

Jeff also reported he is checking into programs that help with OSHA required safety data sheets. There were some possible free phone applications for safety data sheets that Jeff will check into. Town Board directed Seipel to check with the Township's insurance carrier about the possibility of doing a safety audit.

It is anticipated that KLM engineering will finish the water tower clean out in April, and then the maintenance department will go into hydrant flushing.

Park & Rec

Denise Williamson reported that the Park & Rec committee is gearing up for summer programs, including the book walk. Town Board requested that Denise check to see if a map of free libraries in the Township can be created.

Bolton & Menk

Brian Hilgardner reported that the 2019 Street projects have been received. The Township received three bids, with the lowest bid coming from McNamara Contracting, in the amount of \$2,070,581.85. All bids came in under budget. Brian will work with McNamara to set up a pre-construction meeting.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to accept the bid from McNamara Contracting as the contractor for the 2019 Street Reconstruction Project. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

George Eilertson from Northland Securities will be present at the April 23rd Town Board meeting to discuss an updated schedule for the GO Street Reconstruction Bonds.

It was reported that a public hearing regarding the proposed Fairhill plat in the City of Farmington was held at Farmington City Hall this evening. Gerten and Seipel attended. Residents on 194th Street west had concerns about their street connecting to the development. As of now, there is no proposed direct connection. There will be a metal gate separating the two streets that can be unlocked in emergency situations. Discussion on the future of the intersection of 194th Street with Highway 3 was discussed. The Town Board is not certain what MN DOT

has planned for that intersection in the future. Brian is going to obtain a drainage map for the Planning Commission to review.

Planning

Jane Kansier reported that the developer for the MN Solar Connection farm was seeking direction regarding their decommissioning bond. They would like to do a traditional bond the first year, then a cash bond. It was recommended that if a cash bond is allowed, it must be received prior to the expiration of the original bond or automatically renew at expiration.

Terry Holmes expressed concerns about the section in the proposed nuisance ordinance pertaining to alcohol in public parks. He recommended that this be discussed with the Planning Commission.

Jane and Terry planned to set up a Township Officers Meeting for Thursday, April 25th at 11:30 PM.

New Business:

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the 2018 Empire Township Audit Report. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Town Board reviewed information from Dakota County regarding the County Solid Waste Master Plan and from Charter Communications regarding their franchise fee remittance.

The Empire Township Organizational meeting was opened. Discussion was held. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to accept the organizational list for 2019. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer