

**Empire Township Meeting Minutes
May 28, 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 (arrived 8:10 p.m.), Charles Seipel, Jeff Hince, Denise Williamson and Brian Hilgardner

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

Meeting Minutes: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting on May 14, 2019 and the Planning Commission meeting on May 21st, 2019. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Account balance of \$36,947.98 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$14,564.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$110,000 from savings to checking was made. Included in the treasurer report was a report showing all account balances and profit and loss/budget comparison. Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the unaudited treasurer report as read. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Visitors:

Discussion took place on the public meeting that was held earlier in the evening with the Dakota County Sheriff's Department.

Chris Curtis at 19472 Caravel Ct. requested that the "no thru" sign located on his cul-de-sac be removed. Mr. Curtis stated that after checking with his neighbors, he was not aware of anyone on the cul-de-sac that wants the sign to be there. The sign was placed there six years ago when the area was developed. The Town Board recommended that the sign be removed.

Bills to be paid: Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$96,245.49. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that the maintenance crew is busy with mowing Township property and grading gravel roads. There was a sewer backup on 194th Street that is believed to be an isolated issue.

Bolton & Menk

Brian Hilgardner reported that the street reconstruction project will begin next Monday, June 3rd. Brian Schmidt and Eric Hauser are the contacts that will be on site for the project. Bolton & Menk will be making door to door contact with properties affected by the project.

It was reported that the Met Council has hired a company to look at drainage near the sewer plant after heavy rainfall. Brian will be working with Brian Watson at Dakota County to go over old mapping. Brian is also checking with the Township's attorney regarding ditch draining laws. Terry Holmes stated that he will contact our Met Council representative about the issue if no progress is made in two weeks.

Planning

The Town Board reviewed a memo from Jane Kansier regarding Ordinance No. 510-G, an ordinance providing an amendment to Empire Township Public Utility Ordinance (510-F). The proposed amendments include language regarding property owner's responsibilities when it comes to water and sewer lines. The Planning Commission has reviewed the draft ordinance and recommends its approval. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 510-G, An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing Ordinance No. 510-F; Empire Township Public Utility Ordinance and the Ordinance Summary to be published. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Town Board discussed the proposed nuisance ordinance. There were concerns regarding the section of the proposed ordinance that pertains to public nuisances affecting morals and decency. The Board recommended checking with the attorney to ensure that the proposed ordinance does not go too far in limiting certain activities.

New Business

The Town Board reviewed a resolution to establish a debt management policy. It was noted that the Townships' financial advisor recommends the policy be put into place prior to the bond rating call on June 7th. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-5B; Resolution Establishing Debt Management Policy. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Old Business

The Town Board interviewed Chris Williamson for one of the vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Ed Gerten made a motion to appoint Chris Williamson to the Planning Commission. Jamie Elvestad Seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed information from the City of Farmington regarding a petition for annexation at 21040 Chippendale Ave. West; a 2018 population estimate update from the Met Council; a notice of public hearing for the Empire Township SWPPP; and a notice from Charter Communications regarding channel changes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer