

**Empire Township Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2019**

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Holmes at 7:50 p.m.

**Present were:** Terry Holmes, Ed Gerten, Jamie Elvestad, Charles Seipel, Jeff Hince, Denise Williamson and Brian Hilgardner

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

**Interview:** The Town Board interviewed Robert Bjerke for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Bjerke stated that he is a contractor and has lived in Empire Township for over 20 years. The Town Board thanked Bjerke for the interview.

**Meeting Minutes:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting on May 28, 2019; the Planning Commission meeting on June 4, 2019; and the Park and Recreation meeting on June 10. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report showed a General Account balance of \$54,374.25 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$14,564.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$50,000 from savings to checking was made. Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the unaudited treasurer report as read. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Visitors:**

Dakota County Commissioner, Mike Slavik, was present to share his experiences with ordinances relating to predatory offenders.

Discussion on overnight hauling from the Sachs mine and the use of Jake brakes was discussed. Terry Holmes reported that the overnight hauling is temporary and is due to a government contract for the I-35W project. The Dakota County Sheriff's Department stated that they will stay on the lookout for violations regarding hauling and the use of Jake brakes.

**Bills to be paid:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$59,468.09. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Jeff Hince reported that there was a power outage at the well site; dust control is being applied to gravel; crack sealing is taking place; parks are being sprayed and fertilized; there is a subsidence issue near an intake on Cattail Lane that McNamara is going to work to fix. Jeff Hince reported that he plans to have new gravel placed on approximately 4 miles of road this year. It is anticipated that this will cost approximately \$60,000, which is about \$20,000 over budget. This needs to be done after the heavy winter and wet spring. Ed Gerten made a motion to allocate additional funds for new gravel placement on Township roads. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to hire Kyle Williamson for summer help at \$13.00 per hour. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The potential for a new skating rink near the Public Works Building was discussed. Jeff Hince recommended that if this is put into place, the facility have its own parking lot so it does not conflict with rentals at the Public Works Building. The Town Board requested ideas for a new skating rink at the next Town Board meeting.

### **Park and Rec**

Denise Williamson reported that the Park and Rec Committee has received several monetary donations for the Town celebration.

The ballfields were discussed.

### **Bolton & Menk**

Brian Hilgardner reported that he will be meeting with Brian Watson and Vermillion River Watershed representatives on Thursday to discuss issues related to drainage near the Met Council sewer plant.

The street project contractors are currently working on the storm sewer. Finishing and reclaiming will begin shortly and staff will be notifying residents next week that they may not be able to access their driveways after new curb is put in.

It was reported that some of the new sod placed in the new drainage area by Castle Court has died. It is the contractor's responsibility to replace the sod as it is under warranty.

Brian reported that the SWPPP public hearing will be held at the next Town Board meeting.

### **New Business**

Jon Mocol with the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance and Bond Trust presented a quote for property and liability insurance coverage through MATIT. The premium quote was substantially less than what the Township is currently paying. The quote is based on coverage as listed on latest schedule provided by the Townships current insurance carrier. It was reported that coverage through MATIT would not include bridge replacement, which is a change from the

Township's current policy. Jon Mocol reported that if the Township decides to move forward, he will work with Township staff to make sure that the final quote will include coverage for all items. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve a Resolution to Participate in the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance and Bond Trust. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Town Board reviewed an RFP for auditing services. Charles Seipel reported that he plans to send the RFP to auditing firms that he has spoken with. According to the State Auditor's Office, the Township will need to switch to accrual fund accounting for fiscal year 2020.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to appoint Robert Bjerke to the Empire Township Planning Commission. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to contribute \$1,000 to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Collaborative fund. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**FYI:**

It was reported that an EFPAC Meeting will be held on June 18, 6:30 PM at Empire Town Hall. Ed Gerten will not be able to attend. Jamie Elvestad will attend in his place.

The Town Board reviewed information from Charter Communications regarding Video-on-Demand services.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

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Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer