

## **Empire Township Meeting Minutes June 23, 2020**

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

**Present were:** Terry Holmes, Jamie Elvestad, Ed Gerten, 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 of June 9th, 2020; the Planning Commission Meeting of June 16th, 2020; and the Park & Rec. Committee Meeting of June 22nd, 2020. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$29,633.59 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$10,059.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$300,000 from the General Savings to General Checking was made on 6/23/2020.

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

**Visitors:** Several residents on and near Blaine Avenue were present to discuss their concerns regarding possible noise, firearm, safety, and ATV violations at 19688 Blaine Avenue. Deputies from the Dakota County Sheriff's Department listened to the concerns and addressed questions. The Deputies instructed residents to inform the Sheriff's Department whenever they hear or see potential violations. The Department will investigate to determine if violations are occurring and work to remedy the situation. The residents thanked the Sheriff's Department and the Town Board for listening to their concerns.

**Bills to be Paid:** Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$359,337.25. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

### **Committee Reports**

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

Jeff Hince reported that he has received a quote from RCI Automatic Door Systems for the installation of an automatic door opener on the east door at the Public Works Building. The opener would improve handicapped accessibility. The quote in the amount of \$2,035 does not include electrical. The Town Board recommended the installation of the automatic door opener.

Hince reported that ditches are being mowed, spraying for wild parsnips is taking place, dust control material for the gravel roads has been ordered, painting on the buildings is currently taking place, and Kyle Williamson has been hired for part time summer help.

## **Park & Rec**

Denise Williamson reported that Dan Lanes from Minnesota/Wisconsin Playground will be stopping by on Thursday to review the playground equipment at Township parks to determine if they meet safety and handicapped accessibility standards. This will help the Township determine what it needs to budget in the future for improvements to existing park infrastructure. It was recommended that staff look into potential grants that might help with some of the replacement of park equipment.

Williamson reported that it is expected that the Township will offer a cardio strength class this fall, in addition to the possible return of yoga. The classes will be held at the Public Works Building.

The Town Board reviewed the letter of resignation from Duane Snesrud from the Park and Rec. Committee, effective at the end of July. It was reported that the existing ordinance calls for five members to serve on the Park and Recreation Committee. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to search for a new Park and Rec. Committee member in order to remain at six members. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Schwan's is scheduled to offer ice cream at the Town Hall Park on Thursday, August 6th.

## **Engineering**

The Town Board reviewed photos of the curb at 19362 Canby Court with standing water in it. Brian Hilgardner reported that regardless of the water source, he does not believe the water is causing adverse impacts to the curb or street and is something that can be mitigated when the street is scheduled to be reconstructed. The Town Board recommended that the curb issue be resolved at the time that the street is scheduled to be reconstructed.

Hilgardner reported that the City of Rosemount is participating in a design study of the stretch of County Road 46 for four lane expansion to Highway 52, but is not recommending the expansion at this time.

The Town Board reviewed concept drawings for a proposed pond system that would be constructed to the south of the proposed Highway 3 / 66 roundabout. Options were discussed. Hilgardner will reach out to property owners that will potentially have the right of way in front of their homes affected by the proposed ponds.

The Town Board reviewed a memo by Bolton & Menk engineer, Brad Fischer regarding the trail crossing on Claremont Drive. The memo recommended against the placement of cross walk striping as that may give crossers a false sense of security. Instead it recommended the installation of no parking signs 20' from the crossing. An additional option would be the installation of curb bump outs that would shorten the distance needed to cross the street. After some discussion, the Town Board recommended the installation of no parking signs 20' from this Claremont Drive crossing in addition to the crossing further north on Claremont Drive.

## **Planning**

Jane Kansier presented information on the requested renewal of a CUP for the Dakota County Gun Club in Section 11 of the Township. Members of the Gun Club that were present reported that there are no proposed changes at the Club from years past.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the Dakota County Gun Club CUP renewal for 2020. Seconded by Ed Gerten. Motion passed 3-0.

Jane Kansier reported a public hearing on a zoning ordinance amendment request is scheduled for the July 7th Planning Commission Meeting.

## **COVID-19:**

It was reported that the Township is required to add additional language to its Covid response plan and the plan must be approved by the end of June. The Town Board reviewed the plan. Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the amended Covid response plan. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

## **Old Business:**

None

## **New Business:**

The Town Board reviewed a letter and map from Al Singer regarding the draft Dakota County Land Conservation Plan. It was the consensus of the Town Board that it does not seem that Townships have much say regarding land that can be enrolled into the conservation programs and this should be brought to the attention of the County.

It was reported that in order to reduce confusion regarding the enforcement of the nuisance ordinance, the Township should consider either amending its JPA with the Sheriff's Department to state what violations would be enforceable by penalty vs. civil action or adopt ordinances that separated the two different types of violations. The Town Board recommended that the draft of new ordinances be pursued.

It was reported that there remains a canoe stored on the Township property by the pond. The Town Board recommended its removal.

## **FYI:**

The Town Board reviewed information from the Met Council regarding the Livable Communities Act enrollment.

Charlie will be out of the office on Friday, June 26th. The office will be closed.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

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Terry Holmes Chairman, Town Board

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Charles Seipel, Clerk – Treasurer