

**Empire Township Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2019**

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Ed Gerten at 8:00 p.m.

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

**Agenda:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the agenda. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

**Meeting Minutes:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting on June 11, 2019; the Planning Commission meeting on June 18, 2019; and the Park and Recreation meeting on June 24, 2019. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

**SWPPP Public Hearing:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to open the Public Hearing on Empire Township's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Brian Hilgardner presented information on Empire Township's compliance with the SWPPP and listed a number of items that the Township does in order to be in compliance, including community outreach and education. Resident John Simon inquired about issues that affect storm water in the Township, including sump pump discharge. Brian stated that the drainage of pool water into the storm water system can be an issue, but sump pump connections are generally ok since it is typically clean ground water.

With no other questions, the Public Hearing closed at 8:25 PM.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report showed a General Account balance of \$49,929.21 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$14,564.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$180,000 from savings to checking was made. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the unaudited treasurer report as read. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

**Visitors:**

Resident John Simon inquired about the decommissioning plans for solar farms that are under construction in the Township. Ed Gerten stated that with the current solar farm developments, the Township holds decommissioning bonds for both landscaping and equipment located on the solar farm property. If the solar farm were to become abandoned, the Township would have the bond to ensure the cleanup of the site.

**Bills to be paid:** Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$200,257.28. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0

### **Committee Reports**

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

Jeff Hince reported that crack sealing in the Township is complete. Jeff also reported that a resident who recently had a water connection repair in the front yard has requested that the Township provide water for the new sod that the Township has placed in the impacted area. After some discussion, the Town Board concluded that the Township will not provide the water for the sod, as this practice would deviate from current practice and set precedence.

#### **Park and Rec**

Denise Williamson reported that the Park and Rec Committee discussed the request from some residents to paint lines for pickle ball at the tennis court. The Town Board directed the Park and Rec Committee to look at pricing to add the lines to the court for pickle ball.

Jeff Hince presented a proposed site plan for the construction of an outdoor hockey rink to the west of the current maintenance shop facility. The proposed facility is located on a farm field that is currently growing crops, so nothing can really be done this year. Jeff will check into pricing and discussion can be held on possibly budgeting for this project next year. Discussion was held regarding driveway access onto County Highway 66 for the rink parking lot. Brian Hilgardner will check with Dakota County regarding permitted driveway access distances. If a driveway is not permitted, access may need to come from the existing maintenance facility parking lot. It was the consensus of the Town Board that the parking lot associated with the rink should be paved instead of gravel.

#### **Bolton & Menk**

Brian Hilgardner provided an update regarding the 190th Street and Met Council site drainage concerns. The Township's attorney has indicated that all drainage ditches in the area are considered private ditches. Therefore the Township is not obligated to improve the ditches and the matter should be considered private.

Brian stated that he had a meeting with the Met Council regarding the drainage issue and to address concerns that the Planning Commission had with the Met Council CUP application. As a result of this meeting, Brian stated that he will prepare a memo of understanding that includes the following: The Met Council will install an additional culvert along the existing road to the treatment plant site when the road is raised in coordination with their project. The new culvert will provide access to a new drainage ditch if and when one is constructed on the west side of the Met Council property. The Met Council will work with the Township on the possible construction of a new ditch in the future, with the possibility of placing the ditch on Met Council property, provided that the existing solar farm has been decommissioned at that time.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility that future development in the area could trigger the need for a new or upgraded ditch.

## **Planning**

Jane Kansier reported that the Planning Commission had no comment regarding a proposed comprehensive plan amendment by the City of Apple Valley.

The Planning Commission has also pledged support for the proposed construction of a bike path along Highway 3 that would connect trails in Empire Township with the City of Farmington. The trail is contingent on the award of grant proceeds that have been applied for by the City of Farmington. The Planning Commission has also indicated that they support the possibility of installing an emergency water connection with the City of Farmington that may potentially be constructed along the path.

Jane reported that at the next Town Board meeting, she will have information on an ordinance relating to fees for emergency services as well as a proposed amendment to the contract for the comprehensive plan collaborative.

The Planning Commission will not be holding a meeting on July 2nd.

## **New Business**

George Eilertson of Northland Securities presented information on the Township's new bond rating and proposed bond issuance. George reported that the Township has received a bond rating of AA+ from S&P, which is a very good rating for a community Empire's size.

The Town Board reviewed the bond sale results. George explained that the bond sale came in at a very good interest rate of 1.837%. The bond was sold to Baird & Co. Inc. and included a reoffering premium in the amount of \$255,598.85. This reduced the par amount of the bond to \$2,730,000. The bond will be for a 10 year term, with closing to take place on July 24th of this year.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-6A, Resolution Authorizing Issuance, Awarding Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment of \$2,730,000 GO Street Reconstruction Bonds, Series 2019A. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

## **FYI:**

Charles Seipel will be out of the office on Friday, July 5th and the office will be closed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

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Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

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Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer