

Empire Township Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2019

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

Present were: Terry Holmes, Ed Gerten, Jamie Elvestad, Charles Seipel, Jeff Hince, Denise Williamson, and Jane Kansier

Agenda: Jamie Elvestad recommended the addition of an item under new business; approving a new newspaper of official publication. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the item under new business. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting Minutes: Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting of July 9th, 2019; the Planning Commission meeting of July 16th, 2019; and the Park and Recreation meeting of July 22nd, 2019. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$32,002.98 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$7,814.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$100,000 from savings to checking was made. The treasurer's report also provided the cash balance detail and profit & loss/budget comparison as of 7/23/2019. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the unaudited treasurer report as read. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Bills to be paid: Ed Gerten made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$143,682.60. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0

Met Council CUP: Jane Kansier presented information on the proposed Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment for the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Wastewater Treatment Plant at 2540 197th Street West. Met Council staff was present to answer questions. Kansier provided detail on the proposed structures to be added to the site and noted that the access road to the site will also be reconstructed. The proposed project complies with the Township's zoning requirements and the Met Council will need to obtain building and grading permits from the Township before construction can begin. Kansier reported that after a public hearing of the Planning Commission regarding the proposed CUP amendment, the Commission recommends approval.

Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the CUP Amendment for the MCES Wastewater Treatment Plant at 2540 197th Street West. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Met Council staff provided the Town Board with an update on steps that are being taken to help mitigate water drainage issues near the wastewater treatment plant site. These steps include cleaning out and replacing ditch culverts near the site and constructing an additional culvert along the reconstructed access road to help accommodate future ditch improvements on the west side of the treatment plant site. A letter of understanding regarding the steps being taken to maintain the drainage ditches at the site and the Met Council's commitment to work with the Township regarding these issues in the future is in the process of being drawn up.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of future trails to be constructed near the site. Met Council staff recommended that the Township include the Met Council early on when plans for the trails are being developed.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that there may be some concerns regarding rusty water this week because Well #3 went down this weekend. Staff has been working on trying to flush the rusty water out of the system.

Chloride on the newly placed gravel was applied to some roads today. More may be needed in the fall if there are more heavy rains this summer.

The walking trails are currently passable, but any milling and reclamation that may take place on the trails and the removal of tree roots likely won't take place until next year.

The street reconstruction project is moving forward and going good. Concrete curb and driveway aprons will be poured and some paving is expected to be placed this week.

It was decided that the street reconstruction project on 200th Street should go forwarding according to plan regardless of any unauthorized objects and rain gardens that may be placed in the street right of way.

Park and Rec

Denise Williamson reported that final preparations are being made for the Township Celebration, to be held on Thursday, August 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Williamson invited everyone to attend.

Williamson also reported that the Park and Rec Committee has discussed to possibility of exploring the option of adding a splash pad at one of the Township parks in the future.

Planning

Jane Kansier presented a memo regarding the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 505, Emergency Response Services Ordinance. The Planning Commission has recommended the adoption of an ordinance amendment that incorporates the fees for false alarms that are similar to the City of Farmington's Ordinance. Discussion was held regarding instances when calls were

made because of natural gas odor. The Town Board recommended that the Township attorney be consulted regarding this concern.

Kansier presented a memo regarding proposed Ordinance No. 280, the Empire Township Nuisance Ordinance. The memo highlighted the recommended revisions made by the Planning Commission and the Town Board. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 280; An Ordinance Defining Nuisances, Prohibiting Their Creation or Maintenance and Providing for Abatement and Penalties for Violation Thereof; and approve the Summary for Publication of the Ordinance. Ed Gerten Seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Kansier provided information on new maps and data tables that have been put together regarding development rights of all parcels in the Township. This data will also be put into the web based GIS map, in addition to any CUP's or IUP's tied to specific properties in the Township.

New Business

The Town Board reviewed a proposal for auditing services from Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP. Seipel noted that this auditing firm handles accrual audit reports and the proposal includes assistance to help the Township transfer from cash basis to accrual basis fund accounting. The proposal covers conducting the audit for the years of 2020 through 2022. Ed Gerten made a motion to hire Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP. as the Township's auditor to assist with the transfer to accrual fund accounting and to conduct the Township's audits for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Jon Mocol from MATIT was not able to attend this evenings meeting to present the Township's property and liability insurance quote, but has been invited to attend the August 13th meeting.

It was reported that the Farmington Independent will cease operations on August 1st of this year and a new newspaper of official publication will need to be found. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to have the Dakota County Tribune as the Township's newspaper of official publication for the remainder of 2019. Ed Gerten Seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed information from the City of Apple Valley regarding a Wellhead Protection Program amendment and from Charter Communications regarding cable channel lineup changes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer