

Empire Township Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ed Gerten 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: Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting of July 14th, 2020; the Planning Commission Meeting of July 21st, 2020; and the Park & Rec. Committee Meeting of July 27th, 2020. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$66,025.09 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$9,309.65 plus investments. A silt fence escrow payment was made in the amount of \$750.00 on 7/2/2020.

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

Visitors: None

Bills to be Paid: Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$33,008.82. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that 210th Street has received an overlay of gravel and dust control. Biscayne Avenue has been graded but will remain in tough condition due to the heavy traffic from the Highway 3 detour.

Park & Rec

Denise Williamson reported that the Park and Rec. Committee is currently obtaining quotes for the proposed new playground equipment at Sachs Park and new surfacing for the other playground equipment sites.

One application has been received so far for the Park & Rec. Committee vacancy and will be presented at the next Town Board Meeting.

Engineering

Brian Hilgardner reported that he will be setting up a meeting with the Met Council to discuss the easement for the proposed drainage ditch on the west side of the waste treatment plant

property. The Town Board reviewed a map showing a proposed connecting trail that would run from Whitetail Woods, to the west of the waste treatment plant property, and into the City of Farmington.

Brian noted that the water storage tank sitting study has been amended to remove the option that calls for the decommissioning of the existing water tower.

Planning

Jane Kansier presented information on a proposed CUP for the construction of a hoop building at 4375 170th Street West. The property is owned and operated by Rock Hard Landscaping. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the CUP. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to approve the CUP for the construction of a hoop building at 4375 170th Street West. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

It was reported that George Maverick from Glenhaven Events Center has requested permission to set up a temporary outdoor seating facility that would allow the events center to meet Minnesota Department of Health guidelines by limiting large gatherings indoors. The Township attorney has recommended that the best way for the Township to accommodate this request would be to adopt a temporary ordinance permitting a tent structure to be located behind the existing facility. The ordinance would require that the events center follow all Department of Health guidelines and the owner consult with neighboring properties to address any concerns that they may have. The temporary structure would be permitted between August 1st and October 31, 2020. It was recommended that the ordinance also require that written permission be obtained from the fire department prior to the installation of a tent. The Town Board discussed the need to consider this ordinance tonight due to the need to act on this swiftly. Jamie Elvestad made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-1, Interim Ordinance Allowing Flexibility for Glenhaven Events During Local Emergency COVID-19 Pandemic. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

COVID-19:

The State requirement to wear masks in public buildings was discussed. The Township's COVID plan has been updated to include these requirements.

It was reported that the Township can request funding from the CARES Act and it would be eligible for \$78,575 to reimburse the Township for COVID related expenses. Charles Seipel reported that he is compiling a list of COVID related expenses incurred by the Township. Jamie Elvestad made a motion for Empire Township to apply for funds from the CARES Act for reimbursement of COVID related expenses. Ed Gerten seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business:

Draft Ordinances 281 and 281-A, revised nuisance ordinances, were reviewed. The Planning Commission has reviewed them and recommended approval. Jamie Elvestad requested that a decision on the draft ordinances be tabled until the next Town Board meeting.

New Business:

It was reported that a possible nuisance violation at 3702 Upper 204th Street has been brought to the attention of the Township. The Town Board recommended that a letter from the Township attorney that outlines the nuisance ordinance violations be sent to the property owner.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed information regarding the upcoming MAT District 4 Meeting to be held on August 12th, a notice regarding the Dakota county Cooperative Weed Management areas, information on the Groundwater Protection Rule in the Hastings DWSMA, and a notice of the continuation of the annual meeting to be held on August 25th. Charlie will be out of the office from July 29 through July 31.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Terry Holmes Chairman, Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk – Treasurer