

Empire Township Meeting Minutes August 27, 2019

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

Present were: Terry Holmes, Jamie Elvestad, Charles Seipel, Jeff Hince, Denise Williamson, Brian Hilgardner. Ed Gerten was absent.

Agenda: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the agenda. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Meeting Minutes: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Board meetings of August 13th and 14th, 2019; the Planning Commission meeting of August 20th, 2019; and the Park and Recreation meetings of August 1st and 25th, 2019. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$39,560.56 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$7,814.65 plus investments. A transfer of \$45,000 from savings to checking was made on 8/27/2019. The treasurer's report also provided the balance sheet and profit & loss by class as of 8/27/2019.

Visitors: Ron Wasmund, building inspector with Inspectron, was present to address some questions that have come up recently regarding inspections in the Township. Ron reported that there were concerns from a visitor to the Cambodian Temple regarding suspected code violations. Ron reported that he has spoken with the visitor that had the concerns and noted that these issues are related to items that are still under construction and the permit for them has not been finalized. There are also other access points into the temple structures. Ron also reported that there were concerns from the Providence Townhome HOA regarding the inspection on the townhomes. Ron stated that seemed to be a misunderstanding regarding what pipes are for radon and what pipes are for the furnace and what the code requirements are for in regards to these pipes. He is willing to visit the townhomes to take a look and help address questions that the association has.

Mark Jarvinen from the Providence HOA was present to request further information regarding the final lift and landscaping to be completed in the HOA addition. It was reported that the funds currently in the escrow account cannot be paid to anyone other than the developer after the landscaping is complete. The Township will work to make sure that the landscaping is complete one way or another but is not able to ensure that the final lift on the private road that serves the townhomes will be complete.

Continuation of Annual Meeting: The Town Board meeting was recessed at 8:31 PM for the Continuation of the Annual Meeting to set the Township Levy.

The meeting was reopened at 9:05 PM.

Bills to be paid: Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the attached list of bills in the amount of \$49,926.63. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0

Committee Reports

Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges

Jeff Hince reported that staff will be installing more gravel on Biscayne Avenue; there will be a meeting tomorrow with the contractors on the street reconstruction project; and there will be ballgames happening again this weekend at the ballfields.

Park and Rec

Denise Williamson reported that the Park and Rec Committee would like to request that plans and specifications be developed for the proposed hockey rink, near the public works building, in order to have an idea of what the total project cost will be. Brian Hilgardner stated that he could develop a site plan layout and make sure that the area has enough space for the appropriate number of required parking stalls. After discussion, Terry Holmes made a motion to permit Bolton & Menk to develop preliminary plans for the proposed hockey rink, with the cost of said plans not to exceed \$5,000. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Terry Holmes made a motion to approve the results of the annual meeting vote to increase the pay stipend for the Park and Rec Committee from \$30 to \$40 per meeting, beginning September 1st, with Denise Williamson's pay for meeting time to be paid from this stipend. Jamie Elvestad seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Bolton & Menk Engineering

Brian Hilgardner reported that the residential street portion of the reconstruction project is complete. Bolton & Menk is currently working with the contractor on a final punch list for that portion of the project. Work on 170th Street is expected to begin the week of September 5th, with the street being closed to thru traffic during reconstruction of that street.

The box culvert under Highway 3, south of Rosemount, is expected to be installed the 1st weekend in October. Highway 3 will be detoured during that time.

Brian stated that he checked into elevations at the curb that is experiencing standing water issues near 19362 Canby Court. He is thinking that milling near the curb will allow water to drain and he will be working to get a quote to mill that area.

It was reported that the total land appraisal for a temporary easement on property to the southeast of the intersection of 170th Street and Highway 3, related to the construction of the proposed roundabout at said intersection, came in at \$18,700.

Planning:

Planner Jane Kansier was absent.

Old Business:

Further discussion was held regarding the request for escrow funds from Mark Elliot. The request for the funds was made in order to apply the final lift on the private road in the Providence Townhome Addition. The Town Board asked that the Township's attorney send a letter to the developer stating that the Township will give him 30 days to complete the landscaping at the development; otherwise the Township will hire someone to complete it. The Town Board asked Jeff Hince to seek estimates to complete the landscaping.

New Business:

The Town Board reviewed an Application for Assemblage of Large Numbers of People for Skyview Ranch LLC on October 26th. It was recommended that the application be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review.

FYI:

The Town Board reviewed information from Charter Communications on channel lineup changes, and an invitation for the Vermillion River Watershed CIP Tour to take place on September 19th. Charles Seipel reported that he will have a booth at the Farmington Community Education, Community Connect event on September 26th to represent Empire Township. Seipel will be out of the office September 5th thru September 9th.

The Town Board Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Terry Holmes, Chairman Town Board

Charles Seipel, Clerk - Treasurer