

Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall – 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, January 13, 2020

Call to Order: 5:30 PM Chairman Soderling

Present: Supervisors Hautala, Paris, and Soderling, Clerk Highland, Treasurer Hines, and 5 guests; Tony Nygaard, Kevin Merritt, Richard & Doris Freeburg, Nathan Shaulis, and Michael Menart

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited.

Special Agenda Requests:

Nathan Shaulis – He has continuing concerns about the OHV park and trail. The Board has no received any information about a connection point for the trail at the west end. When the ATV Club approached the Board they requested using a portion of Maple Drive for part of the trail. The rest of the trail would run where the current snowmobile trail is. Through Shaulis’ investigating he has spoken with Brad Deckers, who claims the gate at the end of Pettit Road may be opened and the snowmobile trail re-routed. Chairman Soderling explained the Board has not been notified of this information. Resident Menart explained the gate has already been moved at some point late summer or fall and will need to be reset by using a piece of equipment. Shaulis is also worried about motorized vehicles using the bike trail and iterated that someone is going to get hurt. He has been in contact 911 and his no trespassing signs have been vandalized. Shaulis requested the Board to reach out to Brad Deckers with the DNR. Supervisor Paris took contact information and Soderling explained we will keep up on this issue.

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the December 9, 2019 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes, the December 17, 2019 Emergency Meeting Minutes, and the December 26, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes

Discussion – In regards to the Emergency Meeting Minutes, Supervisor Paris did mention since all Supervisors are present the meeting should continue, but he doesn’t want to see Emergency Meetings abused, they are not normal practice. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Treasurer Hines reported the following for the November financial report.

Opening Balance 12/01/2019	\$477,801.72
Receipts	\$135,335.15
Disbursements	- \$ 67,827.55
Ending Balance 12/31/2019	\$545,309.32
Deposits in transit	- \$ 0.00
Outstanding Checks	+ \$ 1,746.61
Petty Cash	- \$ <u>100.00</u>
Total Checking Acct.	\$546,955.93
Total Investments	\$ 98,231.01

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

Motion by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the financial report and file it for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Hines also reported on the 2021 budget. She would like to see it set at \$500,000.00: General Fund \$142,108.00, Road and Bridge \$307,992.00, Public Safety (Fire and EMR) \$49,900.00. After end of year processing the Clerk and Treasurer will work on the simplified budget. This will be an easier to follow breakdown of the aforementioned budget totals than the CTAS budget has to offer. Supervisor Paris is concerned about the gravel budget and would really like to get rid of “roll-over” budgets. It would be best to see remaining budgeted monies placed into an equipment savings fund. Due to the purchase of the new tandem truck, Road and Bridge was actually \$100,000.00 over budget. Chairman Soderling asked at what point would the levy need to be raised? **Motion** by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the 2021 budget set at \$500,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims: Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the Board. Supervisor Paris questioned the Couri & Ruppe Bill. Chairman Soderling had called them for clarification on the Emergency Meeting and the conflict of interest for Approve Plumbing. Paris feels it is ok to contact attorneys to make sure we are doing things right beforehand rather than find out we did something wrong and have to fix it then. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve and pay claims for \$7,519.87. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road/Equipment – A written road maintenance report was submitted. There are no needs at this time. Employee Bernard has passed his Class A license.

Fire – A written report was submitted. Chief Nygaard apologized for absences due to work schedule. He submitted a quote for turn out gear from MES for \$7,451.38. He would like to use part of the remainder of his 2019 budget to help pay for this. The other part, \$8,000.00, he would like to put towards the Fire Engine. There are a six more sets that will be expiring this year and Nygaard is working on getting grants through Arcelor Mittal and Dyno Nobel. Each set cost about \$3,200.00. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to accept the quote from MES for \$7,451.38. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to transfer \$8,000.00 from the 2019 Fire Budget to the Fire Engine Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Wyatt Clark has passed his physical and drug test. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to hire Wyatt Clark as a Junior Fire Fighter. Motion carried unanimously.

First Responders – Nygaard reported a few calls for EMR. No report.

Recreation – The skate rink is being kept up on. Clerk Highland mentioned John Kuitunen has done a great job volunteering to keep it nice. Nygaard asked the Board if they would consider leveling and getting a mat for the rink. A lot of water is wasted at the beginning of the year flooding it by absorbing into the ground and the ice is thicker on one end. Supervisor Paris reported the county suggested trying to seal coat the crack on the tennis courts to save money. They may help us with this. Hautala will still look into the company Audrey Licari suggested. Paris is concerned about removing the fence in order to redo the whole court area. When the court does get refinished, pickle ball lines will also be added.

Cemetery – No report.

Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

New Town Hall Discussion –

Chairman Soderling reported he knows an electrician who works with heating systems. If he isn't available, Black Hawk Electric will be used to move the in floor thermostat. Soderling explained to the audience the warranty versus non-warranty claims JK Mechanical is making about the boiler. JK claims we sabotaged our own system. In actuality we never touched our system because we didn't want to void our warranty coverage. They are bonded with the state and if need be, we may go after their bond. Supervisor Paris suggested reporting them to the Better Business Bureau. Tony Nygaard suggested going after their bond and explained he had to for City of McKinley. Soderling is hoping they will come to their senses and the bill will be taken back.

Clerk Highland presented a breakdown of the cost for the old town hall demo:

ACCT	\$29,075.00
Boagalis	\$34,190.00
Roger	\$ 1,200.00
DEMO Cost	\$64,465.00
IRRRB (Asbes) -	\$14,075.00
IRRRB (Demo) -	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
	\$20,390.00 TOTAL TWP COST

Sign retro-reflectivity – No update. Keep on agendas in old business.

Breakaway posts – Most of the sign posts in the township are double posted, we just don't know if they are legal.

Driveway Culvert Policy – No update. Keep on agendas in old business.

Supervisor Pay resident input/committee set up– Chairman Soderling explained Caroline Soyring had shown interest in this committee. However, she wasn't present at the meeting and he has heard no update from her. He explained a committee is needed to evaluate supervisor pay for special projects with in the township.

Broadband Info – Chairman Soderling reported on the feasibility study. Proposals have been sent out to see which companies have interest in the area of coverage.

ATV Trail – Discussed earlier.

County Road Take Back – We have not received the updated County Road Maintenance Agreement set at \$1,600.00 per mile for 2020. This might be due to the strike.

Simplified Budget – Discussed earlier.

County Ditches – Resident Shaulis asked if there is any update on the ditch that drains from his property all the way to Hwy 97. Supervisor Paris explained the county is doing a pilot program in Meadowlands. He also explained that if the ditch is a judicial ditch, the county may charge extra taxes to the property owners that benefit from the drainage. Commissioner McDonald's information was given to Shaulis and the Board encouraged him to contact him.

Equipment Budget – Supervisor Paris would like to see something set up like the New Town Hall Building Fund, but for Road and Bridge equipment. He would like to see it money from General Fund start it, if there is a roll over from the 2019 budget. Treasurer Hines asked how much he would like to see transferred and explained the General Fund has the lowest cash balance. Paris would like to see \$30,000.00, the cost of a packer. Hines would like to wait because our current balance has to carry us for six months. Chairman Soderling said there are no roll over budgets from 2019. Paris suggested leasing options versus purchasing. Supervisor Hautala explained the old packer was a rolling drum, but new equipment is much better. Soderling feels good options were discussed and that the simplified budget will help see what is available for equipment this year.

New Business:

Elections –

Motion by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to adopt Resolution 2020-01 appointing Kathleen Wagner, Jean Korpi, Tammy Petron, and Doris Freeburg as the Absentee Ballot Board for the March 10, 2020 Township Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to appoint the following judges for the Presidential Nomination Primary (PNP) and March 10, 2020 Township Election: Kathleen Wagner, Doris Freeburg, Vicky Lahti, Kirsti Hall, Mary Suhadolc, Myra Adams, Laurie Greben, Tiffany Olson, Lillian Taylor, Phyllis Sherek, Jean Korpi, and Pam Mount. These judges will also receive one extra hour of training for the PNP. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to adopt Resolution 2020-02 authorizing grant funding for purchasing election equipment. Motion carried unanimously.

Road and Bridge Equipment Savings (CD or Savings) – There was discussion about interest between First National Bank (CD) and American Bank (savings). Chairman Soderling likes the idea of a savings account because it is more fluid. No action taken.

Floor Scrubbing Machine – Janitor Hines requested the board purchase a floor scrubbing machine. The lighter and textured floor is hard to get fully cleaned. She has done some research and a machine that would be good for our area is

about \$2,000.00. Supervisor Paris was wondering if the company would be able to do a demo before purchasing so we will know if it gives us the results we are expecting. Clerk Highland suggested calling a cleaning company for price and see if it is something we could do quarterly. **Tabled**

Hines also requested to purchase an anti-fatigue/slip resistant mat for in front of the three basin sink. **Motion** by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to purchase a slip resistant mat, not to exceed \$250.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2020-03 – Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to adopt Resolution 2020-03 Authorizing Contract with Interested Officer (Luke Soderling, Approve Plumbing). Motion carried upon the following

vote: Supervisor Hautala Aye
Supervisor Paris Aye
Chairman Soderling Abstain (Conflict of Interest)

Other Concerns-

Clerk Highland requested to move the flag pole this spring to the sign area at the entrance of the parking lot.

Correspondence: Clerk Highland reviewed correspondence with the Board:

- Mesabi Trail – Construction of Mesabi Trail McKinley to Biwabik
- St. Louis County
 - Proposed Sale of Tax Forfeited Land
 - Plan of Action for Strike

No action taken on correspondence.

Hall Rentals:

- Potluck – First Wednesday of every month
- EMR Training – Second Wednesday of every month
- Fire Training – Third Wednesday and Fourth Monday of every month

Motion by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the hall rentals.


Comments from the Audience:

Tony Nygaard explained the City of McKinley has switched to mail ballots and wondered if that is an option for the Township. Clerk Highland explained there are too many registered voters in the township to switch. She continued and explained to the audience the process of the upcoming Presidential Nomination Primary.

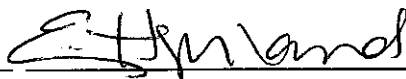
Supervisor Hautala mentioned he will be in the cities during the day of the February 10, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting and requested starting the meeting later. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling to start the February 10, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting at 6:00 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Audit: The Board of Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2019 is attached to these minutes.

Adjourn: Chairman Soderling to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM.


Board Chair

2-13-20
Date


Attest by Clerk

