

## Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

### Teleconference

Monday, April 13, 2020

**Call to Order:** 5:33 PM by Chairman Soderling

Present by roll call: Supervisors Hautala, Paris, and Soderling, Clerk Highland and Treasurer Hines

No guests

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited

**Designation of New Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Township Attorney:** Motion by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to keep status quo and post-pone reorganizational meeting until after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Discussion- This will continually be addressed at meeting until we are able to meet in person. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

**Special Agenda Request:** None

**Minutes:** Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the March 9, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting minutes and the March 23, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Hines went over the February Financial Report with the Board.

Opening Balance 03/01/2020	\$ 584,235.55
Receipts	\$ 664.18
Disbursements	\$ 38,136.54
Ending Balance 03/31/2020	\$ 546,763.19
Deposits in Transit	\$ 750.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 1,078.83
Petty Cash	\$ - 100.00
<b>Total Checking Acct.</b>	<b>\$ 546,992.02</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 98,437.09</b>

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

**Motion** by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the financial report for March 2020 and file it for audit. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

Treasurer Hines asked the Board if they would like her to ask for early distribution of taxes. We would get 70% in May/June and the remaining 30% in July. Supervisor Paris would like to see the Township get their money as early as possible and build interest.

**Claims:** Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the board. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to pay claims as presented for \$12,090.27. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

**Reports:**

**Road & Equipment-** Supervisor Paris reported Road and Bridge are changing over from winter to summer maintenance. The brush dump will open this week and final cleanup of the old hall site will be tended to. It is still a little too frozen to grade the roads so pot holes are being patched with the loaders. Merritt has requested to get some new signs for the sandpit and brush dump area. There have been people using equipment in the sandpit and Merritt would like to avoid dumping of garbage in the brush dump. Paris will work on wording with Merritt and Hines will order them. There is still a garbage problem at the recycle center, but cameras are working as a deterrent. More cameras may need to be purchased for the brush dump and sandpit area. Supervisor Hautala commented they are doing a good job keeping up with spring breakup. Currently they are working staggered shifts.

**Fire-** Chairman Soderling reported there were no calls in March. All turnout gear has been ordered and received. Nygaard plans to work on grants for more turnout gear this summer.

**First Responders-** No report, no needs.

**Recreation-**

Memorial Day- Due to the uncertainty about social distancing Memorial Day may be canceled. More discussion will be held at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Monthly Board Meeting. If all restrictions are lifted on May 4<sup>th</sup> monies should be allocated so there is enough time to purchase what's needed for the party. Clerk Highland suggested that event coordinator Joan should be contacted with the situation. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to allocate \$200.00 for Memorial Day made out to Walter Hautala – Recreation, if the Governor lifts restrictions to more than groups of 10.

Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

Open House – Tabled

Recreation Trail – Supervisor Hautala reported he would like to start getting quotes on the walking trail, to get a head start on writing grants. Mesabi Bituminous can bid out the parking lot at the same time. Chairman Soderling suggested marking the trail and supervisors can walk it at their convenience before next meeting to approve the route.

**Cemetery-**

Bench Donation – Clerk Highland reported there is room at the Bertha Hill Memorial Garden for a bench. She also suggested cleaning up the other benches in the garden to make it look nicer. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to have part-time employees install a slab and place the donated bench in the Bertha Hill Memorial Garden.

*Discussion – Supervisor Hautala will arrange this. Clerk Highland will come up with a Donation Resolution.*

Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

Flowers – Caroline Soyryng decided last fall that she will no longer be able to donate time in the cemetery. She did text Supervisor Paris some needs she noticed this spring. Clerk Highland suggested Patricia Undeland. She showed interest in helping with flowers at the end of last summer. The office will see if we have contact information for her.

**Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

**Old Business:**

New Town Hall Building – Discussion on finishing the family bath during the peace time emergency was had. It was decided that finishing the bathroom is not considered essential at this time.

COVID -19 – As Supervisor Paris had suggested earlier, Supervisor Hautala would also like to see a state of emergency declared for the township. Chairman Soderling asked if Couri and Ruppe should be contacted. Paris suggested contacting the MAT attorney and wondered if the minutes from the March 23 Special Meeting should be amended. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to task Supervisor Paris with authority to secure documentation from MAT or Couri & Ruppe for declaring State of Emergency as of March 23 if possible. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

**Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to declare State of Emergency for COVID – 19 effective March 23, 2020 due to actions set in place during the Special Meeting. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

**New Business:**

AWAIR- Tabled

Open Willow Lane – **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to open Willow Lane on May 1, 2020. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

ECC Liquor License- **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the Eshquaguma Country Club's liquor license for 2020. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Abstain (ECC Member)

Century Link Permit- Supervisor Paris is concerned about where in the road right of way the cable will be placed. He would like to see it placed on the woods side. Chairman Soderling feels they will dig it deep enough. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the Century Link permit pending placement after discussion with Bill Gacke (project manager).

Discussion – Hautala has spoken with Gacke it will be in the ROW. Chairman Soderling mentioned if it is only getting trenched, there will be issues in the future for ditching. Hautala also mentioned the project is already underway in the Biwabik. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Aye
Chairman Soderling	Aye

E-G-V School Election – The hall must be open for voting, May 12, 2020. The office will be closed.

Other Concerns – Supervisor Paris informed the Board on the following items:  
There has not been an ad about the memorabilia yet because the hall is closed to the public.  
There is a flag disposal area at the new county building.  
Ray has started beaver trapping and he is covered under the DNR nuisance permit.

Paris asked if rec facilities should be closed. Soderling explained these are closed statewide and there is no further action the township needs to do.

The Fire Engine Fund disbursement should be discussed in May.

Jim will contact Jean about May's potluck.

Hines filled the Board in about the depth of sand in the playground area. It is supposed to be 18 inches. Supervisor Hautala added that the plastic/fabric in the playground area for weeds may not work as well as thought. Employee Imberg had suggested to Hautala to till the play area throughout the summer. We don't have a tiller so one will need to be rented. If it seems to be an item used often, Soderling mentioned looking into purchasing one at that time.

Hautala explained the new ditch in the cemetery has helped a lot. Now that the ground isn't frozen the water has flowed away. He would like to see the cemetery road crowned as some point to help with drainage.

**Correspondence:** Clerk Highland reviewed correspondence with the Board.

- Century Link – Permit Request
- St. Louis County - LBAE Materials (email)
- MN Dept. of Labor – Workplace Safety Consultation

**Hall Rentals:**

Discussion on holding or canceling the following events -

- Mark Kwiatkowski – Sunday, May 17, 2020
- Kay – Sunday, May 24, 2020
- Joe Leoni – Friday and Saturday, May 29 - 30, 2020
- Becca Levander – Sunday, May 31, 2020
- Tara Dall – Friday, June 5, 2020
- Neighborhood Pot Luck first Wednesday of every month at Noon
- EMR Training second Wednesday of every month
- Fire Department Training third Wednesday and fourth Monday

The hall will remain closed to the public through May 11, 2020. Further discussion about opening it will be held during the May 11, 2020 Board Meeting. Clerk Highland will contact renters regarding the unknown at this time.

**Comments from the Audience:** None

**Set May Monthly Board Meeting:** The next meeting will be May 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM and will be posted accordingly.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Soderling adjourned the meeting at 7:11 P.M.



Chairperson:

Date:

5-13-20 E. Highland

Attest by Clerk:

