

Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, September 21, 2020

Call to Order: 5:30 PM by Chairman Soderling

Present: Supervisors Hautala, Paris, and Soderling, Clerk Highland and Treasurer Hines, and
1 Guest; Kevin Merritt

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Special Agenda Request: Supervisor Paris just wanted it noted that the Township is following Governor Walz's peacetime emergency extension.

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the August 10, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting minutes and the August 24, 2020 Reconvened Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Treasurer Hines went over the June Financial Report with the Board.

Opening Balance 08/01/2020	\$ 548,067.61
Receipts	\$ 194,078.27
Disbursements	\$ 291,315.45
Ending Balance 08/31/2020	\$ 450,830.43
Deposits in Transit	\$ 500.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 6,343.41
Petty Cash	\$ - 100.00
Total Checking Acct.	\$ 456,573.84
Total Investments	\$ 210,558.38

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

Treasurer Hines explained the Fire Engine Fund monies have been moved to the Reserve Fund Savings account and that is why they receipts and disbursements are so high.

Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the financial report for August 2020 and file it for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

The CDs at First National Bank of Gilbert are coming due. They will automatically renew unless the Board directs otherwise. There was further discussion comparing interest rates between American Bank and First National Bank of Gilbert particularly for the Reserve Funds. Chairman Soderling would like to keep the Reserve Funds as they are. Having liquid equities are better for us right now, especially with the talk of different township projects.

Claims: Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the board. **Motion** by Supervisor Hautala, seconded by Supervisor Paris to pay claims as presented for \$7,161.09. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road & Equipment- Foreman Merritt reported children at play signs are up on Hemlock and Ponderosa. There have been brush dump issues with people dumping garbage. People are even going around the gate on the weekends to dump. Supervisor Hautala reminded the Board that in years past they used to hire a brush dump attendant. There was discussion on how to implement this. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to close the brush dump immediately and re-open on Saturdays for four hours in October, using part-time grounds workers to cover the shifts. Motion carried unanimously. Merritt requested to purchase new rims for the dump truck. The ones on the used one just purchased are rusty. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling to purchase two rims for the dump truck at \$90.00 apiece. Motion carried unanimously. Mesabi Sign quoted about \$200.00 for lettering the new truck. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling to purchase Biwabik Township lettering from Mesabi Sign Company. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire- No report

First Responders- No report

Supervisor Hautala feels it is sloppy that the Board is not getting reports from the two departments and requested Chairman Soderling to relay the message.

Recreation-

Walking Trail – After some thought, Supervisor Hautala now agrees with the Board that a walking trail may not be in the best interest of the Township. He is now concerned of possible vandalism and misuse of the area. He did confirm that IRRRB grants come from different funds that do not contradict each other.

Open House – Held after Covid – 19

Hautala has been in contact with Merritt about getting the rink leveled for winter. John Kuitunen may also help with this project. The playground has gotten more sand in it too.

Cemetery- There has been a burial and two more are planned for later in September. Memorials have been getting removed. The dead line for this is October 1 of each year. The benches are finished and look good.

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

Old Business:

New Town Hall Building – No update.

Sign Retro-Reflectivity – No update.

Culvert Policy review/edit – No update.

Broadband Info – Chairman Soderling reported the coalition have now received cost reports. They would like to meet with the Board to present this information. It was discussed to hold this during the November Monthly Board Meeting. Supervisor Hautala requested that it get advertised.

ATV Trail – No update. It was requested to remove this item from old business.

CARES Act – The time has now elapsed to submit requests to receive funds.

LED lights in garage and fire hall – A second quote was never received. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to accept Norlander Electric for the garage and fire hall LED replacement project for a combined total of \$12,595.68, knowing that this price may change due to equipment rental rates. Motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Paris will contact Norlander Electric.

Parking Lot – Chairman Soderling is waiting for time to meet up with Mesabi Bituminous to discuss striping the current parking lot.

New Business:

Halloween- Due to Covid-19 there will not be a Halloween party this year. The township will hand out goody bags from 3:00 to 4:00 PM on Halloween to the first 50 kids that come.

Retiree Insurance – Per the contract, the township will pay up to \$150.00 for Medicare Part B. There is an eligible retiree that can start receiving this benefit in December. Clerk Highland asked the Board how the payment should be made. Part B comes from social security so the recipient will need to receive a reimbursement. Highland has been given a copy of the medical card and page from the Medicare booklet on the current price for Part B. Supervisor Paris would like to see proof of what the Part B breakdown is. Supervisor Hautala explained that for his own Part B it is taken right out of the social security check before the check is distributed. Highland explained that the retiree maybe looking for a cheaper Part B option. Paris feels the attorney may need to be contacted. **Tabled**

Other Concerns –

Chairman Soderling mentioned the Board is looking for input on a canopy or gazebo. He would like the community involved in designing it. **Tabled**

Soderling also brought up Road and Bridge timesheets. He feels two hours a day for road checks is excessive. Foreman Merritt explained the two hours includes making a road plan for the day. Discussion ensued about how to go about remedying that reflection on timecards. Supervisor Paris is concerned he might not be getting an accurate representation on how long it takes to maintain county roads. Especially if in the future he needs to meet with them again regarding the maintenance agreement.

Clerk Highland submitted Resolution 2020-07 acknowledging conflict of interest purchase of equipment from Supervisor Jim Paris. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to adopt Resolution 2020-07 as of August 24, 2020. Motion carried upon the following vote:

- Supervisor Hautala Aye
- Supervisor Paris Abstain
- Chairman Soderling Aye

The conflict of interest affidavit is filed with the claim.

Supervisor Paris asked the Board if they should purchase a laser level for such projects as the rink and placing culverts. Price for laser levels was discussed and due to their high price it was decided it is not needed at this time.

Correspondence: Clerk Highland reviewed correspondence with the Board.

- Couri & Ruppe – 2021 Rate increase
- Pipeline Association – Public Awareness
- St. Louis County email
 - Public Health Emergency Communications (weekly email to clerk)
 - Proposed Sale of Tax Forfeited Land
 - CARES act funding (email)
- MBFTE – Fire Training Reimbursement for 2021 = \$4,200.00

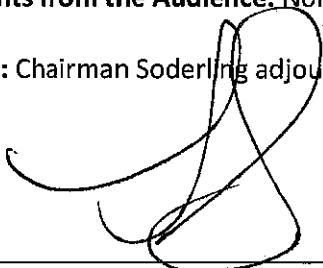
Hall Rentals:

- Fountain of Hope Ministries – Start October 4, 2020 and every Sunday following

Clerk Highland reported that if the church is allowed rental, they were wondering if they would get a deal for renting every weekend. According to DEED protocols church can be held at 50% capacity. There is concern about sanitation and covid-19. It was discussed who would be responsible for that and who would hold the church accountable for social distancing, mask wearing, ect. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling no public rentals will be held in the town hall. The hall will only be open for business essential to the township until further notice.

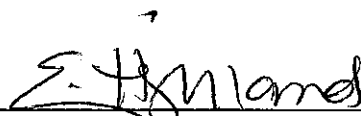
Comments from the Audience: None

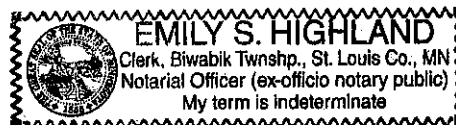
Adjourn: Chairman Soderling adjourned the meeting at 7:33 P.M.



Chairperson: _____

Date: 10-19-20

Attest by Clerk: 



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
TEL: 773-936-3200
WWW.CHICAGO.EDU