

**Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, November 16, 2020**

Call to Order: 5:30 PM by Chairman Soderling

Present: Supervisors Paris, and Soderling, Clerk Highland and Treasurer Hines, and
2 Guests; Richard & Doris Freeburg

Absent: Supervisor Hautala

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Special Agenda Request: Presentation on the Broadband project by Diane Kruse via Zoom. Discussion after the presentation among Board members was held. Some unanswered questions from the presentation included financing the project further i.e. who pays, when, and how much. Supervisor Paris is concerned about the cost of service. There was no definitive answer in the presentation. Chairman Soderling explained people were able to pick price ranges they were willing to pay during a survey sent up by the coalition. The survey was available to everyone and posted on the township's website. Paris wants to make sure everyone in the township is able to receive broadband before the township puts forth any more money. Resident Richard Freeburg asked if this would raise property taxes and added that if it will, it needs to be available to everyone. Soderling explained there is a lot more in the process that needs to be figured out.

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling to approve the October 19, 2020 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Opening Balance 10/01/2020 | \$ 441,503.53 |
| Receipts | \$ 13,750.46 |
| Disbursements | \$ 25,861.44 |
| Ending Balance 10/31/2020 | \$ 429,392.55 |
| Deposits in Transit | \$ 4,350.00 |
| Outstanding Checks | \$ 1,443.10 |
| Petty Cash | \$ - 100.00 |
| Total Checking Acct. | \$ 426,385.65 |
| Total Investments | \$ 210,671.90 |

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

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

Claims: Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the board. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling to pay claims as presented for \$13,072.22. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road & Equipment- No report. The monthly road report will be filed in the office.

Fire- A written report was submitted.

First Responders- No report.

Recreation- Clerk Highland submitted the Halloween Budget report generated by Treasurer Hines. Treat bags were handed out to trick-or-treaters in lieu of having a party due to Covid-19. **Motion** by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the Halloween Budget report and attach it to these minutes. Motion carried unanimously. The rink will be flooded using the mat this year without leveling it first. It will be decided if leveling is needed pending flooding this year.

Cemetery- Clerk Highland reported Supervisor Hautala has contacted the Heitzman family regarding their donation request. They are in agreement that a lilac bush can go near the flower bed by the granite bench donated by Takanen's.

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

Old Business:

Sign Retro-Reflectivity – No update.

Culvert Policy review/edit – No update.

Broadband Info – Discussed earlier.

Parking Lot – Chairman Soderling still has had no luck meeting with Nemanich to discuss striping the current lot.

Gazebo/Shade Area – This line item will be kept on agendas until March as a reminder to address this project in the spring.

Retiree Insurance – The full amount of \$150.00 will be paid as a reimbursement starting with December's Monthly Board Meeting.

Employee Drug Testing Policy – Chairman Soderling read the policy regarding drug testing of Road and Bridge full time and temporary employees. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Soderling to adopt the Employee Drug Testing Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Office Computers – Clerk Highland still has not received quotes from Roger's Online. The Board will give Roger until the next meeting to submit a quote on new computers. If no quote(s) are received, the Board will pursue another option.

Supervisor Paris mentioned Norlander Electric has not started the LED lights project at the fire hall or garage yet.

New Business:

Gutters for Hall – It was determined during the election that gutters are needed for the east side of the hall. Soderling and Paris discussed if they should do a quick fix or look for a more permanent option. Chairman Soderling will contact ABC for a quote.

Other Concerns –

Supervisor Paris has contacted Ryan Schall from Titan regarding pricing for grader attachments that were discussed in meeting previously. Schall has said that the prices from September 2019 are still good. Paris was wondering if he should inquire about a lease to purchase option on a walk & roll packer. This way we could use it and see if it is a good choice for the township. Chairman Soderling suggested purchasing a small used one as a trial. Paris will look at what is available on MinBid. He will also be in contact with Foreman Merritt before purchasing any equipment.

Chairman Soderling feels with the rise in Covid-19 cases in St. Louis County, we should move to Zoom meetings. He has his own domain, zoomwithlukes.com, and is willing to use this to run meetings.

Motion by Chairman Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to hold township meetings via zoom at zoomwithlukes.com until further notice.

Discussion- Paris felt the Board should test the system before the next meeting to make sure everyone can log on. There have been issues with other townships in the area holding virtual meetings. It will be considered a quorum and will need to be posted accordingly. The Board will test the zoom system Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Clerk Highland reviewed correspondence with the Board.

- St. Louis County
 - Public Health Emergency Communications (weekly email to clerk)
- SLCAT
 - Minutes, meeting schedule, CARES act info from County (email)
- Minnesota Unemployment – CARES Act coverage

Hall Rentals: Hall closed to public rentals through December per Covid-19

Comments from the Audience:

Richard Freeburg commented that meeting attendance is so small. He questioned is it worth going through Zoom. With the discussion of not everybody has access to internet causes for concern for data usage. Supervisor Paris suggested if the Zoom process is too difficult, we could get the conference call set up through MAT for a minimal fee.

Adjourn: Chairman Soderling adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.



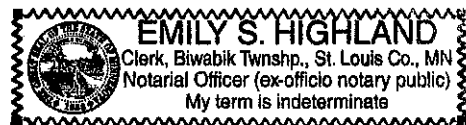
Chairperson:

12-14-20

Date:



Attest by Clerk:



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
TEL: 773-936-3000
WWW.CHICAGO.LIBRARY.EDU