

**Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN**  
**Monday, May 9, 2022**

**Call to Order:** 5:30 PM by Chairman Hautala

Present: Supervisors Hall, Hautala and Paris, Clerk Highland and Treasurer Bluhm  
4 Guests; Tony Nygaard, Nita Larson, Dan Manick, and Kirstie Hall

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited

**Special Agenda Request:** None

**Minutes: Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the April 11, 2022 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Supervisor Hall, no second to approve the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting minutes  
*Discussion* – Supervisor Paris would like to see more explanation in the minutes about the discussion that was had in regards to how the township Board and residents can contact legislators and get laws changed at the State level to put caps in place on appraisal increases. **Tabled**

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Bluhm went over the April Financial Report with the Board.

Opening Balance 04/01/2022	\$ 415,724.60
Receipts	\$ 2,830.94
Disbursements	\$ 33,453.93
Ending Balance 04/30/2022	\$ 385,101.61
Deposits in Transit	\$ - 2,800.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 903.38
Petty Cash	\$ - 100.00
<b>Total Checking Acct.</b>	<b>\$ 383,204.99</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 211,413.94</b>

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

**Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the financial report for April 2022 and file it for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

**Claims:** Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the Board. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve claims as presented for \$22,554.05. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports:**

**Road & Equipment-** Supervisor Paris reported the crew has started grading the roads. There are still spots where the frost is coming out of the ground. Once all the frost is out the plan is to start using the walk and roll packer. The water truck passed DOT last year, but it was advised the brakes would not pass this year. Foreman Merritt is thinking new brakes will cost about \$2,000.00. Willow Lane has been opened. Paris received emails from resident Richard Freeburg concerned about the condition of the roads. All the roads had a tough spring break up. The county had even put out a notice about how terrible the roads were this spring. Freeburg feels the township should put more money towards roads and not focus so much on recreation projects. Paris has made contact with Freeburg and discussed concerns.

**Fire-** 2 calls for April. Written report submitted. Chief Nygaard requested to get a new computer for the fire hall and new wild land gear. He said the prices are rising and currently they are about \$900.00 a set. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to allot \$5,000.00 for wild land gear. Motion carried unanimously. Steve Peterson installed new computers in the office. The Board would like him contacted to see if he is able to provide the same set up.

**First Responders-** Three calls for April. Director Larson reported that RAMS held a discussion period on the issues with rural EMS. It is a state wide problem, not just an area issue. EMSRB was present and explained the decrease in EMS.

Chairman Hautala appreciated that she went. Larson explained there are issues with Lakeland and Biwabik canceling our first responders before we are on scene within the township. Supervisor Paris asked if the Board needs to address this issue higher up. Supervisor Hall agreed and wants to know when you need help, we want to support you as much as possible. Larson is trying to work on this issue alone at the moment.

**Recreation-** Chairman Hautala has received compliments on the basketball court. Clerk Highland is trying to find extra funds to pay for the tennis court resurfacing.

**Cemetery-** The map is still a work in progress. Clerk Highland has been in contact with Joan, she is available. Supervisor Hall will contact the VFW. He will also be in charge of the avenue of flags. Chief Nygaard offered to get some fire fighters to help with placing veteran flags.

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

#### **Old Business:**

Broadband Info – Supervisor Hall reported the provider (CTC) that ran the broadband for Cherry wants at least 70% coverage in the area they offer services. We may have to hold a public input meeting to make sure there is 75% interest in the area. Northeast Service Co-op is still helping with grants. Century Link has run fiber lines through the township, but they do not offer broadband yet. CTC is good at working with the County and States. They are very eager to work on this. Clerk Highland asked what the township's cost is going to be. That would be determined during the meeting, but Hall believes the service will cost customers between 40 – 60 dollars. Chairman Hautala thanked Hall for working on this. He has done good networking and this is very encouraging for the kids in this area. Hall would like to look at holding a meeting in June.

Gazebo/Shade Area– Chairman Hautala thanked Supervisor Paris for getting the shelters on sale. There was discussion on where the shelters should be placed. Hautala had reached out to Northland Integrity Builders asking them to submit a quote to construct the shelters. They submitted a quote for \$18,909.00. This does not include site prep. Hautala feels the Road and Bridge crew could do this with our class five on hand. Business Agent Dan Manick explained the 49ers could do site prep as training. He will look into this. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Hautala to accept the quote from Northland Integrity Builders for \$18,909.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Boiler Issues (Electrical Quotes) – Scott Tyo submitted quotes to replace the outside thermometer and install a surge protector for the boiler. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Hautala to accept both quotes for the boiler project totally \$1,200.00. Motion carried unanimously. Supervisor Hall will contact Luke in regards to refilling the system.

AWARE – Will approve in June.

Brush Dump – Discussion was had about whether or not to allow the brush dump to be opened unattended. Clerk Highland feels this would appease the public that complain about hours and if it gets closed down due to illegal dumping they will realize why we keep it attended. Treasurer Bluhm suggested placing a sign on the gate asking for volunteers or part time workers if the dump gets shut down for bad dumping. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Chairman Hautala to open the brush dump on Mondays and Fridays during Road and Bridge hours. The dump will also be open on Sunday afternoons if an attendant is available.

Volunteers – Discussion on recognition to volunteers who go above and beyond.

Parking lot grant – IRRRB declined our grant application. However, it came over in an informal email. Chairman Hautala will contact Mark Phillips about this issue.

**New Business:**

Other Concerns –

Supervisor Hall was unable to connect to the RAMS meeting via Zoom. He will contact Ida regarding this. Supervisor Paris is upset that the Town Board has very little authority when it comes to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE). He wants the residents to know the Board cares and would like to try to lobby through MAT and RAMS about the high increases to evaluations. Supervisor Hall suggested going to the legislators first.

**Correspondence:** The correspondence was reviewed by the Board. No action taken.

- MN Revenue – Mineral Hearing
- RAMS – Potential Broadband Projects
- Richard Freeburg – Emails to Supervisor Paris concerning roads
- IRRRB – Parking lot email
- Northland Integrity Builders - Quote

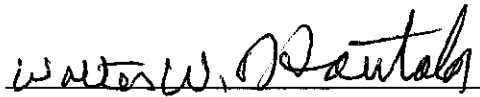
**Hall Rentals:**

- Christi Sickel – Saturday, June 4, 2022
- Kris Marafioti – Sunday, June 5, 2022
- Rebecca Falstrom – Saturday, June 11, 2022
- Lori Eckman – Sunday, June 12, 2022
- Dawn Jarvela – Saturday, June 18, 2022
- Jennifer Krenz – Saturday, June 25, 2022

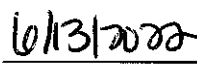
**Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve hall rentals. Motion carried unanimously.

**Comments from the Audience:** None

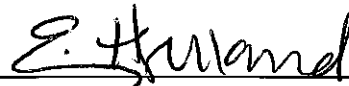
**Adjourn:** Chairman Hautala adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.



Chairperson:



Date:



Attest by Clerk: