

Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, June 13, 2022

Call to Order: 5:35 PM by Chairman Hautala
Present: Supervisors Hall, Hautala and Paris, Clerk Highland and Treasurer Bluhm
6 Guests; Kirstie Hall, Chuck & Nita Larson, Ray & Sheryl Erickson, and Erik Erie (at 7:00 PM)

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Special Agenda Request:

Cherie Hotchkiss – Website concerns. Hotchkiss was not present for the meeting.
Ray and Sheryl Erickson – Campground permit concerns. St. Louis County held a public hearing on accepting or denying a campground permit that would be on Cedar Island Lake. There have been many rumors about this project. Erickson’s main concern is a public access, allowing 50 campsites, and changing the property to commercial. Supervisor Paris reviewed the application the township received and the permit requested a cabin and two tent sites. The township did not think that permit request seemed excessive and ultimately assumed it was for their own personal use for extended family. Erickson’s main concern is with the county. They did not allow comments during the hearing nor did they inform everyone on the lake about it. There is no room on the lake for a public access, which was also part of the rumor they heard. Paris believes the public access part of the permit is in regards to road access to the campsite not lake access. If lake access was granted it would most likely be for kayaks and other small water craft. Supervisor Hall explained if they were to put a public lake access in the DNR would have to get involved. Paris reassured the Erickson’s that if the county upped the original permit request to 50 sites, the township will object. Mrs. Erickson believes Asuma’s intent is harmless, just concerned the county is approving a blanket coverage and the lake will be affected in the future if the property is sold. Chairman Hautala reiterated that the Board felt the project was small and agreed that area residents should have been notified. The county should have answers to the conditions of use for the permit. Clerk Highland should receive a letter about the outcome of the hearing soon. After all discussion Mr. Erickson agreed what the application says is different than the rumors about what the county has approved and or received. The Board will review the letter from the hearing when it comes.

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the 2022 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Board Meeting minutes with the following discussion about them:
Supervisor Paris feels it isn’t fair that the township is just a buffer between the taxpayer and Assessor. We discussed lowering the entire township .999% (the maximum change allowed by the state) with the Assessor. He explained if we did so, the county/state would increase it more than .999% across the board to re-coup their loss the following year.
Supervisor Hall feels the township can basically only change what the assessor discovered in error before the meeting and makes recommendations during the meeting. **Motion** carried unanimously.
Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Hautala to approve the May 9, 2022 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Opening Balance 05/01/2022	\$ 385,101.61
Receipts	\$ 3,211.01
Disbursements	\$ 43,364.83
Ending Balance 05/31/2022	\$ 344,947.79

Deposits in Transit	\$ - 0.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 871.38
Petty Cash	<u>\$ - 100.00</u>
Total Checking Acct.	\$ 345,719.17
Total Investments	\$ 211,419.41

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

Motion by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the financial report for May 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 \$19,506.43. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road & Equipment- Supervisor Paris reported the old loader seal is repaired. The new loader is still waiting for a tire. We have received two loads of dust control. Grading with the walk and roll has begun. Work has been done on Balsam Lane, removing silt, adding class 5, and ditching. Future road projects include changing some culverts on Elm and Maple. The company we were going to start using for culverts has moved. This will need to be looked into before purchasing any. Foreman Merritt would like to start roadside mowing and DOTs will happen soon. Clerk Highland reported Merritt has been checking in on the budget. The loader needs cutting edges. This should cost about \$1,000.00 **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Hautala to purchase cutting edges for the loader. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire- Written report submitted. The department still needs a computer. Clerk Highland has been trying to contact Steve Peterson.

First Responders- Six calls for May. Director Larson is still working on new hires and corresponding paperwork.

Recreation- Volunteer positions for the Fourth of July were discussed. It was decided there would be no bounce house, drop tank, and saw dust pile. Horse shoes will be set up and if there is a volunteer available the day of they can run them. An ad will be placed in the shopper and Joan will be contacted to do grocery shopping. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Hautala to allocate \$1,400.00 for the Fourth of July. Motion carried unanimously.

Cemetery- The map is still a work in progress. The office is still waiting for receipts to submit the Memorial Day financial report. There was discussion about the call list used during the service. Clerk Highland will send a PDF of the list to Supervisor Hall and he will forward it on so they have it earlier.

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) is working on a cost analysis on coming down Hwy 135, Hwy 4, and Hwy 20 creating a triangle around our area. The provider will be submitting a grant and we will have to approve the amount via resolution. CTC is still willing to do a meeting with

residents. Chairman Hautala asked when the residents should get involved. Hall is assuming by next meeting.

Gazebo/Shade Area– Clerk Highland explained the 49ers are unable to do training here due to lack of staff. Chairman Hautala wants to get the site prep done as soon as possible. He would like to see the temporary employees do this job if possible. For safety reasons, after the areas are prepped they should be fenced. Supervisor Paris will relay this information to the road and bridge department. He would like to make one of the gazebos handicapped accessible from the parking lot.

Boiler Issues – Approve Plumbing is researching the best option for the leak issue. **Tabled**

AWAIR – **Tabled**

New Business:

Donation Resolutions 2022 – 04 & 05 – **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve Resolution 2022 – 04 accepting a \$200.00 donation for the cemetery beautification fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve Resolution 2022 – 05 accepting a \$100.00 donation for Memorial Day. Motion carried unanimously.

MATIT Property Valuation Report – The Board reviewed the property valuation report. They decided to accept the replacement cost policy. This will also add the skate shack and dust control building to the policy. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to adopt Resolution 2022 – 06 accepting the replacement cost policy. Motion carried unanimously.

ECC Raffle Request – The Country Club is planning on doing a raffle again this year during the Fourth of July. The state is now requiring them to get approval at the local level to hold the raffle. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Chairman Hautala to approve the gambling permit for Eshquaguma Country Club. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Safety Payroll – Clerk Highland requested approval for the public safety bi-annual payroll. It will be created this week. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the Public Safety Payroll for June 15, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Request to Attend Meetings – The Board agrees this would be a good idea to have sheriff presence at meeting.

Garbage Dumpster – People have been dumping construction supplies in our dumpster. Clerk Highland asked if we can lock the dumpster. She will put a key on hall rental keys for it. She has also requested a bill from Leon.

Other Concerns – None

Correspondence: The correspondence was reviewed by the Board. Discussion about frontline worker pay was had. No action taken.

- St. Louis County
 - Chloride bid

- Public Hearing – Asuma campground request
- Natural Disaster – Use survey
- CDBG 2022 Income guidelines
- Ordinance 62 Draft - Chronic Wasting Disease
- Invitation to celebrate and effective end to Veteran homelessness
- RAMS
 - Special Session
 - Mtg and Agenda
 - June Broadband Meeting Notice
- Local 49 – Seniority List
- Matthew Kelley – Sheriff attendance request
- MAT
 - Frontline Workers pay from ARPA
 - Membership cards
 - Property Valuation
- MN State Demographic – Twp population

Hall Rentals:

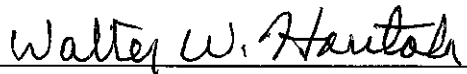
- Dominique Little – Sunday, June 26, 2022
- Nicole Depew – Sunday, July 10, 2022

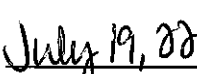
Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve hall rentals. Motion carried unanimously.

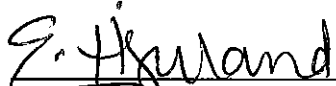
Comments from the Audience:

Erik Erie – Thanked the Board for professionally running meetings and is thankful for the work that has been done on Balsam Lane. He addressed the campground rumors. By speaking with Mark Lindhorst he has learned that the notification of permits only goes to those living within a quarter mile of request and notice of public hearings are only posted in Duluth News Tribune, as that is the County’s legal paper. The approved permit request was for one cabin and two tent sites. Erie suggested maybe holding a meeting here at the township with Supervisors, Asuma’s, and Cedar Island Lake residents to clear the air of rumors and find out true intent. Supervisor Paris thanked Erie for sharing his findings with the Board. He will contact Commissioner McDonald regarding the legal paper being Duluth News Tribune. He also explained the Town Board is waiting for correspondence from the county regarding the results of the public hearing.

Adjourn: Chairman Hautala adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.


 Chairperson: _____


 Date: _____


 Attest by Clerk: _____