

Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, October 17, 2022

Call to Order: 5:33 PM by Chairman Hautala
Present: Supervisors Hall, Hautala and Paris, Clerk Highland
3 Guests; Kirstie Hall, Chuck & Nita Larson
Absent: Treasurer Bluhm

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Special Agenda Request: None

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the September 19, 2022 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Clerk Highland went over the September Financial Report with the Board.

Opening Balance 09/01/2022	\$ 461,236.15
Receipts	\$ 26,904.78
Disbursements	\$ 31,262.85
Ending Balance 09/30/2022	\$ 456,878.08
Deposits in Transit	\$ - 5,900.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 3,787.60
Petty Cash	\$ - 100.00
Total Checking Acct.	\$ 454,665.68
Total Investments	\$ 211,657.03

The Clerk and Treasurer are in balance with the bank.

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

Clerk Highland said they will discuss the new CD at the November meeting since the transaction happened in October.

Claims: Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the Board, noting that Approve Plumbing's invoice is higher than the estimate because seven valves were purchased and it was unknown at the time of estimate how many would need to be purchased. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve claims as presented for \$9,553.47. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road & Equipment- The crew is getting equipment winterized and winter prepped. Temporary help has come in and helped with a couple of projects. Eight hour shifts will begin on Monday, October 31. Supervisor Paris reported Jacobsen is hoping to crush through the fall. If this happens, Paris would like to get some class 5 from there if possible. There have been some complaints about the part time employees for not trimming, messing around on the roads, not being at the brush dump during inclement weather (there is a shelter for this purpose), and leaving tools/equipment broken. The Board discussed making a policy of hiring residents for part time employment. No action taken at this time. A request for no shooting signs in the sand pit was made. Paris received a quote from Cloquet to replace the '99 truck box for \$5,000.00. Hancock Fabrications in Angora will also be asked.

Fire- No Report. At the legal seminar, Supervisor Paris talked to Couri & Ruppe about the fire department redistricting with McKinley. Attorney Ruppe suggested setting up a zoom conference with him so the whole Board can address and be addressed of the process to legally redistrict if we so decided to move forward with it. Supervisor Hall feels there is no urgency as long as there is continued forward motion. Chairman Hautala is concerned about City of McKinley's PERA, that we should not have to pay for it. He also, really wants to know what do we gain by absorbing another fire department especially since it has been stated that McKinley fighters would not come to Township calls. Paris is

concerned about debt, if they have any, does it become ours? Will the city honor their original plea and cover utilities in the department. EMR Director Larson feels it would be a good collaboration. It would open up many more grant options and the first responders could respond to medical calls there. Supervisor Paris will offer a meeting time of Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 10:00 AM to the attorneys. If this time works for them Clerk Highland will post the meeting accordingly.

First Responders- June and July had five calls each. August had nine calls and September had seven calls. Director Larson also reported we are over 60 calls for year. She has been contacted by a Lakeland first responder that lives on Evergreen Road requesting to join our first responders. She stated she will not foster any animosity between the two departments and if it were to start she would nip it right away. The new Zoll AEDs will match the Hoyt Lakes and Virginia ambulance set ups. Larson is considering adding Narcan to the first responder bags. There has been an increase in overdose calls in the area. A bill for annual dues to the Arrowhead EMS Association was submitted. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the annual dues to the Arrowhead EMS Association for \$45.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation- The Halloween party will be on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 5 – 7 PM. An ad will be ran in the East Range Times. Chairman Hautala will pick up pizzas. Larson’s will work in the kitchen. Joan is not available to help this year.

The tennis nets will need to be taken down for the season.

Cemetery- The Schaeffbauer family thanks the Board for letting them bury a grandchild on top of Johanna.

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

Old Business:

Broadband Info – No update. Supervisor Hall mentioned MediaCom is waiting on a grant approval/denial to move into our area.

Gazebo/Shade Area– Forms and rebar are in place. They plan to pour the slabs on Thursday. Duluth Ready Mix will need our ST3. Supervisor Paris wants to make sure the contractors know to cover the seam of the adjoining roofs.

Parking Lot – Chairman Hautala is hoping Mesabi Bituminous will be able to get the site prep done yet this year.

Boiler Issues – The boiler was holding pressure and then at the start of the meeting it was determined that the boiler was no longer holding pressure. Approve Plumbing has been notified of this.

Trailer Insurance – Clerk Highland learned that trailers are not covered as attachments. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to add insurance to the fire department’s 6x6 trailer. Motion carried unanimously. We will keep liability insurance on the water truck.

New Business:

Pay Equity – Clerk Highland has completed the pay equity report that is due every three years. **Motion** by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Chairman Hautala to accept the pay equity report and submit it to the state. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Supervisor Hall	Aye
Chairman Hautala	Aye
Supervisor Paris	Nay (Does not agree with pay equity, especially with such a small establishment)

Election Judge Payroll – **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the Election Judge Payroll for the November General Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Cemetery Tree Removal Quote – There was some confusion on if the quote submitted also included cutting the tree down or just stump removal. There was discussion the Glen Berts may want the trees for his saw mill. Clerk Highland noted she will need liability insurance from him if so. **Tabled**

FY23 Section 569 Northeastern Minnesota Environmental Infrastructure Program Project Funding – N/A we have our application in for 2023 funding already.

Other Concerns –

Supervisor Paris would like to check with the Road and Bridge crew to see if they were granted frontline worker pay or not. If not, he would like to see if there is enough in the budget to compensate them for it. Chairman Hautala mentioned he will not be present at the next Board meeting on November 14, 2022.

Correspondence: The correspondence was reviewed by the Board.

- St. Louis County
 - Public Hearing on Ordinance 62
 - Final Township Levy Certification
- Approve Plumbing – Project Update
- MATIT - Multiple Insurance Updates
- LCP – Test Dual Fuel system
- MAT – Training Flyer
- Compass Minerals – Order letter
- MBFTE – Training reimbursement award letter (\$5,700.00)
- Emails
 - Grant funding
 - Red Rock price sheet (culverts)

Clerk Highland asked if culverts will get ordered now that we know how much they cost. She would like to see the budget used accordingly. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to purchase culverts to use up the 2022 culvert budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Hall Rentals:

- Pot Luck 1st Wednesday of every month @ Noon
- Barb Buttler – Saturday, November 12, 2022

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

Comments from the Audience: None

Adjourn: **Motion** by Supervisor Hall to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hautala adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

Walter W. Hautala
Chairperson:

11/14/2022 E. Highland
Date: Attest by Clerk:

