

Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, March 13, 2023

Call to Order: 5:35 PM by Chairman Hautala
Present: Supervisors Hall, Hautala, and Paris, Clerk Highland, and Treasurer Bluhm
3 Guests; Chuck Larson, Kirstie Hall, and Tony Nygaard,

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Special Agenda Request: None

Minutes: **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to approve the February 13, 2023 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Opening Balance 02/01/2023	\$ 446,552.95
Receipts	\$ 66,207.87
Disbursements	\$ 42,177.38
Ending Balance 02/28/2023	\$ 470,583.44
Deposits in Transit	\$ - 100.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 3,164.00
Petty Cash	\$ - 100.00
Total Checking Acct.	\$ 473,547.77
Total Investments	\$ 196,961.00

Motion by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to approve the financial report for February 2023 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 \$15,067.05. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road & Equipment- The crew is keeping up with snow storms. The state is requesting 2023 salt orders. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to order 25 tons of salt via end dump delivery. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire- One call for February. New air bottles have come however, they came with the wrong valves. MES has instructed us to hold their bill until the problem is remedied. New helmets have been ordered. Calibration gas for the four gas monitor is needed. Jaymes Cuff has started as the Assistant Chief. Supervisor Hall reported Couri and Ruppe has been emailed the McKinley fire contract outline.

First Responders- Chuck Larson reported January had four calls and February had five calls.

Recreation- Chairman Hautala asked for Board suggestions on placing a volleyball court within the rink. Supervisor Hall feels sand will need to be hauled. There was discussion on whether the polls should be augured in or placed on tires for portable reasons between seasons. Clerk Highland added we will need to make sure we still have the volleyball court supplies.

Cemetery- Supervisor Hall has made contact with North Country Tree Removal Services. They are in the process of getting a new software system and will submit a quote after it is installed.

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

Old Business:

Broadband Info – Supervisor Hall has joined a group to try and advocate for underserved communities. He hopes that CTC will still submit a grant for providing coverage in this area. It is unknown if Mediacom has started construction in this area. Supervisor Paris reported Mediacom plans on covering 30 miles within the township starting late summer, early fall, finishing in 2024. Hall has a coverage map and requested to have enough copies made for residents at the Annual Meeting.

Parking Lot – Project should begin this Spring. The contract has been signed.

Boiler Issues – Approve Plumbing is set to replace the boiler later this month. Half down payment has been made. Hometown Electric disconnected the power. They will connect the new boiler as well.

Cemetery Tree Removal Quote – Discussed earlier.

Dumpster – Supervisor Hall has found plastic dumpsters online. He send the link to the other supervisors so they can review before the next meeting and decided on the best option for our township needs.

Senator Money Update – Dick Grabko requested the Town Board to set Benchmark Engineering as the township's engineer. They have been working on plans for remodeling/adding onto the fire hall. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hall to acknowledge Benchmark Engineering as the township's engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

CRD submitted a contract to continue working on receiving the grant money from the governors.

Motion by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Chairman Hautala to accept the Community Resource Development agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

2024 Budget and Levy – Chairman Hautala started out the discussion explaining Town of White raises their levy every year. A lot of discussion was had with all Board members about possibly reducing the Road and Bridge budget to avoid a levy increase. Ultimately, it was figured that we have obligations to the residents to continue maintaining the roads and we are unable to swing budget cuts to dust control, fuel, gravel, and culverts. The Board reviewed increase impact breakdowns Clerk Highland received from the county. Supervisor Hall will propose the increase options at the annual meeting. He will explain an increase to \$400,000.00 will be about 4.6% per property and an increase to \$365,000.00 will be about 1.8% per property.

New Business:

MAT (Road aid legislation request) – The Board feels a general email request can be sent to the legislation.

Other Concerns –

Regarding budget and levy discussion, Chairman Hautala explained in the past we had Mesabi Bituminous belly dump gravel on the roads and we would follow with the grader. He thinks that would be a good use and explanation of the gravel budget.

Clerk Highland explained the one-ton was in a fender bender accident. No damage was incurred to our vehicle. She has already sent this to MATIT.

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

- RAMS – Misc Emails
- CPV – Road Salt Order Request
- MAT – Misc Emails
- St. Louis County
 - Tax Forfeiture – Classification change

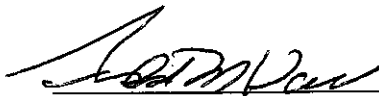
Hall Rentals:

- Pot Luck 1st Wednesday of every month @ Noon
- Julie Bruun – Saturday, March 25, 2023
- Marie Elg – Saturday, April 22, 2023
- Highland – Saturday, April 29, 2023

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

Comments from the Audience: None

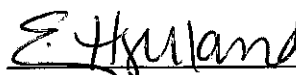
Adjourn: Motion by Chairman Hautala to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hautala adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.



Chairperson:

4/10/2023

Date:



Attest by Clerk:

