

Biwabik Township Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Biwabik Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN
Monday, August 14, 2023

Call to Order: 5:32 PM by Chairman Hall

Present: Supervisors Hall, Hautala, and Paris, Clerk Highland, and Treasurer Bluhm
3 Guests; Chuck & Nita Larson, and Caroline Soyring

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Special Agenda Request: None

Minutes: Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the July 10, 2023 Monthly Board Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the July 27, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Opening Balance 07/01/2023	\$ 304,749.15
Receipts	\$ 213,897.89
Disbursements	\$ 50,049.75
Ending Balance 07/31/2023	\$ 468,597.29
Deposits in Transit	\$ - 1,350.00
Outstanding Checks	\$ 3,150.13
Petty Cash	\$ - <u>100.00</u>
Total Checking Acct.	\$ 470,397.42
Total Investments	\$ 197,560.12

Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve the July 2023 Financial report and file it for audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims: Clerk Highland reviewed the claims with the Board. She noted that the parking lot bill for \$30,000.00 is on the list along with Benchmark for engineering for the Fire Hall project. IRRRB will reimburse the township \$15,000.00 for the parking lot grant. There was discussion about the Federal Senator Grant money covering the township's portion of the parking lot. Clerk Highland will make a program code to track payments that will eventually be covered by the Federal Grant. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to approve claims as presented for \$40,187.93. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Road & Equipment- Foreman Merritt submitted a written report. The Willow Lane stop sign has been damaged and needs to be replaced. This adjoins a County highway so the county will need to be contacted for replacement. There is an issue with people using Camp Seigle as a turn around. It was been requested that we add a no turn around sign before the cabins heading towards camp. Hydraulic Oil is needed and Merritt will order a 55 gallon drum. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to order hydraulic oil from Tri-Tec. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire- No report. Supervisor Paris reported that measurements for the fire hall have been taken.

McKinley Collaboration: No update

First Responders- Director Larson reported one call for June and three calls for July. Larson has been talking with Assistant Chief Cuff about crossover trainings. Radio training is a good example. Cuff would like to make a mandatory meeting held between the two departments to get all firefighters and EMRs on the same page of working together as one department. Supervisor Paris would like to see a letter drafted beforehand to request this meeting. An email from City of Biwabik was received regarding issues between the departments. Larson has asked the responders to document issues on scene. We cannot act on anything that isn't documented. If a call is in our township it is our

scene. If the City shows up first, they handle the scene until township personnel arrives and then they are to hand the scene off to the township. Larson would like to see our responders become more aggressive on taking over scenes. Our patients can't afford squabbles between departments.

Shari Elg now lives in the township and is eligible for joining the EMRs. Fire Assistant Chief Cuff is in the EMR class, but he lives in Eveleth. He may not be able to join the first responders because of location.

Recreation- Chairman Hautala figures it is best to forget about the volley ball set up for this year. The tennis courts are not in as bad of shape as originally thought. We missed the July grant opportunity because we didn't have a quote to submit. The grant application process will open again for January. By then we should have two different quotes to go by; a complete overhaul or an underlayment/new sealant option. Both quotes should be coming from Mesabi Bituminous. There was discussion about the Halloween party. It was decided that funds could be release early for it. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to allot \$500.00 for the 2023 Halloween Party. Motion carried unanimously.

Cemetery- Clerk Highland reported there have been multiple burials and stone placements. Supervisor Hautala would like to see the flower box at the end of the cemetery road leveled. The old flower box on highway four will be removed as it is no longer maintained.

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

Old Business:

Broadband Info – MAT sent out a save the date email regarding Broadband connectivity in our state. Clerk Highland will forward the email to Chairman Hall.

Parking Lot – A quote to seal coat and striping the parking lot came in at \$12,500.00 from Mesabi Bituminous. It will need to be acted on sooner rather than later if we would like the project completed before winter. Chairman Hall questioned if this portion of the project can be covered under the Senator grant. The claim will be coded for the parking lot project and we will see at the time of payments. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris seconded by Supervisor Hautala to accept the quote from Mesabi Bituminous for \$12,500.00 to have the parking lot seal coated and striped. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about getting black dirt for the edge of the parking lot and around the picnic shelters. Supervisor Hautala would deliver the black dirt at no cost if the township purchases material through him. Curb stops will also need to be purchased to keep people off the black dirt and grass seeded area. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Chairman Hall to purchase two loads of black dirt up to \$750.00. Motion carried upon the following vote:

Chairman Hall	Aye
Supervisor Hautala	Abstain – Conflict of interest
Supervisor Paris	Aye

Motion by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to purchase 15 curb stops from Seppi Bros for \$36 each. Motion carried unanimously.

Boiler Issues – Chairman Hall has contacted Scott Tyo from Brimson Electric. His schedule is out till September, but he will try to stop as he is able.

Senator Money Update – Erik from DSGW will be submitting more paperwork to USDA within the next two weeks. Clerk Highland and Chief Nygaard are continuing to work on updating the SAMS account. Clerk Highland suggested getting someone from Stauber's office involved since we are having difficulty verifying the township ourselves. Highland will email Chairman Hall our issues and he will make contact to Stauber's office.

New Business:

Town of White Crushing – Biwabik Township was invited to purchase class 5 from the Town of White (TOW) pit when they crush in 2024. Supervisor Hautala asked if the price TOW gave includes material and crushing or is the county only charging \$3.80 per ton for crushing only. In the past the township has been charged for material after the fact. We

purchase our class 5 by the yard. Supervisor Paris worked on the price conversion and figured the only way to move forward on this would be if the cost of material was \$2.70 per ton. **Motion** by Supervisor Hautala seconded by Chairman Hall to allow Supervisor Paris to contact Town of White and if the price per yard is \$7.50 or less we will order \$10,000.00 worth. Motion carried unanimously.

Training for Deputy Clerk– Clerk Highland announced she is going to start training the Deputy Clerk with hopes that she will run for Clerk in 2026. The idea behind the early training is that the Deputy would be fully trained and therefore quite qualified for the position. Clerk Highland would stay on as Deputy to be used as needed.

MDA Noxious Weeds grant available – Chairman Hall reported to the Board that there are noxious weed grants available for eradicating noxious weeds. Discussion lead to realizing there isn't much of a money trail to use to request the grant. We would not be able to submit past purchases for the grant i.e. road side mower.

Radtke Building Repair Quote – Supervisor Hautala met with Joe Radtke and showed him the damaged dust control building. He asked Northland Integrity Builders to look at it too while they were working on the picnic shelters. Supervisor Paris has met with Morton in the past. We have not had contact from previous contractors and the building really needs to be fixed. Radtke submitted a quote for \$2,500.00. Budget discussion was had and it was figured the best thing to do is to move money from 'township grounds – other equipment' to 'township grounds – building and structures' to pay for this project. **Motion** by Supervisor Paris, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to move \$5,000.00 from township grounds – other equipment to township grounds – building and structures and approve the quote from Radtke Woodworks for \$2,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 Local Road Improvement Grant – Chairman Hall read an email regarding grants available for gravel road improvements. Supervisor Hautala added that there are webinars available through MAT to explain the process. Supervisor Paris will contact Alan Johnson at Benchmark Engineering for more clarification about what the grants will cover i.e. class 5 lifts or complete rebuild.

Youth in Action donation request – Per approval at the 2023 Annual Meeting **Motion** by Chairman Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to support two students to attend the Youth in Action Conference. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023-04 – Chairman Hall read the resolution adopting the 2023 Levy. **Motion** by Chairman Hall, seconded by Supervisor Paris to accept and set the Township Levy at \$342,000.00 for 2023, payable in 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Concerns –

The County Sheriff's department noted that there is confusion about 911 signs on Vermilion Trail for Mickleson Road residents. **Motion** by Chairman Hall, seconded by Supervisor Hautala to buy new 911 signs and place them accordingly on Mickleson Road. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- RAMS – Misc Emails
- Dick Grabko – Emails regarding grant
- MAT – Misc Emails
- St. Louis County
 - Misc Emails
 - 2023 Levy Certificate
- Town of White – Crushing Email
- John Upton – Campaign Introduction Letter
- City of Biwabik – 911/EMR email

Hall Rentals:

- Nelson Family – Monday, September 4, 2023

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

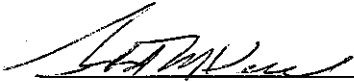
Comments from the Audience:

Caroline Soyring told the Board the Gilbert Police have no authority to patrol within the township on four wheelers. Please ask them to leave. The County Sheriff patrols the our area. Gilbert only has authority if they are in hot pursuit. We aren't paying them to be here. There is no formal agreement with the city for coverage in our area.

Chairman Hall explained they are supposed to be monitoring the OHV park and making sure users are staying on the trail. There were ATVs that were trespassing.

Supervisor Paris explained gratuitous work is appreciated. I want police presence if I need it and I don't care who it is. Soyring rebutted they should be staying within city limits or the park itself. They should not be writing tickets or tracking residents down.

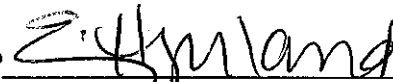
Adjourn: Motion by Supervisor Hautala to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.



Chairperson:

9/21/2023

Date:



Attest by Clerk: