

**ECKLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2014**

Present: Dennis Zeto, Don Hazeman, Mel Milender, Ervin Blom, Cory Wilson, Mary Lou Milender, and Sandy Burgoon.

Visitors present: Thore Thorson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting were read. Motion by Ervin Blom, seconded by Cory Wilson to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2013 was read.

Beginning Balance:	\$ 121,928.28	General Savings:	\$ 1,006.58
Receipts:	\$ 69,716.61	Legal Fees Savings:	\$ 332.63
Disbursements:	\$ 4,738.98	Total of CD's	\$226,604.11
Ending Balance:	\$ 186,905.91		

Motion by Don Hazeman, seconded by Mel Milender to accept the Treasurer's Report. Subject to audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills presented: Checks #4435 through #4447 in the amount of \$5,948.70 were approved for payment. Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Don Hazeman to pay the bills as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Joe Skerick was invited to attend the meeting tonight to explain to the Town Board why our assessment fee has increased so much from last year. We normally experience around a 3% increase, however from 2013 to 2014 it was a 16% increase and we were not budgeted for that much of an increase. Joe explained to us that the previous assessor did not update for each parcel that had been created in Eckles Township for at least the last five years. He estimates that there are about 150 parcels on this list. So basically this is a catch up for the parcels we have now.

Joe also explained that when the county receives a cost of living increase we can expect an increase in the township charges.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Cory Wilson to have each board member review the downloaded sample of a Snow Removal Policy from Minnesota Association of Townships before we pass a resolution to adopt a policy.

Cory Wilson shared the letter he wrote to Steve Prince regarding the material he has placed in the ditches of the road right-of-way on both the north and south sides of his driveway entering Eckles Road.

Cory also informed the board that a mailbox had been hit by John Schocker while snowplowing. It is the responsibility of the contractor to replace mailboxes that are destroyed while plowing.

Mel Milender informed the board that Bemidji Township is attempting to drag the Rural Fire Association into its dispute with the City of Bemidji. Bemidji Township is involved in an annexation dispute with the City of Bemidji.

Dr. Hess, from the School District has been contacting all the non-profits and meeting with local pastors in opposition to the funding proposal for fire protection. John Persell has indicated he will carry the bill when we are ready to proceed.

Don Hazeman informed the board there will be a meeting on Feb. 10, 2014 in the County Board Room regarding weed control. Don will attend this meeting and bring back information to the board.

Mel Milender informed the board that MAT along with several others is pushing to raise the gas tax. It is the only money that is constitutionally guaranteed to the townships. It is allocated by a formula. He is still working on the food handling situation so we can be treated the same as the churches.

The budget meeting is scheduled for Wed. Jan. 29th at 7:30 p.m. at the Eckles Community Center. The Board of Audit will be held on Feb. 18th at 6:30 p.m. before our regularly scheduled meeting.

Motion by Don Hazeman, seconded by Mel Milender to adjourn the meeting Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender
Township Clerk

Dennis Zeto
Chairman