

ECKLES TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – November 19, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Don Hazeman at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors Don Hazeman, Mel Milender, Darren Bumgardner, Cory Wilson, treasurer, Deb Larson, clerk, Colleen Oestreich were present.

Others present: John Schocker, Dale Wilson, Shane Foley, Chris Gilbertson

Agenda – Added 7b-Draft Comprehensive Plan, 8c Hunting Safety in Community, 9e Marijuana, move item 5b3 to closed session. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Milender to approve agenda with changes. M/C

Community Center – Sup. Hazeman announced the center uses a camera inside the building.

Consent Agenda – 10/8/24 minutes from regular board meeting, Claims 6779-6792 = \$69,931.52; payroll 6793 - Motion by Sup. Milender, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve the minutes and pay the claims. M/C

Beltrami County Forester, Shane Foley – Shane introduced himself to the board. He's worked 8 years for Beltrami County and has a degree in forestry. Several topics of mutual concern were discussed including: shooting sports facility and tree cutting plans; timber sales; Mayflower Rd – boulders in ROW to control access; trail signage in ditch & potential safety issue; buffer strips on timber sales & effect on roads.

Discussed the 33' ROW on S end of Horse camp and potential of Eckles Township taking it over and maintaining it as a minimum maintenance road to Scribner Rd.

Recent issue of Tax Forfeited Property – Parcel #12.00891.00. ETB sent a letter to county opposing the sale on 10/18/24. Due to a Supreme Court ruling, the county may be forced to sell this property. Sup. Milender will follow-up to seek alternative option.

Timber sale notices – Sup. Wilson and Sup. Bumgardner will request to be added to the mailing lists.

2024 General Election – Eckles Township initially had 1,293 registered voters and 1,120 voted. In future, may need to expand to 3 poll pads to meet township growth. Other recommendations from community include posting poll hours on digital and outside board along with a sample ballot.

2024 ARPA report has been submitted by Sup. Milender. Eckles Township will need to complete one more report in 2025 to complete the grant administration requirements.

Treasurers Report – Deb Larson provided a status summary of accounts. Board discussed options for credit card/debit card and potential risk.

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BATO Meeting – held on 10/29/24. Passed motion to increase meetings to 3x/yr with the summer meeting being held in the Blackduck/Kelliher area. Headwaters Regional Development Commission presented information on services provided including comprehensive planning and zoning.

Eckles Draft Comprehensive Plan – Sup. Milender outlined a path forward. He would work with Freeberg/Grund to create 4-5 maps; roads, developments, ground water flood areas, potential developments, public lands. Hold a public hearing in Jan/Feb and vote on the document at the annual meeting in March. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve steps outlined above. M/C

Road Report – Sup. Wilson summarized recent activity including grading, tree cutting, signage installation on Monte Plata. He ordered more signs.

Access driveway on Scribner Rd was installed by Sam and approved by Sup. Bumgardner and Sup. Wilson.

Contractor Schocker will work on brushing needs identified during the road tour.

Rural Fire – Sup. Milender provided a summary. Next special meeting will be held on 12/16/24 with following topics: new contract with city, by-laws which change to meeting 6x/yr vs 4x, meeting reimbursement shift to sponsor township, set levy for 2026.

Hunting Safety – Sup. Melinder will invite DNR (Dan Stark) to ETB December meeting to discuss options available.

Eckles Township Roads – Beltrami County listed and estimated 46.54 miles of roads and 1.58 miles of minimum maintenance roads maintained by Eckles Township. Board reviewed list and noted edits needed. Sup. Bumgardner will follow-up.

Meetings/Mail Review

- Eckles Township Board Meeting – 12/10/24 @ 7 pm, Eckles Community Center
- MAT Annual Conference – 12/13-14/2024, St Cloud; BATO will provide up to \$200 in reimbursement; Sup. Hazeman plans to attend
- 2025 Township Day at the Capitol – 1/27/25; St Paul; Motion by Sup. Milender, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve payment of mileage and lodging. M/C
- Marijuana – MN is developing rollout of the legalization of marijuana. Leadership has changed and the Planning Commission has been tasked with local rollout. Beltrami County has decided upon no greater than 4 businesses. City of Bemidji has decided to opt out. Townships can opt out by passing a resolution. MAT has a draft resolution to consider.

Board closed meeting at 9:15 pm to discuss personnel issue. Meeting reconvened at 9:45 pm.

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Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Milender to change the monthly deadline for invoices to Monday – week before the board meeting. M/C

Board will meet again at 6:30 pm on 12/10/24 to discuss personnel issue.

Adjourn – Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Milender to adjourn at 9:55 pm. M/C

Colleen Oestreich, Clerk

Don Hazeman, Chairman