

ECKLES TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – December 10, 2024

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Don Hazeman at 6:35 pm. Supervisors Don Hazeman, Mel Milender, Beth Hendricks, Darren Bumgardner, Cory Wilson, treasurer, Deb Larson, clerk, Colleen Oestreich were present.

Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to recess into a closed session with supervisors. M/C Meeting reconvened at 7:10 pm.

Sup. Hazeman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others present: John Schocker, Paul Cronemiller, Gary Coen

Agenda – Added 7c comprehensive plan map review, 8d cannabis resolution, 8e sick leave, 8f treasurer computer issues, 9d community center update. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Hendricks to approve agenda with changes. M/C

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

Consent Agenda – 11/19/24 minutes from regular board meeting, Claims 6799-6805, EFT 1.1.25 = \$38,090.85; payroll 6806 - Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve the minutes and pay the claims. M/C

DNR Representative – will invite to board meeting in January to discuss wildlife refuge options.

Staff Duties & CTAS Chart of Accounts – Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Hazeman to hold a work session on 1/6/25 at 6:00 pm to define job descriptions and make edits to chart of accounts. M/C

Treasurers Report – Deb Larson provided a status summary of accounts. There is an issue with the 2021 submission of the 941. Funds had been received by the IRS but supporting documentation is in question. CD will mature soon & Treasurer Larson will canvass local investment options available & present at January meeting.

Outstanding Muller Invoice – Sup. Bumgardner will send email contact information to clerk for follow-up.

Eckles Township Roads –Sup. Bumgardner will follow-up with list sent out by County.

Eckles Draft Comprehensive Plan – Sup. Milender showed the draft map for review. Board plans to hold a public hearing in January and present the document at the annual meeting in March.

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2024 Lammers LGU – Clerk Oestreich worked with Contractor Schocker to prorate work completed on Grant Creek. Maintenance gravel cost still needs to be determined. Sup. Wilson will follow-up with DEW to determine cost.

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, set levy for 2026 & budget 2025.

Road Report – Sup. Wilson summarized recent activity including that the signs ordered are in. Installed a weight restriction sign on Eckles and the stop sign on Balsam was damaged & will be replaced in the spring. Board discussed spring weight restrictions and benefits for road longevity.

Beltrami Cannabis Draft Ordinance – is available for review by the public. It calls for a maximum of 4 businesses in county with cities/reservations being able to determine their own restrictions/rules. MAT provided a template for townships to consider which defers regulation responsibility to County. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Milender to approve of the resolution. M/C

Sick Leave – Board discussed management of sick leave. MAT has a resolution template & overview information. Clerk, Oestreich will send information out for review. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to pay today - 2024 earned sick leave to staff as follows: Mary Lou Milender – 2 hours; Deb Larson – 8 hours; Colleen Oestreich – 10 hours. M/C

Treasurer Computer Software – Treasurer is not able to access her email messages. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to have Deb work with Bemidji Communications to restore contacts/resolve. M/C

Meetings/Mail Review

- MAT Annual Conference – 12/13-14/2024, St Cloud; Supervisors, Milender and Hazeman plan to attend
- Eckles Township Board Meeting – 1/14/25 @ 7 pm, Eckles Community Center
- 2025 Township Day at the Capitol – 1/27/25; St Paul; Sup. Bumgardner plans to attend.
- Community Center Update – sensors for water leaks & fire alarms which are tied to an app have been installed. Township board must contact community center rep for access to janitor room.

Adjourn – Motion by Sup. Hendricks, second by Sup. Wilson to adjourn at 8:30 pm. M/C

Colleen Oestreich, Clerk

Don Hazeman, Chairman