

ECKLES TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES - March 13, 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, Cory Wilson, Darren Bumgardner, treasurer, Deb Larson and clerk, Colleen Oestreich were present.

Others present: Dale Wilson, John R. Schocker, Don Wilson, Bob Murray, Matt Murray

Agenda – Items added to the agenda, Office and Printer. Motion to approve the agenda made by Cory Wilson, second by Darren Bumgardner. M/C

Minutes: Motion by Mel Milender, second by Cory Wilson to approve the February 13th and 23rd minutes. M/C

Kirstens Corner – Matt Murray presented a preliminary plat of the development. Supervisors discussed driveway access and mailbox placement. Lot 5 in NE corner, preference is to have access off Mayflower vs Eckles with a minimum of 150’ from Eckles and combine access driveways where possible between lots. Developer will need input from post office on mailbox placement.

Motion by Mel Milender, second by Cory Wilson to provide a letter granting preliminary approval of plat and outline preferences. M/C

Road Report – minimal snow removal needed this year. Contractor, John Schocker has been grading some roads as directed by road supervisors.

- Paving standards – Discussed lessons learned from past paving projects. Dale Wilson volunteered to research standards to improve future projects. Important to have both coats at same time to ensure quality.
- Palomino Ln NW Rd – will need to be marked again to have trees removed from easement and make room for snow.
- South end of Werner – need to coordinate with Northern Twp regarding turnaround for school bus/garbage trucks. Mel Milender will follow-up
- Scribner – additional mailboxes are being installed and could be a safety issue. Darren Bumgardner will follow-up.

Eckles Community Center Request – Dorie Ramando from the Community Center Board sent a request via Don Hazeman asking if the Township Board would be willing to pay part of gravel costs to fill in parking lot pot hole. After discussion the board decided that the request was too vague and needed further explanation. A request was made to have one of their members come to the Townships April Board meeting to further explain their project plans and costs. Don Hazeman agreed to take this request back to the Community board. Cory Wilson then suggested that it might be a good idea to have a township board member attend the community board meetings as a liaison. Don Hazeman and Mel Melender volunteered that they would share this duty as to which one was available to attend their monthly meetings.

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Rural Fire – purchased new tender & engine last year at cost of \$1.2M. Mel Milender was elected chairman and is negotiating a new contract & by-law update. A flat levy was approved.

Elections – Presidential primary had 148 voters; Township election had 21 voters. Looking for ways to increase the number of voting stations in preparation for the fall presidential election. Colleen will follow-up with Liberty Twp for an estimate of cost.

Bank Account Access – Board reviewed current access. Motion by Mel Milender, second by Cory Wilson to remove Becky Moe and Mary Lou Milender from the accounts at 1st National Bank Bemidji and add, Colleen Oestreich. Add Colleen Oestreich to online access to Koda Bank CD accounts. M/C Updated paperwork provided by the Banks were completed.

Eckles Website – updates are needed. Colleen is working with Paul Bunyan Communications to upload files & make simple text changes. May need to revisit if excessive changes are needed.

Cemetery Regulations Review – Board reviewed current 2004 Moratorium and price structure with input from Sexton, Don Wilson. Defined resident as person that lives in the township, has relatives in cemetery, born/raised in township – to qualify for the lower cost. Cemetery needs to surveyed and marked in the back. Sexton will coordinate with Bob/Matt to complete. Township will host a Cemetery Day, date TBD. Board requested Sexton to report to board in fall & spring. Process to purchase lot is coordinated with Sexton first, once decision is made, file paperwork with Clerk who then records with the County. Discussed potential exposure of commercial exploitation of lot cost plots.

Bills - Claims 6625-6638 for \$6,352.25; Payroll. Motion by Mel Milender, second by Cory Wilson to authorize payment. M/C

Office – Board discussed record retention and the need to purge un-needed documents from the office. Eckles has a retention schedule filed with the state. Deputy clerk, Mary Lou Milender has the keys to the file cabinets. Mel Milender and Cory Wilson volunteered to help with date TBD with Colleen and Mary Lou.

Printer – Colleen received a laptop and screen but still needs a printer. Motion by Mel Milender, second by Cory Wilson to authorize up to \$500 for a printer. M/C

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Eckles Monthly Meeting – April 9, 2024
- MAT Short Course – April 3, 2024, Bemidji Sanford Center

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- Eckles Board of Appeal & Equalization – April 30, 2024
- BATO Meeting, March 26, 2024, Northern Town Hall, @ 5:30 pm
- Twp Day at the Capital, April 8-9, 2024
- Road Clean-up, May 8, 2024

Adjourn – Motion by Darren Bumgardner, second by Cory Wilson to adjourn at 9:15 pm. M/C

Don Hazeman, Chairman

Colleen Oestreich, Clerk