

ECKLES TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – September 10, 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, Beth Hendricks, Darren Bumgardner, treasurer, Deb Larson clerk, Colleen Oestreich were present.

Others present: Scott Winger, Dale Wilson, John Schocker, Mark Fuller, Shawn Lovold, Gary Coan

Agenda Revised – added treasurers report, assessment agreement, lawyers notice under new business and mail. Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Hendricks to approve of the revised agenda. M/C

Consent Agenda – 8/20/24 minutes from regular board meeting; Claims 6741-6753 = \$180,379.11; payroll TBD Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve the minutes and pay the claims. M/C

Beltrami County Commissioner Candidate – Scott Winger introduced himself as a candidate for District 3. He provided an overview of his background and platform. Questions included future support from Beltrami County with road issues and fire protection; communication issues with County Road 9 previously installed paving and multi-housing developments needing emergency access corridors.

Clerks Report – issues with outlook email resulted in an email address change to clerk@ecklestownship.org Roster updates were distributed and contractors will be notified.

Requested software and equipment to improve communication while on zoom meetings. Instructed to develop a proposal and bring to next meeting.

Training requested such as webinar etc. that are pertinent to responsibilities. This was approved two years ago and doesn't need board approval prior to attendance.

Transition issues with 1st National Bank and Paul Bunyan Communications. Motion by Sup. Milender, second by Sup. Bumgardner to allow Clerk, Oestreich access to all accounts held at 1st National Bank. M/C

Special Assessments – Eckles currently has three active and another one for Sosua coming soon. Clerk, Oestreich sought guidance on how to obtain the payment status of all active projects. Instructed to contact Beltrami County Treasurer, Jodee Treat.

Payroll timing – Clerk, Oestreich requested board consider a structure where payment is made for the previous month instead of current system where payroll is calculated the night of the meeting. Board members discussed and will consider pros/cons at a future date.

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Sosua Road Project – discussed status of project and feedback from landowners, Mark Fuller – Engineer and supervisors that inspected site. Base prep was phenomenal and road has a 9 T design. Project will continue to be checked to ensure it meets standards/specs. There is a one-year guarantee on the work.

Motion by Sup. Milender, second by Sup. Wilson to exclude these parcels from Sosua special assessment. 120031209; 120031203; 120031208; 120092200; 120096600. M/C

Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Hendricks to set the interest rate charged for financed portion to 7.5%. M/C

Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Hendricks to stop payment on missing, August 20th check to Freeberg/Grund and reissue another check. Board discussed issue of check being lost in the mail and the risk of fraud. M/C

Wild Rose Project – discussed areas of concern and timeline for contractor, Knife River. Paving is expected to begin on 9/25/24.

MAT District Meeting – held on 8/27/24 - 73 officers attended representing 42 townships. State representative, Matt Bliss and Steve Green were in attendance. Chairman of MAT has announced his resignation.

Rural Fire – Sup. Milender provided a summary. There is a proposed new contract negotiated with the city. Busy shifts are using paid/on call staffing and it's working well. Insurance increases are projected to be 26% for firefighters. Study by city also shows wages increasing from 9-16% in the future. New fire engine is due in 2026.

Road Tour – scheduled for 10/6/24 at 8 am. Board discussed transportation options and logistics. Sup. Milender will see if a large van is available for rent.

Shooting Sports – Sup. Wilson provided a summary. They held their quarterly meeting last night. Currently have 600 members. Have shoots coming up on 9/28 and 9/30. High School & Middle School teams have 67 participants.

Each group sought \$25 K in grant funding from DNR and were successful. Neilson Reise Foundation matched the grants. Each group has \$50K for improvements. They are naming roads at site and getting E911 signage for facilities.

Sup. Wilson will invite Shane Foley, County Forester to October Board meeting.

General Election – discussed potential safety issues during 11/5/24 election. Sheriff, Riggs will be invited to next board meeting to provide guidance.

Treasurers Report – board requested a treasurer's report be on future agendas after the consent agenda.

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Assessment Contract – Motion by Sup. Milender, second by Sup. Bumgardner to approve the 2024 contract. M/C

Lawyers Notice – Couri & Ruppe sent a notice that their hourly rates will increase \$275/hour for general work and \$300/hour for development effective 1/1/25.

Adjourn – Motion by Sup. Wilson, second by Sup. Hendricks to adjourn at 9:05 pm. M/C

Colleen Oestreich, Clerk

Don Hazeman, Chairman