**ECKLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 21, 2015**

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

Visitors present: Pat Conley, Brent Kinn, Darrell Krumrey, John Schocker, Thore Thorson, Lynn Marden, Bill Schroeder, Richard and Don Larsen and Gary Coan.

Minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting were read. Dennis Zeto amended a word in the third paragraph to read there was a bill in the legislature rather than a bill in congress. Motion by Don Hazeman, seconded by Mel Milender to accept the amended minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Cory Wilson to approve everything on the consent agenda which is attached. Motion carried unanimously.

Beginning Balance: $211,548.78 General Savings: $ 45,929.90

Receipts: 155.24 Legal Fees Savings: 5,792.07

Disbursements: 2,412.53 CD $177,824.42

Ending Balance: $209,291.49 Total $229,546.39

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Cory Wilson to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read. Subject to audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Dennis Zeto read the letter we received from Keith Winger, County commissioner regarding Spirit Avenue in Wilton. Our current options are limited. The options are: 1.) Continue to pursue this with the county. 2.) Continue to maintain it as we do today. 3.) Do nothing more until it deteriorates. 4.) Close the road. 5.) Pave the road, which we cannot afford to do. Mel Milender indicated there was a discrepancy in the letter. We did talk to the City of Wilton and did not come to a conclusion. It is not in the best interest for Eckles Township to take full responsibility for Spirit Avenue since we have no Eckles Township properties on Spirit Avenue.

Motion by Don Hazeman, seconded by Mel Milender to respond to the letter and inform the county that Wilton does not want a change, inform them of the discrepancies in the letter we received and the desire to be put on their agenda for May, or ASAP. Mel Milender and Don Hazeman will draft the letter for Dennis Zeto’s signature.

Bill Schroeder informed the board he met with individuals from MNDOT. He discovered that he is losing 350 linear feet of blacktop on the south side of his parking lot. Todd Vonasek , MNDOT Engineer, informed Bill he would have somebody from the ROW division out to talk to Bill regarding Pete Lane. Bill would like the township to abandon it on the south side of his parking lot and start Pete Lane on the west side of his parking lot. The adjacent property owners should decide what they want – an easement or a Cartway. The south side of the road is in Wilton. If we keep the road, we retain the 66 ft. ROW. Beltrami Electric will remove the existing light poles that are in the ROW no matter which way we go.

A short discussion was had on the amount of liability insurance that our contractors carry. Those contractors in the room were asked to inform us next month of extra costs for an increase in their insurance to $2 million vs. $1 million.

Cemetery Report – Clean up date is May 3, 2015. We will pull the old fence out, Murray will do the staking and Young Fence will come in and erect the new white plastic fence before Memorial Day. Don Hazeman would like to see a hedge planted along the fence in the future.

Weed Report – Don Hazeman attended a workshop for weeds on April 16. There was a new weed introduced last year which the county had trouble spraying. Don would like to see Eckles Township continue mowing and spray where needed. Pat Conley informed the Town Board he charges $85.00 an hour for spraying plus $35.00 for the chemical per acre. Motion by Ervin Blom, seconded by Don Hazeman to hire a sprayer at an hourly rate. When they know they will be spraying, they will contact the neighbors beforehand to be sure they are okay with the spraying being done.

Shooting Sports Report – Dennis Zeto informed the Town Board they received a $425,000.00 grant from the DNR. With the $600,000 from the Neilson Foundation along with the $150,000 already pledged they should be able to complete Phase 1. The county is trying to stop the firing of guns on the west end of Balsam Road in the Scribner Hill Pit.

Rural fire Association Report - Mel Milender attended a meeting on the 14th of April which was the first meeting with the new secretary and treasurer. The last 30 days has been the most active for fire calls in several years.

Scribner Hill – Beltrami County officials and Cory Wilson and Don Hazeman met at Scribner to determine how to approach this problem. Don Hazeman contacted some of the residents near there to see what they would like to have done. The county wants to close it for shooting because there is a horse park across the creek. Don Hazeman said Kay Mack did a wonderful job as the county administrator, as did Joe Vene. Don feels this meeting was important because it will set a precedence of how meetings should be handled in the future.

Motion by Don Hazeman, seconded by Mel Milender to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender Dennis Zeto

Township Clerk Chairman