

ECKLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2017

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

Visitors present: John Schocker, Gladys Hlavac, Maryann Hanson, Dale Wilson, Sue Sandell, Bruce Hasbargen, Russ Gustafson, Don Wilson, Fred Kelm, Gordon Franks, Joyce Thompson, Lori Thompson, Gary Coan and Joel Johnson.

Chairman, Don Hazeman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Dennis Zeto to remove the resolution for Aaron from the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Dennis Zeto to accept the Regular Agenda with the addition of the Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dennis Zeto, seconded by Cory Wilson to accept the Resolution authorizing a contract with Aaron Dougherty as the interested officer.

VISITORS: Gary Coan wants an ad placed in the local newspapers informing the residents in the area of the Shooting Sports Association and the hours they have open for sight – ins etc. Gary wants Dennis to invite somebody from the Association to come to a meeting as well.

Bruce Hasbargen was invited to the meeting to discuss drainage ditches. Bruce discussed Ditch 2 – He informed the board the county is the administrator. Property owners who benefit from having the ditch pay the county to keep it up. If work is done the properties adjoining the ditch are levied. The ditch is in the City of Wilton and abuts mostly county and state land. The board asked how we could get the County to clean Ditch 2. Hasbargen stated there needs to be a legal request from the landowners along the ditch. Cory asked if the township and the county could work out some form of maintenance and repair agreement to clean up Ditch 2. Cory and Aaron will work with Bruce Hasbargen on this issue. Cory also asked if the County would consider putting up solar or flashing lights at the stop sign of County 9 and 22. Hasbargen informed the board that five years ago a road safety plan was developed regarding intersections and they found if you have a straight away for quite a distance that stop bars, junction signs, stop ahead paint signs work better. They have not proven that flashing lights work that well.

ROAD REPORT:

Cory spoke with the Postmaster and he is okay with Eckles moving the mailboxes in Deerfield Estates to the south side of Feelinrite and Tranquility Lane.

Three quotes were received for the placement of black dirt on the shoulder of roads in Deerfield First Addition. DEW Trucking was \$10.00 cheaper per yard delivered and placed than the other two contractors. Motion by Dennis Zeto, seconded by Mel Milender to accept DEW's quote. Opened for discussion. Question – How can one contractor do it \$10.00 cheaper than the others. Response – He has some black dirt that needs to be moved and nothing is mixed with it. DEW Trucking received the most votes 3 – 1. Cory Wilson abstained. Dougherty voted no.

The 4-Way Stop Sign on the Eckles Road and Wild Rose intersection was discussed. Some of the residents are against it. They want two of them removed. Don's feeling is to change it to a 2-way stop. The E/W movement should stop. Motion by Dennis Zeto, seconded by Aaron Dougherty. Carried unanimously.

Cory was not able to reach Rick Roff regarding the trees on his property. Table until next month.

Don Hazeman informed the board he has been getting some public concern regarding the gravel that is being placed on our roads. A question was asked when the bid was awarded if it was a certified inspector that did the gradation test. Another question was asked – why is the board spending thousands of dollars and nobody is testing the gravel, when there should be random testing. Don took a test on Eckles Road/Radar Road and the test failed as Class V. However, in checking our policy, we have asked for modified Class V. Don suggested that we have a policy in place and include doing random testing on the gravel as it is applied.

Don Hazeman presented a culvert replacement policy. Cory suggested to table it. It was tabled.

There was a short discussion of the Fall Road Tour. We will have a work session and prioritize the roads at a later date but before we finalize the budget.

Cory has requested Matt Murray to survey 2 miles of Jackpine Road.

WEED REPORT:

Don Hazeman indicated that everywhere the county clears up a ROW the thistles grow 6 feet high. How can we get the county to address their practice? Mel informed him the entire state is dealing with this issue. MAT is hoping that legislature will make a new law.

RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORT:

A new service 1-ton Pick-up will be delivered soon which is replacing one that is 18 years old. The first part of November the new water tender should also be here. The airport announced that starting in November they are training their maintenance people as crash/rescue First Responders. The RFA may lose \$75,000 to \$90,000 in the budget. We may also lose the use of the fire station at the airport which will really have an effect on Eckles Township. Forty three percent of that loss will be paid by the Rural

Fire Association which will be added to our annual bill. It will be allocated so each township will pay a portion. Eckles Twp. is Number 3 in calls; with Northern Twp. being first, then Bemidji Twp.

Motion by Dennis Zeto, seconded by Mel Milender to make Eckles Community Center the polling place. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Dennis Zeto, seconded by Aaron Dougherty to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender
Township Clerk

Don Hazeman
Chairman