

ECKLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2021

Present: Chairman, Donald Hazeman, Supervisors, Cory Wilson, Mel Milender, Elizabeth Hendricks, Darren Bumgardner, Treasurer, Debra Larson and Clerk Mary Lou Milender.

Public Attendees: John Schocker, Reed Olson, Lori Thompson, Diane Randall, Ross Lewis and Gary Coan.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda: Motion by Supervisor Milender to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Supervisor Hendricks. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Wilson made a motion to approve the October 12, 2021 Agenda with the additions. Second by Supervisor Milender. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Visitors:

Ross Lewis, owner of Ross Lewis Signs, who sells electronic message boards, presented a sales pitch for a digital message board for the Community Center. Ross did recommend a 16mm spacing which has 12x12" panel, viewing angle and 4" or larger character height if we make a purchase. He would do the training for the persons who would program the changes and how to control the shut off, which could be automatically shut off at any time we desire. Ross would install the sign about 8 to 10 feet above the road driving surface. He does not do the electrical set up. Therefore, we will need to contact an electrician for that. He will cover the cement footings in his quoted price.

The Eckles Community Board was approached last month about this electronic message board. They were in favor of ordering one. It will be owned by the Township, therefore it must be controlled and insured by the township.

Chairman Hazeman asked Lori Thompson, board member of the Community Center, if their board would give us a written set of rules that they want and our Board of Supervisors would do the same. They will then be melded together to form one set of operating rules.

Motion by Chairman Hazeman, second by Supervisor Bumgardner to purchase a Watchfire electronic message board for \$20,000.00, using ARPA funds. Motion carried.

Chairman Hazeman wants motion lights on the Community Center. This will be discussed at the next Community Center's meeting as well.

Supervisor Milender purchased a bulletin board, according to last month's instructions to be placed on the left side of the doors at the Community Center. This will be installed when a member from both boards can be at the center.

Reed Olson, County Commissioner, informed the board they are waiting to make any decisions on the accident investigation results on #9. Supervisor Wilson declared that Eckles Township and Liberty Township are getting criticized all the time from residents wanting to take the rumble strips out and

make it possible for people to pull over to the side if necessary. Therefore, we need shoulders back on the road rather than a bike trail. Both townships will keep pushing until something is changed.

Supervisor Milender asked Reed if he heard anything about the redistricting in Bemidji. He declared he had not heard. The house and the senate cannot agree to it now.

ROAD REPORT:

Balsam Road has been completed by Joel Johnson Construction.

Matt Murray has completed the staking of the proposed ROW on Cartway Road.

Supervisor Wilson has been busy installing new signs.

BATO:

Erik Thorson – DNR Wildlife informed us about the chronic waste.

Brian Olson – Beltrami County Solid Waste Management informed us about the Solid Waste Updated Ordinance and handed out information regarding recycling.

Mel Milender – District 12 Director cited that more than 75% of the townships applied for ARPA funds. There is a commitment from MMB that approximately 10 million dollars will be redistributed to the townships pending the Governor’s approval.

RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION:

Supervisor Milender informed the board that two new vehicles have been ordered. They are discussing formation of a fire district. Milender presented a spreadsheet showing fire calls broken out by jurisdiction. Eckles Township had more calls this past 10-month than any other jurisdiction except the city of Bemidji.

OTHER:

The clerk informed the board that Paul Bunyan Communications has sent a bill for the internet for the Community Center. She wants to know if the board is okay if the payment is a one-time event for the year rather than paying each month. Consensus was to keep it at a year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A work session has been set for December 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Meet at the Community Center. Purpose of the work session is to look at finances and put a schedule together on continuing Balsam and Eckles road projects.

Motion to adjourn by Supervisor Hendricks, seconded by Supervisor Bumgarner. Motion carried unanimously. 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender
Township Clerk

Donald Hazeman
Chairman