

**ECKLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 9, 2019**

Present: Cory Wilson, Mel Milender, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Lou Milender, and Sandy Burgoon.

Visitors present: Darren & Krista Bumgardner, Rod and Deb Maish, Marianne Kisor, Thore Thorson, Joe McKinnon, Don Wilson, Terry & Mary Ann Hanson, Russ Gustafson, Bob Michalicek, Theresa Hamilton, Clarence Hanson Fred Kelm, Kevin & Lynda Moe, Crystal Baker, Dwayne Weiher, Todd Nelson, Mark Tisler, Corey ?, Angie Kovarik, Amber Fuller, Reed Olson, Macy Shinabarger, Eric Vandermeer, Mick Johnston, Chris Hennem, Bill Schroeder, Billy Statton, Gary Coan and Kyle & Bri Fleischhaker.

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

Cory Wilson informed the residents of Aaron Dougherty's resignation and our effort to find a person willing to step into his place. Darren Bumgardner indicated interest and signed a statement he was very interested in being nominated for the township supervisor. Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Beth Hendricks to appoint him as a new Supervisor to the board. Clerk had Darren state and sign the Oath of Office. He will finish out this year. In March he will need to run for the election.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Beth Hendricks to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Beth Hendricks to approve the agenda.

Trailer Park Resolution: Supervisor Milender indicated that we need to rescind the disapproval. The Township should not approve or disapprove because the township is accepting too many liabilities. Legal counsel advised we take no action at all. Motion by Supervisor Milender to take no action, seconded by Beth Hendricks. We will write a letter to the trailer park owner so he does not incur a fine. He has made his good faith effort according to statute.

**VISITORS:**

Supervisor Milender addressed the issue with the mailboxes in Deerfield Estates. He indicated the reason for moving the mailboxes was for safety reasons. The postal service was having difficulty both with the proposed location in Deerfield Estates and with the individual mailboxes. A proposal was made to relocate the mailboxes that have been relocated from CSAH 9 to the southwest corner of the plat of Deerfield Estates to the north side of the east end of Feelinrite Lane and the south side of Kona Court. These locations are deemed to be the safest locations for our residents as well as the most efficient for the post office. Residents who are uncomfortable to have their name on the outside of the mailbox, can put it inside the box on the door so the mailman can see it. Pending discussion tonight, the mailboxes will be moved from the south side of the west end of Feelinrite Lane to the north side of Feelinrite Lane and south side of Kona Court. Addresses for the north side of the Plat of Deerfield Estates and the Plat of Chokecherry Estates will be placed on Feelinrite Lane. All residents of the Plat of Deerfield Estates First Addition will have a mailbox on the south side of Sullivan Drive on the west end adjacent to the retention pond. By moving the mailboxes large packages will now be delivered to your house.

Scotchpine residents requested a subordinate service district to pave their street. Residents from Scotchpine proposed to go with a ten-year term financing and 20% down. Determination will be made by the Board after the legitimate quotes re received. Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Beth Hendricks to accept the Subordinate Service District. Motion carried unanimously

Joe McKinnon, MnDOT District 2 Project Manager addressed Trunk Highway 2 Improvement Project from the City of Wilton to Hwy 71. A huge concern for the township residents is the CSAH 9 and Trunk Highway 2 intersection. This portion is a safety concern to MnDOT because of its crash rate which is 50% higher than similar roads in Minnesota. The Town Board had passed a resolution recommending that a stoplight be installed at the intersection of US Highway 2 and CSAH 9 in order to prevent confusion and lessen safety concerns. MnDOT's response to this resolution was that placing a stoplight increases the number of and rate of crashes. They do not recommend it at all. The most common types of crashes in Minnesota are rear-end at 31% and right angle at 27% and they occur most frequently at signalized intersections, therefore MnDOT has evaluated alternatives and believes and supports reduced conflict intersections to be the most effective improvement to reduce crash rates.

A study completed in 2017 of the first seven reduced conflict intersections built in Minnesota found that a 100% reduction in fatal and serious right angle crashes and a 50% reduction in injury crashes. The intersection changes will result in crash rate reductions because a.) there will be a constructed change in the road to improve driver decision making b.) Conflicts where right angle crashes can occur are mostly eliminated. c.) Elimination of left turning exits that have the most conflicts with opposing traffic and d.) These types of intersections are proven to reduce crash rates at other locations in Minnesota.

A question was asked about coming down County Road 9 pulling a trailer. Truck driver will stop until there is no traffic coming and make a right turn then make a U-turn to go in the desired direction. The blacktop will be applied thicker for the trucks.

A question was asked if the county considered changing the speed limit to 45 mph. Joe indicated that traffic drives the road. Another question was if there were any alternative routes. Again, we were told all roads are public and we can't stop people from driving on them. Another question was if a representative from MnDOT approached the businesses along this highway. We were informed they were not approached.

Gary Coan would like to see the residents have the opportunity to see the safety studies, and not just be told they have been done.

Joe will take all of the requests to his boss because he only makes the drafts and presents at the meetings. We will have another meeting with Joe.

Mr. McKinnon is aware that both the City of Wilton and the residents of Eckles Township do not like the proposal, however he feels safety is their concern. He will take all the requests to his boss. Balsam Road will be heavily travelled during the construction of the restructured change on Hwy 2. Cory asked Mr. McKinnon to do traffic counts on Balsam Road during the construction stages.

Brian Olson, Solid Waste Management cancelled tonight because he didn't want to be the last speaker. He will attend our August meeting. Several residents complained about the Pinewood Dumpster being full all the time. Reed Olson was in attendance tonight and he informed the residents to flood them with phone calls.

Discussion about a policy regarding mailboxes in the future. Motion by Mel Milender that the township should require and pay for the swing-a-way posts and let the residents install and use their own mailboxes. Seconded by Beth Hendricks.

Merlin Vold sold a piece of property to a couple that needed a variance request. They called numerous agencies and people to see if they needed a building permit and were told no. However, when they applied for a septic system to be installed, they were informed that they were within the shoreland zone of an un-named lake. They already had a concrete slab poured for the house. Mel Milender wrote a letter to the Beltrami County Board of Adjustment to indicate the owners had done everything they were told they should. They were granted an after the fact variance for their new home.

Motion by Beth Hendricks, seconded by Mel Milender to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender  
Township Clerk

Cory Wilson  
Vice Chairman