

**ECKLES TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**August 12, 2020**

Present: Don Hazeman, Cory Wilson, Mel Milender, Darren Bumgardner, Elizabeth Hendricks, Mary Lou Milender, and Debra Larson.

Visitors: Bill & Leah Harder, John Schocker, Gary Coan, Jim Sparke, Lyle Hanson, Spencer Black, Steve Yoder, Andrew Wells IV, Thore Thorson, Daniel Larson and Joe Beer.

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 Cory Wilson to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Cory Wilson to question why the clerk did not have a claim in for her hours as an Election Judge. Clerk pointed to her claim which was attached. Motion by Cory Wilson and Darren Bumgardner to accept the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:**

Daniel Larson, who has the RV repair shop next to Sam's Auto introduced himself as a new resident in the township and wants to get involved.

Lyle Hanson, who lives on Smiley Drive asked if there is anything the board can do for the roads in Deerfield 1<sup>st</sup> Addition. He claims it is very dusty and he would like to see a 25-mph speed limit sign be placed on his road. Cory Wilson will put up a speed limit sign.

**ROADS:**

Balsam Road – There was a lot of discussion on the exchange of Balsam Road for 515. Some thought it would cost more if we took over 515. We have the actual figures for the past five years for all the maintenance done on our share of Balsam Road. The length of the roads in question of exchange are both 66ft wide and close to 1.25 miles. Three governments are involved with Balsam Road. Seal coating would be needed on both roads. The county is on a 7- year cycle for sealing. If we do keep Balsam, it will have to be #1 for rebuild and tarring. At this time, we are waiting for a Resolution from the county, then letters will be mailed out to all the residents on both roads.

Motion by Mel Milender, seconded by Cory Wilson to prepare Jackpine Road this fall and wait until spring to actually do the reconstruction work. Brent Gast, Jason LaValley and Gary Kroening are the three homeowners on this road.

**Dove Court:** Cory Wilson met with the new owner and the previous owner about the trees on the road. Matt Murray has done a survey. Cory feels because it is slow traffic, only 5 trees would have to come out. The rest would need to be trimmed only. Gary Coan indicated he needs some trees cut by his shop on Wild Rose as well.

Cheryl Davis's son put in an approach on the northwest corner of Eckles and Jackpine. He intends to put in a tiny house on that property.

**Winding Road:** We need ROW Access Permit for the two new homes. The culverts are in now.

**Road Signs:** Cory Wilson has been working on the sign project. He eliminated some we don't need any longer. Signs on Nature and Jackpine need to be replaced because of bullet holes.

**WEEDS:**

MN Energy informed Don Hazeman that they have to turn the weed problem over to real estate and then send the question to the legal department if they were to spray the weeds. Supervisor Milender was asked to check with MAT for an answer. Supervisor Wilson will talk to Dick Moore also about the weeds. If MN Energy’s easement does not say anything, the landowner would be responsible for the weeds. John Schocker did all knap-weed cutting.

**Bike Path:**

Bruce Hasbargen has received some calls from residents on County 9 that would like to have a bike path or walking trail along the road. Supervisors Beth Hendricks and Darren Bumgardner, both live on this road and have offered to be on the committee if they start one. Community members Mark Fuller and Serena Madden both would sit on this committee as well. Reed Olson thought the county was going to get some grant money for this.

**RURAL FIRE REPORT:**

A \$320,000.00 grant was received for the Fire Department to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). That was planned for 2023 through the CIP. It requires a 10% match. Hopefully the annual meeting will be in the new fire station in Northern Township.

**SHOOTING SPORTS:**

Cory Wilson spoke with some of the staff regarding the 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. hours. They don’t believe all the shots are coming from the shooting sports that are being heard so early on Sunday morning. Cory is trying to get the bylaw from them. He feels that maybe as a township we could draft a proposal regarding some concerns that hours might be able to be modified and give them some direction. We also want to know if they have more room for the local residents to be on the board.

**Animal Control:**

Kay Mack sent a letter to the board suggesting that we look into an animal control ordinance. A resident in Eckles Township informed her he was attacked by a neighborhood dog. Bemidji Regional Animal Control Organization (BRACO) has problems with anybody sticking to the job of controlling animals. Beltrami County does not have a dedicated animal control person. It is an added unbudgeted expense for the township and our decision was to not do anything.

**CARES ACT:** COVID-19 relief fund. Eckles Township is eligible for \$43,375.00. The clerk has applied for it.

Beltrami County Solid Waste Ordinance Work Group will be meeting August 13 and August 27 at 5:30 in the County Board Room. Supervisor Milender will attend these meetings.

Mel Milender reminded the board of the upcoming District meetings. His will be August 25<sup>th</sup> by ZOOM, he will send instructions on how to get connected to his meeting. MAT Executive Director, Dave Hann and MAT attorney, Steve Fenske will both speak.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Hendricks, seconded by Supervisor Bumgardner. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender  
Township Clerk

Donald Hazeman  
Chairman