

**ECKLES TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2019**

1. Meeting called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Mary Lou Milender, Township Clerk.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
3. Motion by Ervin Blom, seconded by Aaron Dougherty to have Mel Milender be Moderator. Motion carried unanimously
4. Motion by Andy Wells, seconded by Sharon Geisen to accept the minutes from March 13, 2018 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
5. The 2018 Annual Treasurer's Report was read. Motion by Ervin Blom, seconded by Ron Engesether to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion carried unanimously.
6. The clerk informed the residents the Annual Audit Report was accepted by the Board at the January meeting and it is posted tonight for all to review.
7. Cory Wilson presented a Road Report. He informed the township residents of what was accomplished in 2018 and what is proposed for road projects for 2019. He indicated we had to do some shouldering in Deerfield Estates due to the gravel being washed down. We will have the contractor continue to keep up with the brushing. The drainage problem on Balsam Road was fixed.
The mailboxes on County Road 9 will be placed either on Feelinrite Lane, west of Moidore for those living in Deerfield Estates and those living in the 1st Addition will have their mailboxes placed on Sullivan Lane on the south side.
Don Hazeman indicated that Minnesota State Statute 160.2715 states it is unlawful to obstruct any highway or public roads with snow or ice. The law prohibits the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing snow on to public roads, including the ditch and ROW along the roadway. This is a misdemeanor offense and both the property owner and person responsible can be liable.
Clearing and ditching of Jackpine Road to Eckles Road will be a 2020 project. Stumps will be removed and ditches made.
8. Mel Milender presented a Rural Fire Association Report. Out of the 30 calls made in Eckles Township fire calls were 8, rescues were 12, 5 false calls and the other 5 were either hazardous or good intent. Anyone living in Eckles Township within 5 road miles from the airport station is now classified as an ISO rating of a 3, effective May 1, 2019. Contact your insurance agent when you renew your policy

9. Cemetery Report: Clerk reported on how many plots we sold and what improvements were made.

10. Recommended Budget & Tax Levies for calendar year 2020 were reviewed and set as follows:

Motion made by Ervin Blom, seconded by Gary Coan to approve \$47,350.00 for the General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Andy Wells, seconded by Russ Gustafson to approve \$354,700.00 for the Road and Bridge Fund.

Motion made by Andy Wells, seconded by Cory Wilson to approve \$65,000.00 for the Fire Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Georgia Halverson, seconded by Sandra Burgoon to approve \$3,000.00 for the Cemetery Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Total levy approved was 470,050.00.

Moderator allowed electors to speak for charitable causes. Sharon Geisen requested the board consider donating to the Historical Society. No action was made.

11. Motion by Cory Wilson, seconded by Ervin Blom to set the next Eckles Township Annual Meeting for March 10, 2020 at 8:15 p.m. at the Eckles Community Center. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Motion by Gary Coan, seconded by Cory Wilson to keep the publishing in both the Bemidji Pioneer and the Buyline. Posting will be on the Website and Pete's Place West. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Announcements: April 23, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. is the Board of Review; May 8th will be Eckles Road Clean-up day. Cory Wilson will set a date to clean up the cemetery. The clerk will post and publish the date.

14. Election Results were announced as follows:

Supervisor for three years – Donald Hazeman – 33 votes

Treasurer for two years – Sandra Burgoon 31 votes

15. After a long discussion and some questions as to how many would like to see tarring get done on the roads in Eckles Township.

Comments arising from that discussion

- Eckles Road ¼ mile from Highway 2 is in need of repair. Base is not good, residents feel there is too much clay and too much chloride.
- Heavy traffic on several roads
- Traffic count should be completed
- Discussed cost to tar \$250,000/mile
- Tax capacity is \$1,756,000
- Add extra gravel and keep our roads in good shape
- Raise in taxes for Eckles Township \$50,000.00 – 12.173% per parcel, \$100,000.00 4.346% per parcel.
- Cost of gravel vs. cost of tar
- Motion for or against tarring a road = 30 want paving and 11 were against it
- Motion by Vicky Edevold, seconded by Dale Wilson to table this discussion and proceed with the planning and traffic counts, then hold a Special Meeting before September to determine if we want to change our Road and Bridge levy to accommodate paving of roads. Motion carried.

16. Motion by Donald Hazeman, seconded by Aaron Dougherty to adjourn meeting at 11:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Milender
Township Clerk

Mel Milender
Moderator