

TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING, TUESDAY, March 15, 2022, 6:00 PM, CROW WING TOWN HALL

Board Members Present: Chairman Tucker Schuety, Supervisor Doug Kern, Supervisor Paul Stephany, Treasurer Diane Stephany, and Clerk Sue Kern.

Tucker called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Residents were reminded to sign the roster.

There were no gopher bounties.

Tucker asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Brad wanted the revisions of violation ordinance discussed and two CUP applications. Tucker made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. Doug seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Election results were reviewed. The Oath of Office for Supervisor Paul Stephany for three-year term, Treasurer Diane Stephany for a one-year term to fill a vacancy and Clerk Sue Kern for a two year term were recited. Paperwork will be filed at the County Recorder's Office.

New Business: Elect Chair and Vice Chair: After discussion, Doug made the motion to elect Tucker Schuety as Chairman of the Town Board for this year, Paul seconded. Motion passed 2 in favor, and 1 abstention. Tucker made the motion to elect Doug Kern as Vice Chairman. Paul seconded. Motion passed 2 in favor and 1 abstention.

Donations recommended during the annual meeting were discussed. Three written requests were received from Zone One First Responders, Crow Wing County Historical Society, and the Crow Wing County Fair. The residents approved a donation to Zone One for \$1500. No other approvals. Doug made the motion to approve the \$1500 donation to Zone One First Responders. Tucker seconded. Motion passed 3-0. It was noted that when there is no representation with a request, that no donation made.

Unfinished Business: At the annual town hall meeting of the residents, Brad made a motion to increase the levy an additional \$50,000 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Brad stated we are falling behind on our 5-year road plan and felt an additional increase was warranted. After discussion, Doug made the motion to increase the levy for 2023 an additional \$50,000. Paul seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The 2023 levy would be for a total of \$548,000 as follows:

General Fund:	\$61,000
Road and Bridge:	\$425,000
Fire Fund:	\$62,000

This is a total increase of \$127,000; \$2000 for the Fire Fund and \$125,000 for the Road and Bridge.

Public Comments: None.

Planning and Zoning Report: Brad presented the Conditional Use Permit paperwork for the Litchy tourist farm-based model across from the visitor's center and paperwork for Ittner dog training center. Both had full support of the Planning Commission. Brad also brought forward the violation ordinance language that was presented on March 1 meeting. One paragraph regarding storage containers has been revised to reflect time limits and when permits would be required. Brad was seeking approval for that ordinance that would need to go to the next public hearing. Paul made a motion to accept the ordinance as presented for a public hearing. Tucker seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed 3-0. Tucker made the motion to accept the policy on violation enforcement actions. Doug seconded. It was noted that the policy gave more precise steps to be taken and tools to use in challenging situations. The policy was unchanged from last time. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer's report and claims #1737 to #1746 were reviewed and approved. Payroll was reviewed and approved.

The MN Benefit Life Insurance Bronze Policy was reviewed. The cost is \$80 per year per Board member. Tucker made the motion to approve the Bronze policy. Paul seconded. The paperwork will be completed by the Clerk to update the names of the current board members and remove Duane from the policy. Motion passed 3-0.

Paul questioned whether the Supervisors are bonded or insured. Brad stated that the board is protected with a liability insurance. He further stated that the board has a limited amount of experience and qualifications, and they are protected from errors made in decisions within some limitations. It was decided that the board needs to get a current copy of the Township Manual.

Paul noted an error in the DSL bill, and he contacted them, and it is \$150 more than it should be, and the matter will be reflected in the next billing statement. The bill should be \$49.99 going forward.

Road Report: Doug brought up the need for crack/seal bids for the roads. Brad suggested doing so as soon as possible and it would have been better to do last Fall so we could have been on the schedule for this year, however, the last bid was done in April. It was decided to get a bid out as soon as possible. There are probably only 2-3 vendors who do this type of work. It was noted that there is a longitudinal crack on Wetherbee which needs repair. Doug stated that with the snow melting, the potholes will be popping up. He stated that the cul de sacs have been difficult to turn around in with the heavy snow falls but now snow is melting. Brad mentioned there were two calls regarding drifting on 50th due to heavy winds. It was noted that there have been problems with Spectrum and the Township phone but that has been rectified.

Cemetery Report: At the annual town hall meeting, the residents thought the nonresident cost for plots should be raised to \$2000 as the care for the cemetery is lifelong. Doug made the motion to increase the nonresident rate for plots to \$2000 and the resident rates to remain the same at \$300 for inside plots and \$500 for roadside. Tucker seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Fire Administration: Paul stated the budget was good. The fire call outs were 20% higher than before and that is the reason for the increase in rates.

Administrative Business: Doug stated he was going to need help with the ditch mowing, sweeping, and patching of the roads. Cody Osell was in attendance again at this meeting and was interested in working for the township. Tucker made the motion to hire Cody for the township. Doug seconded. Cody introduced himself to the full board. He is a new resident in Crow Wing Township. Motion passed 3-0. Cody was welcomed to the team. Brad also noted that David Nelson accepted appointment to the Planning and Zoning board. David was welcomed to the team.

The annual reorganizational items were reviewed. Tucker made a blanket motion to keep appointments as last year, with Tucker on the Planning Commission, Doug as Cemetery Actuary, and Paul on the Fire Advisory Board. Doug seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Tucker made the motion to appoint Doug as Road Supervisor. Paul seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made a motion to keep the town depositories the same: Crow Wing Power, Wings Financial Credit Union, and Mid Minnesota Credit Union. Paul seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to continue with the two designated posting sites (Town Hall as the official site and on the official Crow Wing Township website with required special notices printed in the Brainerd Dispatch.) Paul seconded. Motion passed 3-0. It was noted that Wild Rice Depot bulletin board can be used as a courtesy posting site.

Tucker made the motion to approve the meeting schedule as presented at the annual meeting. Doug seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to keep the Beaver Bounty \$40 and the Gopher Bounty \$2.00, use of personal equipment-\$15 per hour, with a minimum of \$15, and use of personal skid steer \$40 per hour, with a minimum of \$40. Paul seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made a motion to keep the AWAIR meeting rate at \$25, the Annual meeting moderator at \$25, the Cemetery Actuary at \$25/per job, hourly employment at \$20 per hour, lawn mowing, handyman, cleaning person at \$20 per hour. Tucker seconded. Motion passed at 3-0.

The wages for the township employees and committee members were reviewed. Tucker noted that a neighboring township pays Supervisors \$195 per month. Doug stated the Treasurer should be paid more as that job carries with it a lot of stress, a lot of time commitment and responsibility as does the Clerk position. Doug made the motion to raise the Treasurer salary to \$450 a month and keep the Supervisors the same at \$65 per month and \$100 per meeting. Tucker seconded. Motion passed at 2-0, 1 abstention by Paul Stephany. Tucker made a motion to maintain the Planning Commission rates at \$60 Chair/Members \$50 per meeting and raise the Clerk salary to \$1000 per month and \$100 per meeting. Paul seconded. Brad stated that previous research of salaries of neighboring townships showed that Crow Wing Township was quite a bit lower than most other townships and it has been many years since there was an increase. Motion passed 2-0, 1 abstention by Doug Kern.

Tucker made the motion that inspection fee for P&Z violations be at \$50 for each Planning Commission member present at the inspection. Doug seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to pay Election Judges at \$18 per hour for head judges, \$13 per hour for other judges (including township employees). Paul seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to keep the fee for Notary Stamp free at meetings, title searches free unless by mail then \$25 will be charged, entry permits at \$50, photocopies at the first 10 free, then \$0.25 per page thereafter and the town hall and park rental & deposit at \$30 resident, \$60 nonresident with a deposit of \$250. Tucker seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The annual AWAIR meeting was scheduled for April 12, 2022, @ 5:30 at the Town Hall before the Regular Town Board meeting to ensure proper safety training of current employees.

After discussion the Annual Road Tour was tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2022, with leaving the town hall at 9:00 am for the tour. Tucker made that motion contingent on revisions at the next meeting. Paul seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Communications: The County was checking to see if there were any changes in street names, etc. Also, the County has a Land Use informational workshop on March 30th at 9 am. on shoreland and wetlands for those who are interested.

Paul questioned the Deason violation. Brad spoke to the situation. The county, state and township prohibit the removal of trees on bluffs and the owner took out 20 trees along the river. A neighbor witnessed the tree removal and reported it. Justin and Amanda immediately went and met with the owner and informed him of the seriousness of the violation. A vegetation repair plan is in place and established.

Announcements: Spring Short courses March 14, 15 and 16th through the MAT office.

Approve Minutes: The Town Board Regular minutes for March 1, 2022, were reviewed. Doug made the motion to approve. Tucker seconded. No discussion. Motion pass 3-0.

The Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed. Tucker made a motion stating they were reviewed and found to be satisfactory. Doug seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjourn Meeting: Paul made a motion to adjourn. Tucker seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0 at 7:10 pm.

