

MARCH 21, 2023, TUESDAY, TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING, @ 6:00 PM, CROW WING TOWN HALL

Board Members Present: Supervisor Doug Kern, Supervisor Paul Stephany, Supervisor Nathan Hulinsky, Treasurer Diane Stephany, and Clerk Sue Kern.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were no residents. There were no gopher bounties.

Supervisor Nathan Hulinsky and Treasurer Diane Stephany were sworn in and the Oath of Office was recited.

Doug arrived at 6:10 pm he asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Paul wanted to add discussion on the chairs and to move the tax-exempt discussion to the Fire Administration portion of the meeting. Doug made the motion to approve the agenda with those two changes. Paul seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

New Business: The Supervisors discussed who should be Chair and Vice Chair. After discussion, Doug made a blanket motion for himself to be chair and Paul to be Vice Chair. Paul seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed 3-0. The **Donation Requests** were discussed. There were 6 requests. The residents approved \$2000 for Zone One First Responders and \$250 for the Crisis Line at the Annual Township Meeting last week. Doug made the motion to approve the donations as requested by the residents. Paul seconded. A letter will be sent to those who did not get a donation. Motion passed 3-0.

The Election Polling Time and Annual Meeting Time were discussed. The residents wanted to change the time and have the annual meeting earlier. It was noted there were only 21 votes cast and election judges were here for 6 hours. MN Statute states that the polls must go until 8 pm. The Township could, however, shorten the polling time to as little as 3 hours. Doug made the motion to have the polls open from 4 pm to 8 pm (4 hours) with the Board of Canvass at 8:15 pm and the Annual Meeting to remain at 8:30 pm to follow MN Statute. Paul seconded. Absentee voting was discussed. There is walk-in AB voting the Saturday before the election for 2 hours, plus mail in AB voting. Motion passed 3-0.

CWT Property: When Paul was investigating the tax-exempt increase, he discovered that the Township has 6 parcels. The building is on 2 parcels and the drain field is 1 parcel and the garage is on another parcel, and we have a total of 71 acres. The park and the BMX track are on our property. We could combine them, but he was not sure there was any advantage to do so. There could be a cost to combine them. A survey may be needed. Doug recommended tabling the matter until more information is provided. Discussion ensued regarding the **Tax-Exempt** situation. It was noted that there has been increase in property valuation. Further, it was discovered that Teen Challenge has a halfway house on CR45 in the Township and Lutheran Social Services has a building on Remington Way as well. There are two other group homes in the Township. All these properties are considered tax-exempt. As these properties improve or have additions or change in value, that affects our Township tax-exempt status. All this was just informational, and no action was taken. Paul wanted to investigate purchasing 2-3 **chairs** as two of them sink down and do not stay up and one chair is not adjustable at all. Doug made the motion for Paul to check into getting 3 new chairs like what we have or a new adjustable cylinder for the broken chairs. Nathan seconded. No further discussion. Passed 3-0.

Unfinished Business: The Supervisors reviewed the Levy that was presented to the residents, and they approved:

General Fund:	\$61,000
Road & Bridge:	\$440,000 (increase of \$15,000)
Fire:	\$64,000 (increase of \$2,000)
TOTAL LEVY:	\$565,000

Doug made the motion to approve the levy as presented. Nathan seconded the motion. No discussion. Passed 3-0.

Public comments: Diane suggested that a letter be sent to the organizations that requested donations send a representative to our Annual Meeting rather than just sending a letter of request.

Planning Commission Report: None.

Treasurers Report: Claims #2017 to #2022 were reviewed and approved.

Road Report: Doug has been checking the roads. He removed some trees that were on the side of the road. He plowed out some snow drifts 4 ½ feet tall for three hours today on 40th, 50th, Wetherbee and Cook Roads. Doug noted that all three Supervisors are responsible for the roads in an emergency.

Cemetery Report: There was a full burial on Friday.

Fire Administration: Tax-exempt increase was already discussed.

Administrative Business: MN Benefit Life Insurance policy was reviewed. The Board has the Bronze Policy which is the least amount of money at \$5,000. Doug made a motion to approve continuing the same policy. Paul seconded the motion. No more discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Reorganizational Items: The appointments were discussed. Doug made the motion for Nathan to have the Fire Administration appointment. Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0, Nathan abstained. Doug made the motion for Paul to have the Planning and Zoning appointment. Nathan seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0, Paul abstained. Nathan made the motion for Doug to be Road Supervisor and to have the Cemetery appointment. Paul seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0, Doug abstained.

Doug made the motion to keep the town depositories at First National Bank North. Paul seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to keep the two designated posting sites as the official sites (Town Hall and on the Crow Wing Township website) with Special Meeting notices printed in the Brainerd Dispatch. Wild Rice posting is a complimentary posting site. Nathan seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to approve the Regular meeting dates schedule as presented at the Annual Meeting. Paul seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0.

Paul made the motion to continue with the following: Beaver bounty at \$40, gopher bounty at \$2, Use of Personal Equipment at \$15 per hour, with a minimum of \$15, and use of Personal Skidster at \$40 per hour, with a minimum of \$40. Doug seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0.

Nathan made the motion to continue with the following: AWAIR Meeting Rate at \$25, Annual Meeting Moderator at \$25, Cemetery Actuary at \$25/per job, Hourly Employment at \$20 per hour, Lawn Mowing, Handyman, Cleaning Person at \$20 per hour. Doug seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0.

Wages for township employees and committee members were reviewed. It was noted that Supervisors and P&Z wages have been the same for 10+ years. Paul made the motion to increase the Supervisor salary to \$100/month and a \$100 per meeting. Nathan seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0. The Treasurer and Clerk salary were discussed at length. Doug made the motion to increase the Treasurers salary to \$550 per month and \$100 per meeting. Nathan seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0. Nathan made the motion to increase the Clerk salary to \$1,100 per month, \$20 per hour for any additional P&Z duties and \$100 per meeting. Paul seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0. Doug made a motion to increase the P&Z Chairman meeting rate to \$80 per meeting and \$20 per hour for any additional hours worked for P&Z and keep the P&Z members at \$50 per meeting. Paul seconded. Doug mentioned that with Scott being new as Planning and Zoning Administrator, there is a lot of additional work that the Chairman will need to do. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made a motion to keep the Inspection Fee for P&Z Violations at \$50 for each Planning Commission member present at the inspection. Paul seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

The Head Election Judge and Election Judge salaries were discussed and compared to Brainerd and Baxter. Doug made the motion to increase the Head Election judge salary to \$20 per hour and \$15 per hour for other judges plus mileage. Nathan seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to keep the following at the same rate: Notary Stamp-free at the meetings, title searches-free unless by mail then \$25 fee will be charged, entry permits at \$50, photocopies-first 10 free, \$0.25 per page thereafter, and the Town Hall and Park Rental & Deposit-\$30 for resident, \$60 for non-resident with a deposit of \$250 which is refunded after the Town Hall is inspected. Paul seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug made the motion to set the annual AWAIR training at 5:30 on April 11th, 2023, prior to the next regular meeting. Nathan seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.

Doug a made the motion to set the Annual Road Tour for Saturday, April 29th 9:00 to Noon with an alternate date of Saturday, May 13th 9:00 to Noon if there is still snow on the ground. Paul seconded. No discussion. Passed 3-0.

Communications: Afflac wanted to do a presentation. It was decided to not have them come.

Announcements: It was noted that Jacob Frie, Hydrologist from the DNR will be attending P&Z on April 3rd. The Supervisors were reminded about the Spring Short Course this Friday at Breezy Point.

Approve Minutes: The March 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Paul wanted some verbiage changed. Doug made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Paul seconded the motion. No further discussion. Passed 3-0. The Annual Meeting Minutes for March 14th were reviewed. David Nelson has reviewed and signed them and they will be presented to the residents next year for approval.

Diane mentioned that the Wild Rice Depot claim was not on the claims list for approval and had the Supervisors sign the actual claim sheet.

Adjourn Meeting: Doug made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Nathan seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0.