

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 8, 2008, 7 p.m.**

Board Chairperson Nancy Karjalahti called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Ron Smith and Charles Quale, Treasurer John Brula, Clerk Candace Bartel; residents John and Pat Daine and Jerry Weiskopf, realtor Don Pearson, and Jay Smedburg representing Gary Kirt Properties.

Ron Smith moved to approve the minutes from the April 10th regular board meeting, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; motion carried. The minutes from the April 14 public hearing were approved on a motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale. The minutes from the April 25 Board of Appeal and Equalization were approved on a motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending April 30, 2008: General Revenue Fund, (\$2,137.33); Road & Bridge Fund, \$354,511.38; Fire Fund, \$29,768.23; Building Fund, \$179,771.16; Sewer Fund, \$23,783.58; Parks & Rec Fund, \$13,592.15; and the Lease/purchase Fund, \$32.10. The Road & Bridge CD's total \$111,828.04; Sewer Fund CD \$52,256.09. Interest received April 30 was \$1,306.42, disbursements were \$88,892.76. Total cash and savings balance on hand as of April 30 was \$599,321.27. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith to approve payment of claims and payroll in the amount of \$18,548.21; motion carried.

Correspondence: Information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program 2008 Post-election Voting Survey, the Big Sandy Lake Association newsletter and the 70-Mile Trail newsletter were distributed; issues of the *Session Weekly*, Lake Country Power Annual Report; Lakes & Pines newsletter; Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative newsletter; ARDC/RTAC In-Kind Grant Program were received and will be filed for reference. Charles Quale was contacted by a representative from Kennecott Mining; it was suggested the representative attend a regular board meeting to update the full board on the company's mining projects.

Jerry Weiskopf shared concerns about two boat lifts on the dedicated to the public access on 493rd Lane; it was suggested that he contact Mark Jacobs at the Aitkin County Land Department. Jerry was also concerned about work ~~de~~ done at the bottom of an access; he was directed to the Aitkin County Planning & Zoning office and/or the Army Corps of Engineers. He stated that docks have been left in over winter and have blocked access to snowmobilers; this may be in violation of a county ordinance. He noted that the catch basin near Beach Road should have a marker or rail around it. The culvert at the end of Beach Road and Ravine Road should be marked in some way; Nancy Karjalahti will check on this. He was referred to Terry Neff at Aitkin Co. Planning and Zoning regarding open-bottomed septic tanks. He noted gravel in the yards from the snowplow; it was explained that the first snow fall was on soft roads and more gravel was picked up by the plow due to the road conditions, this happened again with the late season snowfall.

OLD BUSINESS:

197th Avenue: Jay Smedburg reported that five contractors have looked at the proposed road project and he has received two bids. The board was given copies of the road design plan. It was noted that an estimated 360 yards of imported fill would be needed; this was not listed in the plan specifications. Contractors will include a cost per yard for fill over or under the estimate. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to table further discussion until the next board meeting to allow the supervisors time to review the plans and consult with the SEH engineer, the performance bond and cash deposit will be due June 12; motion carried.

Ron Smith moved to reschedule the May 22 to May 29, seconded by Charles Quale; motion carried.

Road Report: The maintenance men worked on lake accesses on Minnewawa, cleaned up trees and plowed roads after the April 11th snowfall, pushed back and cleaned up the township leaf sites, built shelves and benches for the new building, installed a seal on the Kodiak dump box ram, bladed the township roads and helped with the spring clean-up day.

Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to allow the maintenance men to go to ten-hour days; motion carried. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to allow the maintenance men to attend the Aitkin County Safety Day Training on Tuesday, May 27, at Long Lake Conservation Center; motion carried.

John Welle, Aitkin Co. Engineer, inspected the washed out shoreline along the Long Point Place bridge. The board looked at photos of the washout. John will look into possible funding to assist with the repair. He may attend the next meeting with an update.

Improving the public access on the Prairie River near Prairie River Retreat was discussed. Nancy Karjalahti will attend the next BSALWMP meeting and see if a three-way cost share can be done between the township, BSALWMP and the Tamarack SnoFlyers. The SnoFlyers would like the access improved for use by snowmobilers.

Calcium chloride road treatment applications are due May 12. One mile on Floe Road will be done for stabilization.

Building: A summary of the lien waivers was reviewed. Draft letters from the township attorney to the general contractor and the architect were distributed. A decision on content of the letters was tabled to the May 29 meeting. Ron Smith will contact the architect with concerns.

Tennis courts: Repair/resurfacing of the tennis courts was tabled.

Clean-up Day: There were less people this year. It was noted that tires were dumped on the east side of Minnewawa after the clean-up day.

NEW BUSINESS:

The clerk was directed to write a letter in opposition to the proposed new operating plan for Big Sandy Lake; specifically in reference to the lowering of the lake level beginning July 15. The board listed several areas of concern that lowering the water level would affect including: the need to lower culverts, harvesting of wild rice by the Indians and others, the impact of increased vegetation, restriction boat traffic under the bridge. The board had received numerous responses from property owners expressing concern about the proposal.

The purchase of a locking mailbox for the township was approved.

A zoning variance request from Matthew Higgins, 50644 202nd Place, for a setback of 10 feet from a bluff was reviewed. The board stated the established county ordinances should be followed.

A zoning variance request from James Hare, 51748 Long Point Place, for an after the fact variance for adding a deck that is 68 feet from the ordinary high water level. The board stated the established county ordinances should be followed.

It was noted that the culvert near Marty Berg's residence (19527 469th Street) may be plugged. The drainage near there should be checked.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Nancy Karjalahti
Shamrock Township Board Chairperson

These minutes were approved as corrected at the May 29, 2008 regular board meeting.