

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 25, 2011**

Board Chairperson Nancy Karjalahti called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Charles Quale and Ron Smith; Treasurer John Brula; Clerk Candace Bartel; road maintenance employee Tim Turner; Aitkin County Commissioner Brian Napstad, Aitkin County Auditor Kirk Peysar, Ross Wagner from Aitkin County Economic Development, Don Proulx from Big Sandy Lodge, and property owners Rich Biernat and Joel Lorsung.

The minutes from the August 11, 2011 regular board meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale.

Correspondence: The following was received: MN Association of Townships District 11 meeting & election notice, MN Fall Maintenance Expo information, LTAP Technology Exchange newsletter, Rep. McElfrick's newsletter, information from MN Dot on the Transportation Enhancements Program, and a thank you from the Aitkin County Historical Society for the CD of Shamrock Township photographs provided to them by John Brula. Ross Wagner took a copy of the Transportation Enhancements Program information; he will plan to attend the September 21 meeting in Duluth. Don Proulx expressed interest in trail development in the township and is willing to sponsor a fund raiser in the future. Possible area trail development was discussed.

Joel Lorsung presented an application to bore a sewer line under 188th Avenue at 47241. The plans were reviewed and the permit approved on a motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale. Joel will provide the contractor information to the clerk.

OLD BUSINESS:

Big Sandy Lodge Tax Abatement: The tax abatement/deferral agreement from July 2010 was reviewed. County Auditor Kirk Peysar explained the procedure for collection and the return of the deferred taxes to Big Sandy Lodge. After discussion it was recommended that Kirk explore a better option to expedite the deferred taxes (both county and township) to Big Sandy Lodge. The township attorney will be asked to review the agreement in reference to the collection/refund question. The county auditor will provide further information for the next meeting.

Property taxes: Property tax changes at the state level were discussed. Brian Napstad and Kirk Peysar shared information on the legislative property tax overhaul. The market value homestead credit on some properties will be removed. A market value exclusion will apply to some properties. In some areas, a larger portion of the property taxes will be assessed to seasonal, commercial, ag and timber properties. This property tax overhaul will cause the county taxes to increase.

Road report: Tim Turner reported regular grading of roads, graveling and mowing. A culvert in Tower Pines was cleaned and work was done on the Floe Road (490th St.) beaver issue. A culvert on 200th Ave. is ten inches higher on the east end. The culvert can be replaced and set level. A property owner in this area requested the ditch on the east side be cleaned out. Three quotes were received for excavating for the culvert replacement on 170th PL south. Nancy Karjalahti abstained from discussion as her husband had submitted a quote. Charles Quale moved by resolution to award the contract to CK Service (the lowest quote, \$90 per hour with a \$200 minimum), seconded by Ron Smith; resolution adopted on the following vote: Quale, aye; Smith, aye; Karjalahti, abstained. Tim will post a notice on the road so residents are aware of the work being done.

Tim reported maintenance work on the Kodiak truck has been done. It may need to be taken in for service if the problem has not been resolved. The possibility of replacing a dump truck was discussed.

Hardives had contacted Tim on the possibility of using and then replacing the township's sand and in the pit. If this is done, the piles will need to be measured and some product will need to be set aside for use until the replacement is available.

Long-Range Comprehensive Road Plan: Matt Reid from SEH sent the 2011 Capital Improvement Plan, Roads-Phase I. The plans will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

188th Ave. Survey: SEH submitted a quote for surveying a section of 188th Avenue. Ron Smith moved to approve the right-of-way survey at \$5800 and the topographic survey at \$350, seconded by Charles Quale; motion carried.

Maintenance Building: The Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust has appointed Ken Bayliss, (Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A.) to represent the township in a lawsuit regarding the maintenance building. The board will meet with Ken at 5 p.m. on Sept. 8 in a closed session meeting with the regular meeting to follow at 7 p.m.

Road sign replacement plan: A copy of *Sign Retroreflectivity A Minnesota Toolkit* will be useful in developing the township's sign replacement plan. The plan is a work-in-progress.

Radio System upgrade: SEH checked into grants available for the radio system upgrade. It would not be advantageous for the township to pursue a grant.

Ball field: Need to evaluate the length and height of fencing to be used and get recommendations from a fencing company.

Townhall remodeling: Nothing new to report.

Lake Country Power capital credit allocation: LCP District 8 Director, Jim Huhta, plans to attend the October 13 board meeting.

Clean-up Day: Ads and news article will be placed and flyers have been put up around the township. The need for a tire pickup will be discussed at the next meeting. Lakes Sanitary Service has been contacted to provide dumpsters.

NEW BUSINESS:

An after-the-fact variance request from Patrick O'Brien, 50774 Long Point Place, was reviewed. The board offered no comment on the request.

The McGregor Fire Department sent a bill for \$3361 for turn-out gear for a new firefighter from the township. The sub-station agreement allows the township to pay up to \$3000 for new turn-out gear and initial training per new firefighter. This will be included in the Sept. claims.

A second regular board meeting was scheduled for Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Nancy Karjalahti
Shamrock Township Board Chairperson

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING