

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 13, 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; resident Aaron Maki, Amber Lehman from the *Voyageur Press* and Jim Huhta, Lake Country Power District 8 Director; Rick Lemonds, Lake Country Power General Manager and Sherm Liimatainen, Chairman of the Rates and Capital Credits Committee at Lake Country Power.

The minutes from the September 22, 2011 regular board meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending September 30, 2011: General Revenue Fund, \$40,987.35; Road & Bridge Fund, \$293,438.44, Fire Fund, \$27,997.11; Building Fund, \$68,416.64; Sewer Fund, \$4,681.37; Parks & Rec Fund, \$44,826.39; and the Lease/purchase Fund, \$22,094.80. The Road & Bridge CD's total \$334,455.06; Building final payment CD, \$76,944.43; Sewer Fund CD's \$83,950.07; Kirt Properties escrow CD \$4,675.38. Money market interest received September 30 was \$243.09, clean-up day receipts totaled \$305.00 and disbursements were \$31,685.93. Total cash and savings balance on hand as of September 30, 2011 was \$1,002,467.04. Liabilities are the building bond at \$520,000. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried unanimously. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve payment of claims and payroll totaling \$26,456.10; motion carried unanimously.

The representatives from Lake Country Power were present to answer questions about the power company services and the capital credit program. Changes have recently been made to the capital credit patronage/allocation program. It was noted that townships receive their capital credit patronage/allocation under the same guidelines as everyone else. Lake Country Power receives federal funding and must work within federal guidelines. It is expected that in December members will receive 1.5% of the capital they contributed to the cooperative last year. Also discussed were the sources of energy used, renewable energy resources, state requirements, local service issues and rates. They anticipate big changes in the energy industry in the next decade.

Correspondence: Big Sandy Lake Association meeting agenda, notice of a public meeting on Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at the Long Lake Conservation Center on the Long-Range Strategic Plan Update for county managed lands; an invitation to meet with Rep. Carolyn McElfrick on Nov. 16 at the Aitkin Co. Courthouse; LTAP traffic sign maintenance and management workshop information; an invitation to the 2011 Upper Midwest Regional Springsted Symposium Nov. 17 in St. Paul; Lake Country Power duel fuel heat fall check-up reminder; the Aitkin County Historical Society newsletter and information from the Census Bureau regarding the 2011 Census of Governments survey that will be arriving soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road report: The roads have been graded and graveled, the debris from clean-up day has been picked up except the tires, a pump was borrowed from the DNR to clean out a culvert on 490th Street, hydraulic hoses were replaced on the grader, trees were trimmed on 490th Street, wind damaged trees were cleaned up, the ditch on 520th LN was cleaned, maintenance was done at both leaf sites, and trees on 200th Avenue and 197th Avenue were marked for power company removal.

_ A drainage issue at 49569 210th PL was discussed; the property owner had complained about the way the road had been graded. The supervisors inspected the area. Matt Reid, SEH, will be contacted to do a site inspection.

_ Guidelines for driveways and driveway approaches will be reviewed. The county driveway access permitting application was reviewed. The township right-of-way ordinance needs to be reviewed to include driveway requirements.

_ Concern was shared about the property owner at 48171 218th PL placing fence posts along the road. This is another drainage issue area. Matt Reid, SEH, will be contacted to schedule a survey of this area.

_ The 188th Avenue survey has been completed and the right-of-way stakes are in place. Two residents have items/bags of leaves in the right-of-way; they will be sent letters instructing them to remove the debris. If the debris is not removed within 20 days from the date of the letter, it will be referred to the township attorney. This will be reviewed at the November meeting.

_ Nancy Karjalahti attended the October BSALWMP meeting. Lakeview Lane Access (by the Cajun Queen) was discussed. Nancy will request a copy of the original drainage plans from Soil and Water so the drainage can be cleaned. Ron Smith will contact the conservation officer to have him look at the damage. Signs will be requested from the DNR restricting ATV use.

_ The drainage issue on 202nd PL across the road from 50742 was discussed. Matt Reid, SEH, will be contacted to do a site inspection of this area.

_ A petition requesting the township acceptance and maintenance of 189th Place was received. The petition was accepted. A road view to inspect the road was scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, at 9 a.m. with a public hearing to follow (approximately 9:45 a.m.) at the townhall. The public hearing will determine if 189th PL meets the specifications for acceptance as a township maintained road.

_ Sign Logic contacted John Brula with information regarding future updates to their software to include culvert locations, etc. Sign Logic had requested the township introduce them at the October ACAT meeting; none of the supervisors were planning to attend the meeting. Sign Logic will have a booth at the MAT annual convention in Alexandria in November.

_ The township utility permit rules and regulations were discussed. Several changes were discussed; no decisions were made. It will be discussed again at the November meeting.

Long-Range Comprehensive Road Plan: Plan will be presented at the annual meeting. The board will review and make a recommendation for work based on the plan. An additional board meeting may be scheduled to work on this.

The Big Sandy Lodge deferral/abatement: Information was sent to the township attorney. We are waiting to hear back from him.

Ball field: Nothing new to report.

Townhall remodeling: Nothing new to report.

Clean-up Day (September 24): All the debris has been removed except the tires. Charles Quale will check on tire pickup. It was suggested that it might be necessary to limit the number of loads per resident/property owner. People cleaning out foreclosed/repossessed properties can be considered a business; this event is not intended for commercial use. The general consensus was that this service is being abused and the rules are being bent as to township residency/property ownership. Other ways to control overuse/abuse were discussed; no decisions were made.

Social Security: Notification was received from PERA informing the township that the Regional Commissioner of Social Security approved the Section 218 agreement modification requested by the township. Social Security and Medicare taxes will be withheld from all newly elected officials and those current officials who voted to have such coverage.

Back-up road equipment operator: Guidelines for a supervisor working as a township employee were discussed. A resolution authorizing this is required. The possibility of others who might be available was considered. No decision was made.

Minnewawa Estates: There was no change in the county equipment rates as of October 1, 2011. Charles Quale moved to have the snow plowing contract with Minnewawa Estates remain the same as last year, seconded by Ron Smith; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The gravel pit lease will expire on December 31, 2011. Nancy Karjalahti will contact the Grand Rapids DNR office regarding the lease. It may be possible to have a DNR representative attend a meeting to discuss the lease; the leased area needs to be clarified.

The road mileage of 51.553 miles for township maintained roads was certified on a motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith; motion carried. The certification will be sent to the county engineer.

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield premium rates for health insurance for the township employees have been reduced effective December 1, 2011.

Effective October 1, 2011 townships are exempt from most Minnesota state sales taxes. Vendors will be notified.

The Aitkin County Association of Townships (ACAT) will meet on October 20 at Hazelton town hall.

There was discussion on attending the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) annual meeting and educational conference in Alexandria November 17-19. Shamrock Township has a resolution about the Auto Mark required usage at annual township elections that will be considered at the annual meeting on November 19.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Nancy Karjalahti
Shamrock Township Board Chairperson

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 10, 2011 REGULAR BOARD MEETING