

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, October 14, 2010**

Board Chairman Charles Quale called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Nancy Karjalahti and Ron Smith, Treasurer John Brula, Clerk Candace Bartel, road maintenance employee Marvin Turner, residents Rich Biernat and Al Eld, and Amber Lehman from the *Voyageur Press*.

The minutes from the September 23, 2010 regular board meeting were approved on a motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending September 30, 2010: General Revenue Fund, \$20,806.08; Road & Bridge Fund, \$356,843.44; Fire Fund, \$41,630.00; Building Fund, \$94,192.21; Sewer Fund, \$4,599.58; Parks & Rec Fund, \$34,896.33; and the Lease/purchase Fund, \$27,062.80. The Road & Bridge CD's total \$228,216.69; Building final payment CD, \$75,657.69; Sewer Fund CD's \$81,977.85; Kirt Properties escrow CD \$4,645.89. Interest received September 30 was \$378.40; other receipts totaled \$481.60; disbursements were \$42,244.67. Total cash and savings balance on hand as of September 30, 2010 was \$970,528.56. Liabilities are the building bond at \$575,000. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Ron Smith to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried unanimously. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve payment of claims and payroll (totaling \$32,117.26); motion carried unanimously

Correspondence: Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Oversight Committee meeting information, information on the Palisade Energy Park, the plasma arc gasification process, and citizen concerns about the proposed gasification plant, and an invitation to the Springsted Symposium were received and will be filed for reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road report: Marvin Turner reported that they mowed shoulders, bladed roads, brushed and cut trees in the Traders Post, Indian Portage and Sawmill Road areas, the ditch was cleaned from 187th Ave. to the culvert by Pat McGinn's, normal equipment maintenance was done and 170 yards of gravel was spread. Approval was given to take the pickup in for repair. Cold mix has been ordered. Salt will be ordered about a week before delivery is needed.

Gravel Pit usage: Nancy Karjalahti reported people are helping themselves to the class 5 and riprap rocks in the gravel pit. It was agreed to put private property signs by the class 5 and the rock piles.

188th Avenue: Construction has not started yet. The DNR and the Army Corps of Engineer permits have been granted and the agreement with the contractor has been signed.

484th Street: Janet Smude, BSALWMP, will attend the October 28 meeting. Nelson's and Youngren's will be notified that Janet will be attending the meeting and the project will be discussed.

472nd Street: Tim Turner has done some shaping on the road by Steinmueller's. Charles Quale did not have an opportunity to talk with Tom Steinmueller. An agreement will be drafted and sent to Tom for signature allowing the township to divert water through the drainage area on his property.

218th Place: No culvert was found. It may be possible to discuss this drainage situation with Janet Smude at the next meeting or have an engineer design a solution.

483rd Street: Another drainage problem from water running down the township road and causing erosion. Another project to have an engineer inspect.

Al Eld shared concern about people walking on the township roads and not yielding to oncoming vehicle traffic. Al cited MN statute 169.21 that states pedestrians walking along a roadway shall be on the left of the roadway giving way to the oncoming traffic. It was suggested to have the lake associations put a reminder in their newsletters and have the sheriff include it in his radio broadcast.

Mobile radio: Quotes were received from DSC Communications and Martin Communications for a Motorola PM400 mobile radio & antenna for the mower tractor. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Ron Smith, to purchase the radio & antenna from DSC Communications; motion carried. The township system upgrade will be done in the near future. A letter was received from the MN State Patrol reminding the board that upgrades are required. The county is waiting until more towers are in place before they go forward with their upgrade. The township will be notified of future county meetings related to the radio system upgrade.

Maintenance Building: We have heard nothing from architect, John Geissler, on his progress on the project finalization. The township attorney inquired if the township had received a letter from Northern Escrow notifying us that they would be taking over the payments under the contract with MG Carlson Construction. The township did not receive any correspondence from Northern Escrow. The township attorney is to contact the bond company and obtain a copy of the letter.

Townhall remodeling: After discussion it was agreed to have Charles Quale contact Davey Johnson (Serenity Design & Build) and Jeremy Paquette to draw plans for interior remodeling.

Flagpole lighting: There was discussion on installing a light under the flag pole. (Discussed later in the meeting.)

Clean-up day: Crow Wing Recycling paid the township \$700 for the scrap metal from clean-up day.

Cable company: Nothing new to report.

Ball Field: Waiting for Roth Construction to do the ball field shaping.

Snowplowing Policy: Ron Smith will work with the maintenance men on establishing a route list. He will contract the township attorney, if needed.

Old photos/negatives: John Brula checked with First Photo in Duluth on the costs of prints from the old negatives. They would be \$7.31 per print. He will check with a photo shop in the cities for another quote.

An inquiry was received requesting permission to remove trees in the road right-of-way along a non-maintained, platted township road (480nd Lane). The school bus has trouble going down the road. The resident at the end of the road has notified the other property owners and requested that the trees be removed. The clerk will check with the MAT attorney on this issue.

Maintenance employee's wages: After discussion, it was decided to wait to see what the county decides on wage increases for the county road maintenance employees. Any wage increase will be retroactive to August 1, 2010.

Health insurance premium increase: Any changes in the health insurance coverage need to be made by November 15. There was discussion on how the insurance plan is selected; the employees select the coverage. Ron Smith will meet with the insurance agent and the employees to discuss plan options.

Further discussion on the flagpole light. An estimate was received from Freeman Electric for a light fixture and installation of \$500. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to accept the Freeman Electric proposal to install a flag pole light; motion approved on the following vote – Smith, yes; Quale, yes, Karjalahti, ~~abstained~~, **yes**.

NEW BUSINESS:

A MAT legislative alert was received notifying the townships that there was a possibility that town roads would not be included in the emergency floor relief that would be discussed at the special session on October 11. Nancy Karjalahti e-mailed the legislators requesting the town roads be included in any flood relief bill. A follow-up message was received from MAT stating there was a misunderstanding and that town roads would be included in any flood relief funding package.

The annual road mileage certification form was received from the county engineer. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti, to certify the township road mileage at 51.553 miles; motion carried.

The following were appointed to serve as election judges at the general election on November 2, Jack Brula, Richard Cox, Richard Biernat, Judy Haussner, Barb Griefzu, Kathy LaBerge, Susan Pretzel, Lois Meacham, Jan Schluter, Ellsa Sorenson and Candace Bartel on a motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; motion carried.

Ron Smith moved to approve the Minnewawa Sportsmen's club permit to hold their annual fishing contest, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; motion carried.

The quarterly meeting of Aitkin County Association of Townships (ACAT) will be October 21 at Hazelton Township hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Ron Smith, Jack Brula and Candace Bartel plan to attend. Ron Smith will give his report on attending the National Association of Townships Conference in Washington DC in September. He was the ACAT representative. Ron Smith moved the adoption of a resolution to make the use of the AutoMARK (assistive voting device) optional at township elections, the resolution was adopted on the following vote: Quale, yes; Karjalahti, yes; Smith, yes. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti, to present this resolution to ACAT for consideration for adoption by county association was approved.

The MAT annual meeting will be in Duluth November 18-20th. Deadline for early registration is November 4.

Options for possible ball field funding were discussed. They include the McGregor Lions Club, Lake Country Power Roundup, SnoFlyers, Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club, and the McGregor Fire Department.

Ron Smith gave a summary of his trip to the National Association of Townships Conference in September. Eleven states have township level government. Six states attended the annual conference. Wisconsin was the host state. Minnesota will be the 2011 host state.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Charles Quale
Shamrock Township Board Chairman

**MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS CORRECTED AT THE OCTOBER 28, 2010
REGULARBOARD MEETING**