

Shamrock Township Board Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2006

Chairman Ron Smith called the regular Board meeting to order at 7 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Nancy Karjalahti and Charles Quale; Treasurer John Brula, Clerk Candace Bartel, Marvin Turner, road maintenance man and seven residents.

Charles Quale moved to approve the minutes from September 28 meeting as distributed, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the period ending September 30, 2006 gave the following fund balances: General Revenue Fund, \$12,306.59; Road & Bridge Fund, \$249,540.21; Fire Fund, \$67,629.50; Building Fund, \$118,945.28; Sewer Fund, \$65,615.74; and the Parks & Rec Fund, \$1,397.14. Building Fund CD's total \$112,839.63. Total cash and savings balance on hand as of August 31 is \$628,274.09. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve payment of bills and payroll totaling \$26,417.28; motion carried.

Correspondence: Big Sandy Lake Association meeting agenda and minutes, information on USDA Rural Development System Planning & Management Training on November 1 & 2 in Hibbing, campaign information from Lori Grams candidate of Aitkin County Treasurer, and notice of an informational meeting to explore plans to create additional living at home/block nurse programs in Aitkin County were distributed. The October copy of the Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's *The Outlet* was received and will be filed for reference.

John Clasen and two residents from Sheshebe Point voiced their concern about a pair of dogs running at large and these dogs recently attacked a dog on a leash being walked by its owner. He stated there is no statewide leash law. John stated he'd contacted the state senator and representative and a county commissioner who forwarded the concern to the sheriff and the county attorney. After discussion of options, the board suggested discussing the problem with Sheriff Turner when he arrived later in the evening.

Jerry Maxwell presented the board with a petition to vacate a portion of 209th Place in Section 29. After reviewing the process and the time required, Mr. Maxwell withdrew the petition and will present it in the spring when he returns from Florida.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Report: Marvin Turner reported they worked on ditching 172nd Place, pulled stumps in the property leased from the DNR, replaced a culvert and did ditch work on 493rd Lane. The windshield in the Kodiak truck needs to be replaced; windows are needed in the grader and tractor. More culverts will be replaced next week. The work on 493rd Lane was discussed; Nancy Karjalahti will get the engineer's report next week.

508th Lane: A resident contacted Ron Smith with concerns about the intersection of 508th Lane and Long Point Place, requested a wide clearing of snow this winter; requested the removal of two trees that are close to the road; noted that shrubs obstruct drivers' view in one area; noted a mailbox was too close to the road; and a power pole is too close to the road. The board discussed the issues.

Eagle Nest Townhomes: Ron Smith left a message for Don Woolf. He will discuss their blacktop repair and the equipment turnaround option when he talks with Mr. Woolf.

Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the corrected township mileage for

certification to the county engineer; motion carried. The number of miles of township certified road is 51.553.

At 7:50 p.m. Aitkin County Attorney Tom Murtha and his wife arrived. Mr. Murtha came to the meeting in response to the complaint of dangerous dogs on Sheshebe Point. John Clasen and the two residents who presented their concerns at the beginning of the meeting were no longer in attendance. Mr. Murtha outlined the state laws and how the county handles dog complaints. He stated that a potentially dangerous dog notice was issued to the owner of the dogs in the incident described earlier in the meeting. He was given a summary of Mr. Maxwell's request to vacate a portion of 209th Place; Mr. Murtha felt that this is a district court issue.

At 8 p.m. Aitkin County Sheriff Scott Turner arrived. He stated that the sheriff's office was aware of the dangerous dog complaint and that it was being addressed. He gave an overview of the county's emergency preparedness/management plans. There is an all-county hazard mitigation plan in place. He left a copy of this plan for the board to review and requested to be notified if there are things specific to Shamrock Township that are not addressed in the plan. This is an ongoing effort and will be changed as needed. He stressed the importance of having a NOAA weather radio for notification of bad weather. The county has applied for a grant relating to handling a pandemic flu or infectious disease outbreak. He explained the 911 addressing system in the county. County maps are available.

Bridge Construction: Ron Smith talked with county engineer John Welle regarding the grading of the section of Long Point Place in the construction zone. John indicated that the sub-contractor is supposed to grade the road twice a week and more as needed. Ron will keep John informed as needed.

Tree removal on 214th Place: The township has not received a copy of the consent agreement to remove the tree in question. It was noted that the stump has been removed.

Partridge Road vacation: Ron Smith has left messages for Tom Peterson regarding the status of his property issue and is waiting for a response.

Urban Township Task Force: No meeting has been scheduled. Dave Schaaf requested that Ron Smith set up the next meeting.

Riparian Land Committee: The next meeting is scheduled for October 13 at 2 p.m.

New Century Communications: Peter Tiede, township attorney, is reviewing the cable franchise agreement. He recommended writing a letter of extension to the cable company; motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti directing the clerk to write an extension letter, motion carried. After further discussion Charles Quale will contact Peter and discuss the cable franchise.

Website: John Brula reported that Sadie Frericks, the website designer, has moved from the area. She will complete the sections of the website she has been working on and Memory Grones will be in charge of updates to the site in the future.

Building: It appears that renting office space from the DNR will not be an option. Charles Quale is still waiting to hear from a property owner about renting a building for storage of maintenance equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election judges: Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale to appoint the following to serve as elections judges at the November 7 general election: Judy Haussner, Lois Meacham, Kathy LaBerge, Barb Greifzu, Pat Daine, Ellsa Sorenson, Richard Cox, John Brula, Karen Reid, Ann Truelson, Louise Orttel, and Candace Bartel; alternate judges: Jan Schluter, Midge Wilson, Chet Smiley, and Jerry Smith; motion carried.

Variance Request: The board reviewed a request from Kevin Berg for a variance from the required 75-foot setback at 21899 506th Lane. The board had no objection as long as the established county zoning ordinances are followed.

Employee Insurance Coverage: Minnesota Benefit Association will do a review of the current coverage. More information will be presented at the November board meeting.

The Minnesota Association of Townships annual meeting will be in Duluth November 16-18. Several board members may attend on the 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Ron Smith
Shamrock Township Board Chairman

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 9, 2006
REGULAR BOARD MEETING.**