

Shamrock Township Board Meeting Thursday, May 11, 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 and Deputy Clerk Karen Reid; eight residents; Bruce Kimmel, Springsted; and John Gronnes and Denny Meyer from the *Voyageur Press*.

Motion by Supervisor Quale to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2006 regular board meeting as presented, seconded by Supervisor Karjalahti; motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Karjalahti to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2006 Board of Equalization and Appeal, seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried.

Supervisor Karjalahti moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried. Motion by Supervisor Karjalahti, seconded by Supervisor Quale, to approve the claims as presented; motion carried.

Correspondence: An invitation was received for the McGregor Public Library Open House on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 10 a.m. to noon. Also received was the 2005 Lake Country Power Annual Report and the May issue of *The Outlet* from MLEC; they will be placed on file for reference.

John Gronnes, publisher of the *Voyageur Press* requested permission to tape record the meeting; permission was granted.

Ron Conset, Vice President of the Lake Minnewawa Association, presented a request for funding to assist with managing the water quality on Lake Minnewawa. Supervisor Karjalahti moved to move this request to the new business section of the meeting; the chairman agreed.

Bruce Kimmel, Springsted, presented information on financing the building project. Two options are available to townships. The lease purchase option would be supported from taxes on all properties. General obligation bonds would be supported from taxes from homesteaded properties only. Bruce went on to explain the two approaches available with the lease purchase option. The certificates of participation can be offered to the financial market place or a limited offering to local banks. He distributed an example of estimated tax impact for both options. He will be able to present more defined information once the board selects a financing option and a length of the debt service.

Jim Carlson, Big Sandy Water Institute, presented information on the summer program and explained the funding sources and anticipated expenses. No other townships have been approached for funding. They will be tracking where the kids are coming from this year. Supervisor Karjalahti moved to donate \$1500 to the program, seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried.

Chairman Smith reported the building committee would like to hold two informational meetings for the public. Dates suggested were June 21 and July 11, pending the availability of the financial advisor. One meeting will be held at the town hall and the other at the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club. The building committee recommended the board go ahead with plans presented by the architect. Supervisor Karjalahti moved to contact the architect, plan the informational meetings for June 21 and July 11, do the blue prints, motion seconded by Supervisor Quale; Supervisor Karjalahti added leaving the existing building up during the construction of the new building to the motion, Supervisor Quale rescinded his second; motion died for lack of a second. Supervisor Quale moved to build the building on the existing building site; motion died for lack of a second. Supervisor Karjalahti moved to hire John Geissler, dsgw Architects, as the project architect, seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried. Chairman Smith presented a contract from John Geissler for the board to review; this was moved to the new business section of the meeting.

Road report: 500 yards of gravel has been hauled, most on 487th Street; the leaf sites have been used heavily, the maintenance men attended the annual Aitkin County safety day, helped with the cleanup day, and took white goods to Grand Rapids; the scrap metal from cleanup day needs to be hauled, the

blacktop roads have been swept and roads have been graded. Tim Turner will research the cost of leasing a mower and getting a demonstration of road edging equipment for possible lease. Culverts need to be ordered. Up to 40 hours per week were approved for Matt Eidem for summer employment. He will have two rates of pay, one for mowing & miscellaneous and one for driving truck, once he has the proper driver's license.

John Dunn, maintenance man from Big Sandy Lodge, informed the board that 487th Street will be blacktopped from Lake Avenue (county rd. 14) to 207th Avenue. The board also received a letter from Brian Malm, Bolton & Menk, Inc., stating the blacktopping would be done in early June. They have a contract at last year's prices that expires June 30th. It was noted that the blacktopping company will do the final grade on the road. Big Sandy Lodge needs to put in a driveway culvert; the board noted the length should be limited to 20 to 24 feet. Aitkin County needs to replace a culvert prior to the blacktopping; Supervisor Quale will contact the county engineer's office. The board asked if Big Sandy Lodge could help with dust control on this road, possibly using a water truck to spray; Mr. Dunn did not think that would be possible. The board will do a road view of the road prior to blacktopping and will review the blacktopping contract to make sure the specifications are adequate for the traffic on this road.

The following sections of township roads were approved for calcium chloride application for road stabilization:

- Long Point Place, 800 feet at the end of the blacktop
- 202nd Avenue (Indian Portage Hill), 400 feet
- 493rd Lane (Ekelund Sawmill), 400 feet
- 498th Lane (Hillcrest Rd.), 1600 feet
- Sheshebe Point, 600 feet
- 490th Street (Floer Rd.), 5280 feet
- 189th Avenue (near Prairie River), 1200 feet

Application on 473rd Street plus the intersection with 184th Avenue will be reviewed with Tim Turner.

Review of the annual town road report was tabled to the next meeting.

The urban town task force held their first meeting at 5 p.m. on May 11. David Schaaf, task force chairman, will be contacting other urban towns for input. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on May 25th.

Two proposals were received for establishing a township website. After reviewing the proposals, Supervisor Karjalahti moved to accept the proposal from the *Voyageur Press*, seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried.

Cleanup Day: \$436 in fees was collected. Total number of loads recorded was 174; it was noted that some people did not sign in. Members of the Lake Minnewawa Association and the Big Sandy Lake Association assisted plus resident Adam Martoz, Supervisors Quale, Karjalahti and Smith and road maintenance man Tim Turner. Tim will check with Bass Brock or another company on the disposal of the scrap metal.

The riparian land legislation is still pending at the state legislature.

Mining exploration in Clark Township was discussed. Information was shared by Supervisor Karjalahti and John Gronnes relating to a meeting they attended in Cromwell on May 10. Kennecott Exploration (a mining company) has applied for a conditional use permit from Aitkin County for mineral exploration activities. Supervisor Karjalahti moved to adopt a resolution that opposes the granting of the conditional use permit for mining exploration because any pollution from mining activities in this location would negatively impact the ecology of the Big Sandy Watershed, seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion passed unanimously. The conditional use permit hearing will be Monday, May 15, at 4 p.m. at the Aitkin County Courthouse.

Supervisor Karjalahti asked to be removed from the urban town task force. Supervisor Smith agreed to serve on the task force.

The request for funding from Lake Minnewawa Association was reviewed. Motion by Supervisor Karjalahti to donate \$2000 was seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried.

It was decided to send the dsgw Architect contract to Peter Tiede, township attorney, for review.

The next building committee meeting was set for Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m.

Supervisor Karjalahti moved to adjourn at 10:15 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Quale; motion carried.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Ronald Smith
Shamrock Township Board Chairman