

Shamrock Township Board Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 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, and Marvin Turner, road maintenance man.

Nancy Karjalahti made a motion to correct the minutes from the August 24th board meeting to read “*throughout the township and ditching was done by Jack Haussner’s property and on the Floe Road*” in the road report section and to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded Charles Quale; motion carried.

The treasurer’s report for the period ending August 31, 2006 gave the following fund balances: General Revenue Fund, \$17,913.08; Road & Bridge Fund, \$262,127.66; Fire Fund, \$67,509.46; Building Fund, \$158,082.72; Sewer Fund, \$65,454.76; and the Parks & Rec Fund, \$1,866.19. Building Fund CD’s total \$112,246.63. Total cash and savings balance on hand as of August 31 is \$685,200.17. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the treasurer’s report; motion carried. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti, to approve payment of bills and payroll totaling \$59,357.56; motion carried.

Correspondence: The Big Sandy Lake Association meeting minutes and agenda and the MN Assn. of Townships District 11 meeting notice were distributed. The Land Use Law seminar information, Lakes & Pines newsletter, Mille Lacs Energy Coop newsletter, Brock White newsletter, U of M Technology Exchange newsletter and U of M LTAP workshop information were received and will be filed for reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Report: Marvin Turner reported they've hauled 565 yards of gravel, trimmed and cut trees, graded roads, did equipment maintenance, and sprayed for noxious weeds along Long Point Place. Tim Turner will contact John Welle, county engineer, regarding the possibility of ordering road salt through the county. Marvin presented a map of areas that need ditching, culvert work, etc. that can be done with a backhoe. Nancy Karjalahti presented information regarding the location of the road near Hjalmer Frederickson’s property on 186th Avenue. The board will need to determine if the road needs to be moved. Charles Quale moved to place an ad in the *Voyageur Press* stating the township will be spot spraying for noxious weeds in the road right-of-way on township roads; the supervisors can be contacted for more information, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; motion carried.

It was reported that the windows in the John Deere tractor were broken over Labor Day weekend; a report was filed with the sheriff’s office. Pictures were taken to document the current condition of the road surface on Long Point Place. These will be available for reference to assess any damage done during the bridge construction.

Tree removal on 214th Place: After much discussion, it appears that the tree in question has been removed. Classic Homes was to receive written consent from the property owner (Steve Dvorka) to remove the tree and provide a copy to the township. The township has not received a copy of the consent agreement. The stump is to be removed so it is not a hazard for the snowplow.

Dale Gillson, candidate for county sheriff, arrived and shared his background and experience with the board. There was a general discussion of areas of concern and possible ways to address them.

Partridge Road vacation: Ron Smith will contact Tom Peterson regarding the status of his property issue.

Bridge Construction: Motion by Charles Quale to designate by resolution that portion of Long Point Place (Bridge Road) from State Highway 65 east to 508th Lane (Maple Lane) as a haul road during the bridge construction (from on or about September 5, 2006 to the anticipated completion date of July 2007) and hold the construction company and any subcontractors responsible for any damage done to this section of road during the bridge construction, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti. The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. Construction began on September 11. Concerns were expressed on the roadwork thus far. Ron Smith will contact John Welle, county engineer, about the concerns.

Building: No report has been received on the possibility of renting office space from the DNR. Charles Quale is waiting to hear from a property owner about renting a building for storage of maintenance equipment. Nancy Karjalahti called the *Newshopper* regarding the August 19th article reporting on the August 3rd meeting. She was told the information was taken from a report given at the county commissioner's meeting. The board reviewed part of the sign-in sheets from the August 3rd meeting.

Urban Township Task Force: A meeting was scheduled for September 9th; no report was given.

Clean Up Day: Saturday, September 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the townhall. Dumpsters have been ordered. Nancy Karjalahti, Ron Smith, Tim Turner, Marvin Turner and volunteers from the Big Sandy Lake Association will work.

Primary Election Report: Two hundred thirty-five people voted on September 12. There were 846 residents registered to vote Tuesday morning. The Automark machine was available to assist voters in marking their ballots.

Ekelund Sawmill corner & settling pond (493rd Lane): Nancy Karjalahti reported that she talked with Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. Soil and Water department relating to improvement of the public access and possible addition of a settling pond(s). The township will need to pay for the survey and engineering fees for this project. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to pay \$450 for the survey and engineering fees; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Century Communications: A franchise agreement was received from this company for the cable service they provide in the southeast section of the township. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to send the franchise agreement to Peter Tiede, township attorney, for review; motion carried. After further discussion, it was decided that Charles Quale and the clerk should review the document, make note of areas of concern and share them at the next board meeting and then send the document and concerns to the attorney for review.

Conditional Use Permit request: A request for a conditional use permit was received from Jeffrey Hansen/Big Sandy Sports to operate a laundry facility and off-sale liquor store in an area zoned Shoreland (Big Sandy) and Farm Residential. No board action was required; the board expects the established county zoning ordinances to be followed.

Variance Request: A variance request from the required set back from a bluff was received from Larry Mattson, 50906 202nd Place. No board action was required; the board expects the established county zoning ordinances to be followed.

Riparian Land Committee: The next meeting will be September 22.

Mining in Aitkin County: Nancy Karjalahti attended a public meeting in Tamarack on September 13 regarding mineral exploration in eastern Aitkin County. Information was presented by the DNR, Division of Lands and Minerals. A trip to Ladysmith, WI to see the mining operation is planned for September 19. Nancy plans to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Ron Smith
Shamrock Township Board Chairman

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2006
REGULAR BOARD MEETING.**