

Shamrock Township Board Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 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, six residents, John Grones and Mike Heaser from the *Voyageur Press*. Mr. Grones tape-recorded the meeting.

Nancy Karjalahti moved to approve the minutes from October 12th meeting as distributed, seconded by Charles Quale; motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the period ending October 31, 2006 gave the following fund balances: General Revenue Fund, \$7,715.16; Road & Bridge Fund, \$239,448.93; Fire Fund, \$68,523.70; Building Fund, \$117,885.85; Sewer Fund, \$66,012.70; and the Parks & Rec Fund, \$1,434.11. Building Fund CD's total \$112,839.63. Total cash and savings balance on hand as of October 31 was \$613,860.08. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti, to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve payment of bills and payroll totaling \$14,412.49; motion carried.

Correspondence: Big Sandy Lake Association newsletter, meeting agenda and minutes, and DFL campaign information were distributed. The Anderson Brothers newsletter, the Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative's *The Outlet* and the Lakes & Pines newsletter and annual report were received and will be filed for reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Report: Marvin Turner reported 440 yards of gravel have been hauled, seven culverts were replaced, ditch work was done on several roads, they worked 493rd Lane, patched some approaches and did blacktop repair, and worked on getting the equipment ready for winter. The windshields in the grader and Kodiak were replaced. There may be a delay in getting salt for the salt/sand mix; we will be able to borrow from the county if necessary. The salt supplier suggested contracting for the needed amount in May. A road view was scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, at 10:30 a.m. to meet with the engineer regarding work to be done on 493rd Lane.

Eagle Nest Townhomes: Ron Smith has still not heard from Don Woolf regarding their blacktop repair and the equipment turnaround.

198th Place Access (next to DeMars property): Nancy Karjalahti has been contacted by several residents regarding this access. Property on both sides has been surveyed. Concerns are of encroachment in the road right-of-way and the residents would like to see the access widened. A road view was scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, at 4:30 p.m.

Partridge Road vacation: Ron Smith has left messages for Tom Peterson regarding the status of his property issue, no response has been received.

Bridge Construction: Ron Smith has been monitoring the progress. Concerns were voiced that no packer is being used and the railing posts are small. It was noted that the curb is in. A road view was scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, following the 493rd Lane inspection.

Riparian Land Committee: Neil Ostby and Ron Conzet were present. Neil gave an update on the committee's progress. They recommend the town board take over management of only certain parcels 50 feet or wider and no docks be allowed at public landings. The list of recommended parcels was reviewed. The next committee meeting will be Friday, November 10, at 2 p.m. at the town hall.

Urban Township Task Force: Lynn Widseth was present representing the task force. It was recommended that the task force evaluate the pros and cons of urban township status and report to the annual meeting in March. Lynn will schedule the next task force meeting.

New Century Communications: Discussion was moved to the end of the agenda.

General Election: The clerk reported 641 votes were cast; 104 were absentee ballots, 62 new registrations were recorded (this includes some name and address changes). The voter turnout for the township was approximately 70%. There were 863 voters registered at the beginning of the day.

Insurance Coverage: Minnesota Benefit Association evaluated the employee insurance coverage and recommended no change.

The need for a planning & zoning endorsement to the township's insurance policy was discussed. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti to add the planning and zoning endorsement to the insurance coverage; motion carried.

Building: After discussing the need for office space, Nancy Karjalahti moved to allow Ron Smith to contact local contractors, obtain a plan and begin work on placing a wall in the north section of the existing building, seconded by Charles Quale; motion carried. No progress has been made on finding winter storage for equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conditional Use Permit: A request for a CUP was received from Randal Anderson to operate a light residential and general building construction/contractor facility in an area zoned residential located at 48320 State Hwy 65. After reviewing the request, the board had no objections.

Conditional Use Permit: A request for a CUP was received from James Loughrey to create an eight-lot residential subdivision/plat in an area zoned farm residential located at 49100 Lily Avenue. After reviewing the request the board expects the road and the turnaround within the plat be required to follow Aitkin County specifications for new roads and any damage done to the existing township road during development of the subdivision and construction of new homes to be promptly and fully restored, at the developer's/contractor's expense, to a condition as good as that prevailing prior to any development work being done.

Variance Request: The board reviewed a request from James Hawley, 51976 209th Place. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Ron Smith, to deny the setbacks requested from the road right-of-way and request that the Board of Adjustment follow the established zoning and shoreland ordinances; Karjalahti – aye, Smith - aye, Quale, abstained, motion carried. It was noted that the existing township road cannot be moved.

Township computer: The clerk advised the board that the township computer is seven years old and should be replaced. This was tabled to the next meeting.

McGregor Airport: A request from the mayor of McGregor for a letter of support for federal funding for the McGregor Airport was reviewed. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Charles Quale, to authorize a letter be written showing the township's support of the McGregor Airport; motion carried.

Nancy Karjalahti received a request from a property owner (~~Lorna~~ Lana Fix) requesting development of a platted road. The road will not be developed at the township's expense. Nancy will contact Ms. Fix.

New Century Communications: The revised ordinance received from the township attorney was reviewed. Charles Quale will contact the township attorney to go over the areas of concern. A public hearing was set for Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 p.m. A revised copy of the proposed ordinance will be available for review prior to the public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Ron Smith
Shamrock Township Board Chairman

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS CORRECTED AT THE
DECEMBER 14, 2006 REGULAR BOARD MEETING.**