

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 13, 2020**

Board Chairman Charles Quale called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Ron Smith and Allen Eld; Treasurer John Brula; Clerk Candace Kral; maintenance Tim Turner, Chad DeMenge, WSB and 8 property owners (sign in sheet attached).

Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Allen Eld, to approve the February 13, 2020 agenda; motion carried.

Motion by Allen Eld, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the January 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting minutes; motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending, January 31, 2020: General Revenue Fund, \$134,738.22; Road & Bridge Fund \$120,059.15; Sewer Fund, 25,032.48; Road Repair (blacktop) Fund, \$178,090.07; Fire Fund, \$20,422.41; Building Repair Fund, \$296,262.19; Parks & Rec Fund, \$92,950.09; Road Bond -\$79,368.78 and the Lease/purchase \$15,573.19; bond principal - \$500,000.00 – for a total in the checking accounts of \$1,080,420.52. The Blacktop Repair CDs' total \$243,073.71; Equipment CD's total 50,000.00 and the Sewer Fund CDs' total \$91,982.74. Money market interest received in January 2020 was \$326.56. Receipts for the month were \$18,191.28. January disbursements were \$37,441.78. Motion by Allen Eld, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the treasurer's report; motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Allen Eld, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the January 2020 claims and payroll totaling \$37,441.78; motion passed unanimously. Claims list attached

Shamrock Park Project –

Master Plan and Estimate – the board supplied the meeting attendee with handouts of the park's Master Plan and a copy of the estimate stating the costs of the Plan in phases. The clerk explained the concept of the plan and the township's intentions and long term goals. She explained that the township is applying for the Outdoor Rec Grant through the DNR, which is a 50/50 match grant up to \$250,000 for phase one of the plan which will include the new playground, Pavilion with attached bathrooms with storage, new bleachers for the ballfield, and the beginning of walkways from the parking lot and getting around the recreational area. The township also emphasized that they wanted to be able to have the tennis/pickleball courts constructed immediately – they could not qualify for the grant to include the courts do to the fact the courts are designed to be placed on leased property. The board explained that they felt that it was better to get something rather than nothing, to get a good start on the recreational area. By popular concession, the board had decided that the park will be *Shamrock Recreation Area*

The township, together with the help of the park committee, will be applying for a variety grants that are available. They will also be working towards for the erection of the new park project. The township will do what they can to install the tennis/pickleball courts as soon as possible

A strong desire for walking and biking trails was shared. It was explained how the township property is surrounded by state property (beyond the state trust land) and the township has discussed the desire and possibilities of constructing trails that could go around Anderson Lake and to other various locations/roads/destination. It was stated how there is nothing in the area outside of Savana Park and would make a big impact on bringing people to the area.

Correspondence: letter from Aitkin County Administration stating the Commission Bill Pratt has been appointed as representative to the Big Sandy Lakes Watershed Management Committee with Commissioner Anne Marcott as alternate; equipment information from Road Groom Manufacturing; Lake Country Power Newslines January 2020; Lakes & Pines Board & Employee Newsletter Issue January 2020; Minnesota LTAP; M&R Sign will be sponsoring a lunch with pizza and refreshments on March 16 11:00 – 1:00 to eat and take a tour; Minnesota Association of Townships February 2020 and Short Course updates; Call to Action email forward upon request of Reno Wells regarding volunteer driver coalition and protecting the programs in Minnesota

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Report – Tim Turner, Maintenance, reported that they have been plowing snow, winging the roads, sanding and scraping; they have been working on pushing back the snow banks; have performed equipment maintenance; trimming low limbs that have been hitting the trucks; about 1/3 of the salt/sand is remaining; digital speed signs were received, they were checked to be sure that there is no visible damage and that they are in working order, has been observing the best locations for them to be installed; have been checking on rental prices on a power screen; stated that there is a possible parking area on 483rd Street, Deer Park, to help keep vehicles off the road when using the public access

The board discussed the best locations for the 3 solar digital speed signs and the different areas to use the battery digital speed sign as a portable unit. There was one of the signs placed in the meeting room for the board's and attendees viewing

Trader's Post Culvert Cleaning – The board was asked to explain the culvert cleaning being on hold and what its status is as of today. The board explained the process and difficulties with cleaning the culvert. It was stated that a supervisor talked to the DNR that when the Corp of Engineers start work on the Big Sandy Dam, that may be able to assist the township in the project by dropping the water level slightly. It was also stated that due to the age of the culvert, they would like to have the bottom inspected rather than just the sides and top (as is done annually) for deterioration of the concrete culvert, reasoning that if it is deteriorated it would be beneficial to replace the culvert/bridge rather than the expense of just a cleaning., which is very labor intensive and costly. Replacing the bridge would be contingent on receiving bridge funding through the state.

Culvert Inventory – the township received an email stating that the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District stating that they will be starting a culvert inventory in Aitkin County and is requesting the township's assistance. They will provide the township with a map of the location of all the culverts in the township when they are finished.

Salt Shed – the board viewed the approximate prices of different sizes of salt sheds. The stated a preference for the roof to be the stronger style, can withstand a heavier snow weight and approximate size to be 41'x48'. The board authorized Tim Turner to proceed in moving ahead, working with WSB, with the design, size and construction of the salt shed. The board would like to have it completed this year.

Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Allen Eld, to approve and sign, the WSB Professional Services Agreement for Shamrock Township engineering services; motion passed unanimously.

DNR Grant Application

Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Allen Eld, to approve and sign Resolution 2020-2 – Applicants Resolution, Item 11 of the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant; motion passed unanimously.

DNR Lease Extension – the clerk informed that she has spoken with Joe Rokala, DNR, in relation to the lease extension that we have been working on. He stated that he does not see that we should have any issues receiving the extension for purposes of the park upgrade project. He also stated that he believes that we may be able to receive a 30 year lease since the property is being used for recreational purposes. The clerk has sent him a copy of the Master Plan per his request. She will continue to follow up with him to get progress reports and to help keep the process moving.

Full-time Employee – will be further discussed at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

It was brought to the board’s attention that Kurt Sparks is interested in the county or townships passing a lake-district tax in the Big Sandy Flowage similar to the Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District assessment

The board decided that for now the new digital sign can be used to post select community events as well as the township’s own activities – the sign will not be used for advertising or personal messages

The township spring clean-up has been set for April 25, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – the flyers will not be put out until more information is obtained as to the cost to the township and updated info of items to be accepted

Jeremy Anderson – variance request – the board reviewed the variance request by Jeremy Anderson. They acknowledged that it is a variance request after the fact, but that it is just the building overhang and the error was that of the previous owner. The Board has no objections to the requested variance and recommends that all county rules and regulations be followed.

Shamrock Township has been informed that Aitkin County set the Board of Appeal and Equalization for Monday, April 20 at 9:00 am. It was also noted that the township has 1 supervisor has an Appeal and Equalization Certification, the minimum required by law, and that all three will need to attend the online class to be certified for next year.

Adjourn 2:46 p.m.

Candace Kral
Clerk

Charles Quale
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MARCH 5, 2020, REGULAR BOARD MEETING