

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 11, 2021**

Board Chairman Allen Eld called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Ron Smith and Charles Quale; Treasurer John Brula; Clerk Candace Kral; maintenance Tim Turner; and Matt Indihar, WBS, in-person; Chad DeMenge, WBS, and two residents via zoom

Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the February 11, 2021 agenda; motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the January 14, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes; motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending, January 31, 2021: General Revenue Fund, \$123,533.48; Road & Bridge Fund \$170,051.87; Sewer Fund, 30,208.66; Road Repair (blacktop) Fund, \$180,249.60; Fire Fund, -\$31,177.22; Building Repair Fund, \$346,983.65; Parks & Rec Fund, \$35,675.40; Road Bond \$309.12 and the Lease/purchase \$66,880.72; bond principal -\$244,000.00 – for a total in the checking accounts of \$987,569.72. The Blacktop Repair CDs' total \$ 157,074.19; Equipment CD's total 50,287.31 and the Sewer Fund CDs' total \$ 92,532.40. Money market interest received in January 2021 was \$195.81. Receipts for the month were \$27,762.26. January disbursements were \$45,762.26. Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the treasurer's report; motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the December 2020 claims and payroll totaling \$138,989.16; motion passed unanimously. Claims list attached.

Correspondence: Email from Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging with info for FY2022 Dementia Grant & FY2022 LWAH (Live Well At Home) Grants; Email from Amy, CivicPlus, regarding Vaccine Communication and Registration Support for your community; email from Pam, McGregor Insurance, with info of a recent company merge and name change; Lake County Power January 2021 Newsline; Thank you card for Cheryl, Kids Plus, for the recent donation from the township; Memo from Central Applicators, Inc, regarding roadside rights-of-way vegetation management; Talon Metals – Tamarack Project Update information; 7 County Senior Federation Echoes November/December 2020 issue; MAT Legislative & Research Meeting February 2021 agenda;

OLD BUSINESS:

The board was informed that the township received a Petition to Vacate Road from Richard Schindler. The clerk has determined that it is signed by a sufficient number of eligible petitioners and otherwise appears complete. Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to accept Petition by Richard Schindler to vacate road; motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing will be held on March 5, 12:00 pm.

Jeff Bartz, 15677 209th Place, attended via Zoom to request permission to run powerline under road. Mr. Bartz informed the board of a construction project that he is doing on his property, stating that the power pole/power supply needs to be relocated. It was stated the best way to perform the change would be to run the powerline under the road from the existing power pole across the road. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the trenching of the powerline to run it under the road with the understanding that the township is not responsible for any damage to the line due to road maintenance or improvement; motion passed unanimously. The clerk will provide Mr. Bartz with a letter for his records.

Salt Shed – Matt Indihar informed the board the salt shed bid is ready for publishing. The bid opening will take place on March 10, 1:00 pm, Charles Quale and Candace Kral will be in attendance. The board will review the bids and engineer recommendations at the March 25th board meeting. A decision will be made at the time.

Bridge Road Project – The board was supplied with a resolution to present to the county required for consideration for county support of the LRIP grant application. Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-3, Supporting Pursuit of 2020 Local Road Improvement Program Funding from MNDOT for the Reconstruction of Long Point Place/Bridge Road off of State Highway 65 motion passed unanimously. It was also stated that Ron Smith has been in contact with residents along said road to obtain letters of support for the project to show community support. Tim will take Matt out to the for a road view of the project being discussed.

Road Report – Tim Turner reported that they have been plowing, sanding and scraping; they will be ordering their second load of salt that is on reserve; trimming trees; cleaned up leaf sites; performed equipment maintenance; had truck inspections performed; picked up the new sander, will wait to change it when they have time; need to order batteries for emergency lights, also recommended they order for the townhall building; gas boiler has been repaired; propane tanks are on keep-fill.

The board was given a letter received from Derek Rosso, Carlson & Jones, P.A., of a possible lawsuit against the township in relation to the snowplow accident on December 30, 2020. They also viewed an email from Deb Provence, MATIT, stating that due to the circumstances it does not appear Mr. Fogel will not be making a claim against Shamrock Township. The clerk has filed the info in case of the need for future reference. The clerk also informed the board that she had received correspondence from the office of the Aitkin County Attorney questioning any damage to the truck and restitution we would be seeking. The informed the board of the insurance company paying for the truck damage, the driver was not injured and to the best of her knowledge the township would not be seeking any restitution from Mr. Fogel.

The township was provided with a resolution by the Troy Giltrist, township attorney, for review stating the boards position against the Kenneth Avenue Road vacation. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve and sign Resolution No. 2021-4 – Resolution Opposing an Attempt to Acquire a Portion of the Right-of-way in the Plat of Reitter's Original Plat on Sandy Lake; motion passed unanimously. The clerk also informed the board that shortly before the meeting she received and email from the DNR stating they had no issues regarding the road vacation, however, was requesting the township position. With the recommendations from Troy, the clerk informed the DNR of the township's opposition and would forward a copy of the signed resolution stating such immediately following the meeting.

The board was supplied with the resolution required for the DNR grant application. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith to approve and sign Resolution 2021-2 Attachment A Applicants Resolution; motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Format – the clerk informed the board that she attended the Zoom meeting held by MAT regarding townships’ annual meeting to be held on March 9 and how the townships should proceed with relation to the pandemic. She stated that the townships could use virtual means for the meeting if so desired, however recommended against it. To hold the annual meeting virtually, the township would have to be able to record and track each attendee’s name, voting eligibility and how they voted; or the township could have attendance via both in-person and virtual with not participation allowed virtually, which also causes issues with upset residents; or in-person only with the understanding that the town board may request to recess the meeting to a later date when health precautions would be easier to accommodate, which was the recommended solution. The clerk stated that considering the usual attendance for the meeting, the fire truck side, using the whole side instead of half) of the building should safely accommodate the attending residents. She will state in the legal notices that if the attendance is more than expected and poses an unsafe environment according the health departments pandemic recommendation, the board may request the meeting to be recessed to another date. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to hold the annual meeting via in-person at the town hall only, no virtual attendance available, with the option of requesting a recess of the meeting if necessary; motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

The board reviewed the variance request by Douglas Pottinger from the required 30-foot bluff setback to a setback of 15 feet to construct a 555 sq. ft. addition and an after-the-fact variance from the required 30 ft bluff setback to a setback distance of 4 ft construct a 20 ft x10 ft covered deck. The Board has no objections to the requested variance and recommends that all county rules and regulations be followed.

Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve and sign Resolution 2021-5 – Issuance of Liquor License to Sheryl Ruhnke, Prairie River Retreat; motion passed unanimously.

The board was presented with a list of election judges and the clerk’s recommendation for the absentee ballot board. Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve and sign Resolution 2021-1 Appointing the 2021 Absentee Ballot Board; motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the election judges to be appointed as recommended by the clerk; motion passed unanimously.

Clean-up day has been set for April 24, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

The board was informed by Ron Smith that he was approached by the City of McGregor Mayor Dake Olson with a request for support in regards to starting an ambulance taxing district. The board concluded that they need more information before a decision can be formed.

The board was provided with ACAT – January Meeting Minutes, By-Laws, News Letter and email for their review.

The Interim Use Permit by Benton McCone to operate a vacation home request was reviewed. The Board has no objections to the requested variance and recommends that all county rules and regulations be followed.

The board reviewed the Interim Use Permit to excavate/mine by Jeremy Paquette. The Board has no objections to the requested variance and recommends that all county rules and regulations be followed.

Adjourn 2:40 p.m.

Candace Kral
Clerk

Allen Eld
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MARCH 4, 2021, REGULAR BOARD MEETING