

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday March 4, 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 and Chad DeMenge, WBS, Dake Olson, City of McGregor Mayor, and one property owner via zoom and two property owners in-person.

Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the March 4, 2021 agenda; motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the February 11, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes; motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the February 11, 2021 Board of Audit Meeting minutes; motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending, February 28, 2021: General Revenue Fund, \$123,194.23; Road & Bridge Fund \$149,512.77; Sewer Fund, 30,213.81; Road Repair (blacktop) Fund, \$180,280.30; Fire Fund, \$30,995.45; Building Repair Fund, \$347,042.75; Parks & Rec Fund, \$33,940.52; Road Bond \$309.17 and the Lease/purchase \$62,582.16; bond principal -\$144,000.00 – for a total in the checking accounts of \$863,071.16. The Blacktop Repair CDs' total \$ 157,074.19; Equipment CD's total 50,287.31 and the Sewer Fund CDs' total \$ 92,568.26. Money market interest received in February 2021 was \$167.78. Receipts for the month were \$14,322.82. February disbursements were \$138,989.16. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the treasurer's report; motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve the March 2021 claims and payroll totaling \$138,989.16 plus any amounts due on the Visa bill due to the billing cycle not currently available; motion passed unanimously. Claims list attached.

Correspondence: MAT February 2021 Newsletter; Talon Metals Project Update Email containing a website to obtain the full reports; Lake Country Power February 2021 Newsline; MAT Legislative Policies Resolutions & Advocacy Guide

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Report – Plowing, sanding, scraped and wing the roads; cut and trimmed trees and brush; cleaned stump piles in the recreation area; Pulled engine on sweeper, needs piston and rings, parts are ordered; Building maintenance – purchased new batteries for the emergency lights, purchase emergency lights for the townhall; a conditional use permit is needed to have Darlow perform the sand screening at our gravel pit; they will be ordering salt for next year; checked with Aitkin County,

road restrictions are going into effect March 5; with the calcium chloride time coming, an email was received from Northern Salt Inc. providing a possibility of a quote to compare to the county.

The board was informed that an email was received from an individual asking to bid on the salt shed project with their style of shed. The clerk stated she responded by informing him the board has considered different styles and it was unlikely that they would change the chosen style at this time.

The board was informed the salt shed is published and out for bid. It appears that there are 4 or 5 contractors interested. Bids are due to the township March 10th 1:00 p.m. Matt Indihar will be present at the townhall, Charles Quale and Candace Kral will be present. Outside parties wishing to attend may do so via Zoom.

It was stated that due to an error in communication, the grant for the Bridge Road Project was not submitted on time. The application will be saved to be submitted next year. They expect to have more complete information providing for a better application.

It was stated that the hearing date for the road vacation requested by Richard Schindler was set for this date (March 4) at the February 11 Regular Board Meeting, the hearing date was cancelled due to information needed and time issues. The board was informed all information is now available and it is ready for the hearing date. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to set the hearing date for Richard Schindler road vacation for April 8, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. & to sign and approve Resolution No. 2021-6 – Resolution issuing an Order Providing a hearing Date Regarding the Vacation of a Platted Road; motion passed unanimously.

The application for the DNR Outdoor grant is being prepared and a draft will be submitted next week as per the DNR timeline.

The board was presented with a Clean-up Day poster for their review. They were also informed that Countryside Sanitary no longer accepts monitors or other electronics same as spring 2020. It was recapped that in 2020 the electronics were to be taken to Carlton County Transfer Station by maintenance using a township vehicle. The township will plan on the same disposal for TV/monitors and electronics for this year.

Steven Schack, Beaudry Oil & Propane, presented the board with information; informing the board Beaudry has the state contract and has just opened up in the area. Will be at the City of McGregor meeting in April giving information. When asked by the board Mr. Schack recommended to request propane quotes in April/May.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Ron Smith, to approve and sign Resolution 2021-7 Issuance of Liquor License for Cory Eken, dba The Craft House; motion passed unanimously.

Greg Schendel informed the board that upon talking to Aitkin County Planning and Zoning regarding obtaining his variance request it was brought to his attention that the property has several non-compliance issues. The main issues are setback issues from the property lines. He was informed that the south property line setback is 30 feet (not the standard 10 feet side yard) because there is a 10-foot public right of way (Woodlane Landing) adjoining the property. With this 30-foot setback the storage shed, deck and half of the cabin does not meet this required setback (these structures have been there long before Mr. Schendel purchased in 2018). He has been working with Aikin County, Peter Gansen (assistant zoning administrator) who suggested he request Shamrock Township

vacate this right-of-way (Woodlane Landing). This vacate will resolve the setback issues with the cabin, deck and storage shed. The board has stated their reluctance to vacate this public walkway and also stated that the DNR is strict regarding vacation of public space that is connected to waterways. The board stated their desire to work with Mr. Schendel to solve his current issues. It was stated that the township will also contact relative individuals to require the county treat such public right of ways (walkways) as property lines rather than roads in relation to the required setbacks.

The board was provided with the information for the Aitkin County meeting and Classification of Tax Forfeited Lands that are available for their inspection.

The board reviewed the Bridge Inspections Report provided to the township by Aitkin Co. Hwy Dept.

The clerk informed the board the township still has not received any year end information or reports from the McGregor Fire Department. She also stated that the Sub-Station Agreement is due soon and have yet to receive a new document to sign.

Motion made by Ron Smith, seconded by Charles Quale, for the township to split the cost of Calcium Chloride with the residents where desired; motion passed unanimously.

Ambulance Fire District – Dake Olson attended via Zoom. He informed the board that the City of McGregor Fire Department has outgrown its current building and informed the board of the City's and Fire Departments plan for a new building and different funding solutions they have been researching.

Dake stated to the board that the McGregor Ambulance has been serving the area for over 50 years and has a very large service area. He also informed the board that the Ambulance is having issues obtaining volunteer staffing and due to COVID paid more to ensure coverage during the past year. Funds and income are limited and the costs of running the ambulance is increasing considerably. He stated that the department is in a position to move into a paid ambulance service, preferably an advanced life support model. He continued to explain the billing, income and expenses of managing an ambulance service. He asked Shamrock Township to partner with McGregor in starting an Ambulance Taxing District. Dake has been looking at other taxing districts within the state for examples. The ambulance would be(financially) manage with a board made up of individuals from within the participating communities. He stated pros and cons of keeping the McGregor Ambulance a functioning department verses hiring in an outside service (most probably North Memorial Service) to cover the ambulance needs of the communities. The board stated concern of using a property valuation formula only (like the fire department currently uses) as the township would be paying for the majority of the service and expenses. Concern was also stated of the possible location of the new fire department building. The housing location the ambulance and fire trucks. There will be further research of taxing district formulas. The township will continue the conversations to work together with the City of McGregor in this matter.

The board reviewed the Interim Use Permit by Jeanne Myrkle to operate a vacation home rental.

The board reviewed the Interim Use Permit by Deborah Rudnitski to operate a vacation home rental.

The board reviewed the request by Jeremy Paquette for the approval of a 14-lot primary plat in an area, after discussion the requested lot plat the board stated no objections.

The board reviewed and discussed the draft Annual Meeting Agenda. The agenda was approved with a couple corrections. The corrections will be made for the Annual Meeting.

The MAT Spring Short Course will be held virtually this year. The board decided to attend the March 23rd classes together at the townhall, utilizing the township's system. It was also agreed to invite the Turner Township supervisors to attend with them.

A reminder was given of the Board of Equalization Meeting to be held at the townhall on April 26th.

The board discussed the requested escrow amount for the process of road vacation petitions. The idea of having a minimum cost or a fee (\$1,200 - \$1,500) for road vacation process was discussed. The petitioner would still be responsible for all costs to the township over the said minimum fee.

Adjourn 3:54 p.m.

Candace Kral
Clerk

Allen Eld
Board Chairman

**MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MARCH 25, RE-ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR
BOARD MEETING**