

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 10, 2022**

Board Chairman Ron Smith called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Allen Eld and Charles Quale; Treasurer John Brula (via Zoom); Clerk Candace Kral; maintenance Tim Turner, Norm & Gwen Wiese, Turner Township; Jim Berg, Workman Township; two residents/individuals in person and attendance via Zoom - Dake Olson, City of McGregor Mayor; two residents/individuals.

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

The treasurer reported the following fund balances for the period ending, December 31, 2021: General Revenue Fund, \$89,041.30; Road & Bridge Fund \$63,826.12; Sewer Fund \$10,184.17; Road Repair (blacktop) Fund, \$179,613.45; Fire Fund, \$38,623.13; Building Repair Fund, \$397,206.67; Parks & Rec Fund, \$201,444.70; Escrow/Road Vacation \$794.38; Road Bond \$-1,818.42 and the Lease/purchase \$112,576.13; bond principal -\$144,000.00; Salt Shed load \$-105,825.74 – a total in the checking accounts of \$1,091,491.63. The Blacktop Repair CDs' total \$158,860.78; Equipment CD's total 50,463.06 and the Sewer Fund CDs' total \$117,813.63. Money market interest received in December 2021 was \$233.65. Receipts for the month were \$13,124.43. December disbursements were \$64,396.21. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Allen Eld, to approve the treasurer's report; motion passed unanimously.

The clerk pointed out the three payments to the IRS for payroll taxes in the claims list. She informed the board that one payment is December's and two payments are for January – one for employees' payroll and one for the board's payroll. The township received a notice from the IRS stating the township payroll taxes has crossed to the next payment level and is required to pay on the semi-weekly pay schedule. This means the IRS payroll taxes are now due three business days after the payroll date. The treasurer and clerk discussed with the board the option of having one payroll date - to pay the board and employees on the same date rather than separate dates. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Allen Eld, to change the payroll date of the board to be the same as the employees – to be paid by the 5th day of the month; motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Allen Eld, to approve the January 2022 claims and payroll totaling \$44,936.74; motion passed unanimously. Claims list attached.

Correspondence: Aitkin County Association of Townships meeting minutes – October 21, 2021 - January 2022 meeting invite and agenda; Dale Lueck Legislative Update; Lake Country Power December 2021 Newsliner; Minnesota LTAP Technology Exchange December 2021 Issue; Seven County Senior Federation Echoes Nov/Dec 2021 issue

Motion by Allen Eld, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve and sign the request for a liquor license for Danell Olson and Brian Caron to operate Round Lake Resort LLC; motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Report –

Tim Turner stated they have been snowplowing; been doing lots of maintenance on vehicles, the 2014 truck needs tires, the trucks have passed inspection; they have been cutting brush; there are issues getting cutting edge, due to a supply shortage. The board was provided with a letter of

credit for the defective loader tires. Tim provided the board with quotes for new tires for the truck. After reviewing the quotes, the board instructed Tim to purchase the tires he deems best.

Bridge Road Project – no new information

Bryan and Karin McGinnis – Dennis Thompson, Aitkin County, will be in attendance at the February meeting to discuss Mr. McGinnis's situation with the board and Mr. McGinnis.

Dake Olson, City of McGregor Mayor, provided some information of fire department personnel/volunteers statics in Shamrock Township. He also spoke of the bids for the new fire station construction project. Brian Napstad informed the board and attendees that he had been contacted by Jim Berg, Workman Township, who expressed their continuing concern for response time for ambulance and fire with Workman Township, Turner Township and areas of Shamrock Township. Brian shared that residents as well as the townships have shown concern for response times. Past fire department conversations between the fire department and townships were referred to for informational purposes. It was also stated that Shamrock Township has discussed providing other substations for quicker service to the outlying areas and has been told in the past that the fire department would not be able to staff or supply a truck to said substations. It was also recommended by the townships for the fire department to form a committee to represent the townships providing input and assist in decision making. Said ideas have been dismissed in the past. It was stated that much of the concern stated is in regards of the location of the new fire hall rather than placing a building further out to better serve McGregor's service area more efficiently. Mr. Olson stated that fire trucks response time is based on the arrival of the volunteer fire fighters for staffing the trucks. Jim Berg, Workman Township, stated the importance for quicker response especially for ambulance and first responders due to the age of the majority of the residents in the area. Mr. Berg reiterated the desire for a committee to represent the townships stating the Palisade Fire Department meets with the townships every year. Palisade fire department provides service facts and statistics for the year and gets input from the townships and this system is very successful. He also stated that as townships, we would like to get info as to call and services to the townships. Mr. Olson stated that to the best of his knowledge, the City has never felt a need to have a committee/board involved with the McGregor Fire Department. He also stated it would not be beneficial to move the fire hall out of the City of McGregor. It was stated that the purpose or concern of this discussion was not to move the fire hall out of McGregor, it was to discuss the best location for the placement of another fire hall and where it could be doing the best. The benefits of substations, the costs paid to the fire department and the personal or conversations in the past or lack thereof were discussed. It was stated that Shamrock is very appreciative for their current substation. It was also stated there is no dissatisfaction with the work of the fire fighters – the fireman received praised for the work they do. Mr. Olson stated he is going to provide Shamrock with an overview of services provided. It was also agreed that the outlying townships should start talking about having an ambulance in the area. A taxing district has been discussed in the past; in which Mr. Olson has requested Shamrock's support; however, the board does not agree to a strictly taxed based fee schedule as was previously suggested.

Shamrock Recreation Area Project:

Motion by Allen Eld, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve and sign Resolution 2022-01 – Resolution to Spend ARPA Funds on Improvements to Town Facilities; motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk informed the board she will be meeting with Jessica Johnson, Talon Metals, to review how they can help with the park project.

Upon request by a resident, the clerk gave a summary of the progress of both phases of the park project including funding received and expected.

The board was also informed the township has been asked for a larger display – billboard type to display the plans for the park improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Audit Meeting is set for Thursday, February 17, 10:00 am.

Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Allen Eld, to approve and sign Resolution 2022-02 Appointing the 2022 Absentee Ballot Board for the township election; motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Allen Eld, seconded by Charles Quale, to approve the appointment of the election judges for the March 8, 2022 township election as recommended by the town clerk; motion passed unanimously.

The town board reviewed the variance request by Edwin & Denise Holland acknowledging approval was provided to this request at a previous board meeting. The township’s letter of approval was included as part of the planning and zoning packet. The Board has no objections to the requested variance and recommends that all county rules and regulations be followed. Al Eld informed the board he spoke with Mr. Holland and that Mr. Holland’s request was denied.

John Brula informed the board that the 188th Avenue loan has a principal payment due February 1. He stated a couple of the blacktop repair CDs mature in February which could be cashed and used; he also reminded the board that the Road/Blacktop Repair Fund account has enough funds to pay off the loan balance of \$144,000. By paying off the bond in this way, the CDs would be left untouched. Motion made by Charles Quale, seconded by Allen Eld, to pay the full amount outstanding on the 188th Avenue loan of \$144,000 plus interest due on the February 1 due date from the Road/Blacktop Repair Fund; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 3:43 p.m.

Candace Kral
Clerk

Ron Smith
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 10, REGULAR BOARD MEETING