

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Thursday April 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

Chairperson Ron Flatten called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Tom Meyer and Ernie Darlow, Treasurer John Brula and Clerk Candace Kral; John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer, Paul Sandy, WSB and four property owners.

Ron Flatten provided a summary of the discussions held during the previous regular board meeting on April 11th, focusing on the progress of the Bridge Road project. He highlighted the board's approval of a plan proposed by Paul Sandy from WSB, signaling the green light to proceed with the project. It was noted that there exists an opportunity to collaborate with the county for bidding and executing the project, potentially resulting in substantial cost savings for the township. Subsequent to this update, both Paul Sandy and John Welle have communicated the possibility of a grant, adding another layer to the project's potential funding sources. Ron emphasized that the purpose of this special meeting, scheduled last week, is to provide the town board supervisor with the necessary information to facilitate a well-informed decision, considering that the township's response is due by tomorrow, Friday, April 26th.

Following Ron's update, John Welle took the floor to provide insight into the grant opportunity. He explained the grant's origin and how he became aware of its existence. John expressed a sense of duty in bringing this information to the board's attention, emphasizing that the grant stems from federal funds allocated to a new program called the Protect Program. This initiative aims to reinforce surface transportation infrastructure to withstand natural disasters. John highlighted the potential magnitude of the grant, to be up to \$600,000. He suggested that the township's ongoing efforts to improve road accessibility, particularly through measures such as road lifts to mitigate flood risks, could render the township eligible for this grant.

Paul Sandy informed the Board of the guidelines around meetings required environmental provisions to comply with the grant. The grant would cause the project to be federal, which would then increase the cost of engineering and inspection of the construction site. Paul summarized to the board that it was up to them as to their tolerance level to go through a longer design and paperwork process which may delay the project but have the possibility to acquire federal funding. The next step in the process is to have Paul Sandy submit the application and see if the project is eligible.

Paul Sandy and John Welle engaged in an interactive discussion with the board, addressing inquiries and exploring the potential benefits and drawbacks of pursuing the grant. It was highlighted that the township reserves the right to decline the grant should the allocated funds or associated requirements prove counterproductive to the project's objectives.

Motion made by Ernie Darlow, seconded by Tom Meyer, to submit the application for the Protect Program; motion passed unanimously.

The Clerk provided the Board information on assessments and Special assessments. Discussion followed on writing a policy regarding assessments on future road projects. Tabled for later meeting.

Motion by Ernie Darlow, Seconded by Tom Meyer, to adjourn the meeting; Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

---

Candace Kral,  
Clerk

---

Allen Eld  
Board Chairman

**MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MAY 9, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING**