



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday January 29, 2014 at 7:00pm, at the Orrock Town Hall, 26401 – 180th St. NW, Big Lake, Minnesota.

Chair Jeff Jones, Supervisors Shane Berg, Ron Dolly, Michael Eisinger & Mike Meier, Treasurer Laura Jones and Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas were in attendance. Township Engineer Mike Neilson, West Sherburne Tribune journalist Jennifer Edwards and several residents were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jones, with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Motion/Second to accept the January agenda as presented: Eisinger/Dolly
Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones and Meier
Opposed by: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

Supervisor Eisinger had a concern with the salt and sand year-to-date dollar amount recorded, in the December minutes. Discussion was made about the accuracy of the dollar amount written for salt/sand expense. It was the opinion of the board that the amount was inaccurate and needed to be corrected.

Motion/Second to accept the December Regular Meeting Minutes with a notation that that the dollar amount and tonnage amount for salt/sand needs to be amended under Road Committee by: Eisinger/Meier
Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones and Meier
Opposed by: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Sheriff Joel Brott was in attendance and presented the Board with the Monthly Report and the Annual Report, for Orrock Township. Nothing significant happened during the previous month with just over 100 calls within the township. In 2013 there were a total of 1876 law enforcement calls to the township. A copy of the Monthly Report and the Annual Report are on file, at the township hall.

AED PRESENTATION: Zimmerman Fire Chief, Ryan Maloney presented Orrock Township with an AED. The unit was purchased with a portion of the fire department's charitable gambling earnings. Chief Maloney gave a short presentation on how to operate the device. He also indicated that should any board members wish to be CPR certified, they could do so by enrolling in an eight (8) hour course through the fire department. The Board thanked the Fire Chief and the department, for the generous donation.

OLD BUSINESS:

DEFINITION OF NORMAL SUPERVISOR DUTIES AND SUPERVISOR WORK ALLOWED FOR ADDITIONAL CLAIMS: The Board reviewed information on the subject, obtained from other local townships. They discussed the need to use common sense by the Supervisors when claiming work, beyond the scope of normal Supervisor duties.

WINTER MEADOWS WELL: Supervisor Dolly addressed the board, giving an update on the well. The well has been secured and a verbal agreement has been made with MN Department of Health to allow the Board until June 2014 to reply on whether or not it will utilize the easement and put the well into service. This will allow for a thorough feasibility study on the benefits and drawbacks of putting the well into operation. Supervisor Eisinger voiced his opinion that the township should relinquish its easement rights to the well.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPRESENTATIVE NEWBERGER: State Rep. Jim Newberger attended the meeting and gave the Board updates from the State Legislature. Items that he mentioned were the Township Association day, the Warehouse Tax, Transportation Finance Bill, Knobloch Senate Office Building and Beyond Coal's agenda to close Sherco 1 & 2 in 2020. Jim also told the board that he authored a Bill that would require post-secondary schools that accept tax dollars, to offer 80% of their books as electronic books at the eBook market price, to cut down costs to college students. That Bill was ready for presentation to the MN House and Senate.

VARIANCE CONSIDERATION/COMMENTS: Jim and Susan Gerard, 25368 – 164 ½ St. NW, Big Lake were present to ask for comments on their variance. The Board reviewed the plans for their addition and had no concerns, from the standpoint of the township. Clerk Kimberly-Maas was asked to send the comment form to the county Planning and Zoning office.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CURRENT PAY CLAIMS (AS SUBMITTED BY TREASURER): Chair Jones pulled the claim submitted by Charles Gotzian for snow plowing services and Supervisor Berg pulled Clerk Kimberly-Maas' pay claim for discussion.

Motion/Second to pull claim #1544 and Clerk Kimberly-Maas' pay claim for discussion by:

J.Jones/Eisinger

Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones, Meier

Opposed: None

Abstaining: None

Motion Carries

Motion/Second to approve the Consent Agenda less the two (2) claims (#1544 and Clerk Kimberly-Maas' payroll claim) that were pulled for discussion by: Eisinger/Berg

Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones, Meier

Opposed: None

Abstaining: None

Motion Carries

The board discussed the portion of Clerk Kimberly-Maas' pay claim that documented road information being added to the website. There was a misunderstanding of the wording which was used to motion that the information was to be added to the website. Supervisor Berg thought that the addition of the information, was to be free – including the time it took to add the information. An hour of time was claimed for the updating of the website. Supervisor Eisinger explained that what he meant was that the information had been compiled for the township, without charge, by resident Bob Hassett. And that was what he was referring to when he stated that it would be “free” to add the information to the township's website.

Motion to accept Clerk Kimberly-Maas' pay claim, less one hour claimed for updating the website by:

Meier

Motion died for lack of a Second

Motion/Second to accept Clerk Kimberly-Maas' pay claim, as presented by: Eisinger/Dolly

Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones, Meier

Opposed: None

Abstaining: Berg

Motion Carries.

The board discussed the claim submitted by resident Charles Gotzian in the amount of \$800.00, for plowing he did on 243rd Ave. The board deferred to Sheldon Pool, owner of Rocky Mountain Construction, asking if his company had been plowing the section of road, for which Mr. Gotzian submitted the claim. Mr. Pool stated that he personally, had plowed and laid down product on that section of road three (3) times, in the time frame for which Mr. Gotzian had submitted his claim. The Board has also been made aware that the snow removal contractor for Becker Township had also been plowing that section of road.

Mr. Gotzian stated that he was using his Bobcat to plow the road and that he was going down the road when plowing. The Board also informed Mr. Gotzian that MN Statute 160.2715 prohibits snow removal from township roads by private citizens.

Motion/Second to not pay claim #1544 submitted by Charles Gotzian by: Berg/Dolly
Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones, Meier
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

TREASURER’S REPORT

General Fund: \$47,728.55	Road & Bridge: \$ 659,758.40
Fire: <\$1,380.84>	Capital Improvements: \$190,261.74
Escrows:	
Heritage Hills: \$0	Pine Cone: \$1,066.25
Woodlands of Livonia: \$4,653.75	Savannah Meadows: \$6,612.61
Shores Of Eagle Lake: \$95,567.19	Woods of Eagle Lake: \$506.82
Pine Point: \$4,500.00	Lonesome Oak: \$500.00
Thunderbuck: \$4,182.50	Horseshoe Estates: \$20,700.00
Timberquest: \$20,160.00	Deer Crossing: \$1,000.00
Donahue Estates: \$3,161.25	Jacob’s Ridge: <\$11.25>
Harmony Village: \$0.00	

Motion/Second to accept the Treasurer’s Report date ending 12/31/2013 by: Meier/Eisinger
Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones and Meier
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

ROAD COMMITTEE REPORT

ROAD SIGN REPLACEMENT QUOTES: Mike Nielson presented the board with the two (2) quotes that were received to remove the existing non-reflective street signs with the high reflective signs (roughly 272) that are already in the possession of the township. One quote was received from TranSignal LLC., in the amount of \$20, 400.00. Mike called TranSignal LLC., to let them know there are two signs per post, so he thought that they would cut their quote by 50%. However, at the time of the meeting, a revised quote had not been received. The second quote came from Rocky Mountain Construction in the amount of \$6120.00 or \$22.50 per sign. There will be an additional labor charge of \$25.00 per post, for installation of any posts that are in need of replacement.

Motion/Second to accept the quote as it was received from Rocky Mountain Construction for \$22.50 per sign with the additional labor cost of \$25.00 to replace any posts that are in need of replacement by:
Eisinger/Dolly
Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones, Meier
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

A contract shall be written for this work. Within the contract the completion date of June 15, 2014 will be included. The contract will be reviewed by the Town’s attorney, the board and Rocky Mountain.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER CONTRACT: Mike Nielson reported to the board that he had to make some typing corrections to the contract, but aside from those corrections, Township counsel and WSB agreed upon the contract. Mike relayed the message from counsel that the board could either: Approve the contract contingent on final review by Township counsel. Table the approval of the contract until February.

Motion/Second to accept the contract, contingent on final review by the Township’s Counsel by:
Dolly/Berg
Approved: Berg, Dolly, J.Jones, Meier
Opposed: Eisinger
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

PRESENTATION OF PLANS OF RECONSTRUCTION OF TOWNSHIP ROADS: Mike Nielson presented the Board with proposed plans for the resurfacing/reconstruction of 231st Ave and 168th St. Some upgrading to the current road was written into the plans, including adding material in front of mailboxes and driveways to assist with the degradation of the road edge from heavy trucks. The engineer's opinion of the estimated cost of the project is \$139,117.50. The engineering services would be an additional \$20,000.00 - \$22,000.00 for an estimated total of roughly \$160,000.00.

Motion/Second to advertise the reconstruction work on 231st Ave. and 168th St, for bid by: Dolly/Berg

Approved: Berg, Dolly, J.Jones, Meier

Opposed: Eisinger

Abstaining: None

Motion Carries

PRESENTATION OF ROUGH COST ESTIMATE TO MAINTAIN TOWNSHIP ROADS: Mike Nielson presented the Board with a very rough estimate of the value of the roadways in the township and amount of money it would take to properly maintain them. The estimate was done without the benefit of a thorough road tour. A much more accurate estimate will be done after the roads can be properly inspected. Mike estimated that the township has roughly \$10.4 million invested in the bituminous, class 5 and shouldering of the township roads and roughly \$5.3 million in engineering costs for a total estimated amount of \$15.7 million invested in township roads. In the best case scenario, the life cycle of a bituminous road is 20 years. Investing in routine maintenance like sealcoating will extend the life of most roads by eight (8) years and to mill and overlay at 20 years can extend the life of a road to 40 years. WSB uses a program that considers the current condition of the roads to rate them. Based on where the roads are rated and where the board wants their roads, an accurate budgetary amount can be calculated and presented for consideration at levy time. This is not going to be available to Orrock residents for the 2014 Annual Meeting. However; the Board may consider having WSB run this analysis program, for the township, in the future. Mike's very rough estimate of what the town should consider levying, for road maintenance, was about \$400,000 - \$500,000 annually. Mike also told the Board that based on numerous and extensive studies by FHWA and MNDot has shown that when a road has an overall condition index of 70, spending \$1 to maintain that road will save \$7- \$8 dollars in future maintenance/repair.

SNOW REMOVAL CONCERNS: The board discussed snow removal on 243rd Ave. NW. This road travels westerly and becomes Becker Township's 109th St. Resident Charles Gotzian, submitted a claim to the township for plowing the section of 243rd Ave NW, that travels in front of his property, eight (8) times with his personal equipment. He stated in this meeting that it hadn't been plowed or treated with salt and sand, by any contractor, on the dates for which he submitted his claim. Mike Meier reported that Becker's snow removal contractor is plowing the full length of the road (109th St – 243rd Ave.) to CR 75. Sheldon Pool, from Rocky Mountain Construction, stated that sometimes the road has already been cleared and treated when they arrive at 243rd Ave. NW. However, his drivers always plow and place product on the road, for the length of road which is known as 243rd Ave. NW. It was suggested that citizens who have a concern with snow removal contact the Township. Citizens can call the Town Hall or the Town Road Authority and or email the Clerk or the Road Authority and take pictures of the roads that are of concern. Supervisor Eisinger asked Mr. Pool what the schedule was for his trucks, where do they start? Sheldon stated that he has some trucks that start on the east side of the township and some that start on the west side of the township and work towards each other. One starts in the development near the town of Orrock on the northwest corner of the township. One starts on the southwest side near Big Eagle Lake. One starts on the northeast corner of the township near CR4 and CR1. One starts off of CR15 and 245th Ave NW. Supervisor Eisinger commented that some of the intersections and roads could use a bit more product.

Resident John Hopko, 24144 – 172nd St. NW, Big Lake, addressed the board about concerns he has with the snow removal policy and how it affects the removal of snow from the cul-de-sac, in which he lives. It was his opinion, policy of having an initial clearing pass done by the plows then having them return for edge to edge plowing causes more problems within the township. His opinion is that the policy should be that the roads are cleared edge to edge on the first pass of the plows. The board agreed to review the current snow removal policy during the February meeting. The Board advised Mr. Hopko and the gallery, that any changes made to the policy, would not take effect until the start of the 2014-2015 snow season.

OPEN FORUM:

Resident Bob Hassett, 17175-245th Ave. NW, Big Lake, addressed the board. He expressed his concern that there was no long term road plan in place, for the township. He asked the Board to go on record and: Make a motion to put out for quote to hire a professional engineering firm to do a detailed examination of the roads and submit a long-term, detailed management and budget plan; Award the work from quotes at the February meeting; Require the comprehensive road plan be done prior to the August 2014 meeting.

The majority of the board felt that the February Monthly Meeting Agenda should include the consideration of a road study and long-term road plan.

LAST CALL FOR BUSINESS FOR THE MONTHLY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

No Further business was brought forth.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second to adjourn the January Regular Monthly Meeting at 9:15PM, on Wednesday, January 29, 2014: Jones/Eisinger

Approved: Berg, Dolly, Eisinger, J.Jones and Meier

Abstaining: None

Opposed: None

Motion carried adjourning the January 29, 2014 Regular Monthly Town Meeting, at 9:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Kimberly-Maas
Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted this 26th day of February, 2014, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson

Attest: _____
Town Clerk