

ALBORN TOWNSHIP

Amanda Ellefson, Clerk
6388 Hwy 7
Alborn, MN 55702
(218) 591-7169
Alborn.Clerk@gmail.com

January 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Tarah Vitek, Chairperson. Present at the meeting were Tarah Vitek, Kurt Johnson, and Dale Larson, Supervisors; Amanda Ellefson, Clerk; Ronda Bernard, Deputy Clerk; Christine Wolvin, Treasurer; Linsey Larson, Deputy Treasurer, John Klassen, John Wolvin, Ben Vitek, Mary Lisic, Shawn Niehaus, and Joseph Haag.

Dale made a motion to approve the December 7, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes. Kurt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dale made a motion to approve the December 16, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. Kurt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christine read the Treasurer's Report. Kurt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Dale seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BILLS

Amanda read the Claims List. Dale made a motion to pay the bills, including PERA. Kurt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E-MAILS/CORRESPONDENCE

SLC Tax Forfeited Parcel notification

SLC Environmental Services requested that Townships post phone numbers for residents to call in advance to determine if sites are open, as COVID has caused closures at facilities.

Fryberger Law Firm submitted a letter to the Township indicated that the 15515-10/2009 Sewer Project file is closed and will be destroyed in one month, unless requested by the Township. The Board agreed to request the file for our records. Tarah will email to request the file.

SSD

John presented a report for SSD. In December, the system pumped 272,802 gallons on a 35-day month, which is 7,794 gallons on average. John reported that for the year of 2020, the system pumped 2,903,354 gallons. No alarms or issues to be reported for the month of December.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robb O'Bey had been invited to the meeting to discuss verbiage in the Relief Fund donation request letter, but he was not in attendance at the meeting. The Board requested that Robb be contacted to be in attendance for next month's meeting.

Discussion on determining the occupancy of the Community Center, as this will assist in determining the number of people allowed during COVID restrictions and/or recommendations. Kurt will contact the Fire Marshall to determine the occupancy of the Community Center.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Tarah indicated that the Board postponed the meeting with the attorney (Fryberger), as Fenske from MAT had advised against it. Fenske indicated that the only time there can be a closed meeting with the Township attorney would be when there is a lawsuit. One Board member would be able to meet with the attorney and return with information to the Board to further discuss. Kurt has talked with the attorney from Fryberger, but doesn't feel that we have enough information to move forward. Dale indicated that he is not comfortable moving forward without a consensus from the Board. Dale would like to ensure there is no liability, have the property surveyed, and ask an attorney to vacate the property. He went on to explain parking lot options after vacating the property, which will ensure we have responsibility for those using our property. The Board discussed parking lot options and putting a fence on the property line to indicate Township property and private property. Kurt has contacted SLC traffic engineer Vick Lund, who indicated that the Township would need to submit a request to use the ditch area in front of the building and the property across Hwy 7 as a parking lot. Vick also indicated that the 30 feet from the road to the building could be designated as parking. Shawn voiced that the issue for the driveway is 100% the fault of Dale Larson. Shawn went on to say that it is Dale's opinion to push this issue and create a problem between neighbors. Mary Lisic voiced that the liability is increased with parking across the road. John Klassen indicated that it would be done appropriately with lights and painting to indicate a crosswalk.

Dale made a motion to initiate the process to survey the Township property and vacate any possible ownership of driveway to the east of the Community Center and start the process to increase parking on Township property. Kurt seconded the motion. Dale approved the motion, Tarah opposed the motion, and Kurt abstained. The motion did not pass. Dale indicated that the Township should have documentation on file stating that the Township has no responsibility for the area in question. Kurt indicated that he abstained, as there should be more information gathered and time to consider options.

Further discussion on an agreement with Shawn. Shawn indicated that he no longer has any interest in working with the Township as long as Dale is on the Board. At the previous Special Meeting (December 16, 2020), Shawn told the Board that he would continue to allow the community to use the property for parking with an insurance rider, but since the Board determined to move forward in working with an attorney, he is no longer interested in that agreement.

Shawn indicated that any money invested in parking should wait until the Community Center is able to be used again. He also indicated that there is no likelihood of baseball this summer.

Dale moved again with the previous motion, per request of Kurt. Kurt seconded the motion, as he felt that this is the best option available at this time to settle the dispute. Kurt and Dale approved the motion. Tarah opposed the motion. Motion passed with 2 in favor and 1 opposed.

Dale made a motion for Kurt to contact a survey company to survey the East and West property lines. Kurt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tarah inquired into the acoustical panels. Kurt plans on ordering these soon and submitting the purchase to Christine to be placed on the credit card.

ROAD AND BRIDGES

Dale continues to work on the crushing bill through the Auditor's office.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the sample Harassment Policies in order to adopt one for the Township. Amanda will work on writing the policy specific to Alborn and have it ready for the February Regular Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Tarah made a motion to hold the Board of Audit Meeting on February 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Kurt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dale made a motion to adjourn. Kurt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Ellefson, Clerk