



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015 7:00PM

The Orrock Township Board met in regular session, on Wednesday March 25, 2015 at 7:00PM, at the Orrock Town Hall, 26401 – 180th St. NW, Big Lake, Minnesota.

Supervisors Bryan Adams, Charles Gotzian, Bob Hassett, Eric Peterson and Corrie Silverberg, Treasurer Laura Jones and Clerk Brenda Kimberly-Maas were in attendance. Town Engineer Mike Nielson, a number of residents and observers were also present.

The March Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Clerk Kimberly-Maas, at 7:00PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Clerk Kimberly-Maas explained that since Bryan Adams and Bob Hassett had already taken their Oaths of Office that the Chair and Vice-Chair seats needed to be filled, she would conduct the meeting until those positions are filled.

APPROVAL OF MARCH REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

Motion/Second to accept the March agenda as presented by: Adams/Hassett

Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg

Opposed by: None

Abstaining: None

Motion Carries

OATH OF OFFICE:

Clerk Kimberly-Maas administered Eric Peterson, his Oath of Office.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Supervisor Hassett nominated Supervisor Corrie Silverberg for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Supervisor Adams. Supervisor Silverberg respectfully declined, noting that for the sake of continuity, he felt that a Supervisor who has two or three years left on their term, should sit as Chair.

Supervisor Peterson nominated Supervisor Charlie Gotzian for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Supervisor Silverberg. Supervisor Gotzian accepted the nomination.

Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg

Opposed by: None

Abstaining: None

Motion Carries

Supervisor Silverberg nominated Supervisor Bryan Adams for Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded by Supervisor Peterson. Supervisor Adams accepted the nomination.

Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg

Opposed by: None

Abstaining: None

Motion Carries

The meeting was turned over to Chair Gotzian.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES:

Motion/Second to accept the February Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented: Silverberg/Hassett

Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
Opposed by: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Commander Steve Doran was present to give the Board the report from the month of March. The calls for service were down by 15 for the month. Cmdr. Doran informed the Board of a new program called "Code Red" that has been implemented by the Sheriff's Office. The program is subscription based and will inform those who sign up about unusual activities in their area. In the case of a Homeland Security concern, all residents will receive a call or text message, alerting them of the concern.

Supervisor Silverberg asked if the department found out the perpetrator that was placing screws/nails on the ice of Eagle Lake. Cmdr. Doran stated that there had been some interviews done based on information the department received. But no person had been charged with the crime.

ROADS

ROAD AUTHORITY:

ROAD CONDITIONS:

Chair Gotzian noted that the section of 243rd Ave that runs west of CSAH75 was in rough shape. In some areas there was dirt visible. He felt that at a minimum some patching and pothole filling would be required.

ROAD ENGINEER:

SEAL COAT BID ACCEPTANCE:

Township Engineer, Mike Nielson addressed the Board. Two bids were received by the due date/time. An additional bid came in after the due date. It was not opened. Mike checked the math on the Allied Blacktop and Pearson Brothers bids and confirmed that the bid from Allied was the low bid in the amount of \$193,660.00. It was his recommendation that the Board approve the Resolution to accept the Allied Blacktop bid in the amount of \$193,660.00

Motion/Second to adopt the Resolution Accepting the Allied Blacktop bid in the amount of \$193,660.00
by: Adams/Gotzian
Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
Opposed by: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

OLD BUSINESS:

TREE TRIMMING QUOTES:

Two quotes were presented for the Board's consideration; One from B&G Excavating, Inc. and one from Darryl Waletzko, LLC. Discussion was made on whether the trimming needed to wait until fall, since many of the trees have budded or will bud soon. The main concern was that trimming now could invite oak wilt to the areas. Other questions were on the scope of the work. Who would stake the areas to be trimmed, how high would the trimming be done, how will the residents be informed and who has the first right of refusal of the lumber. The consensus of the Board was to write a new RFP and submit it for quotes with work to be done later in the year.

THE ITEM WAS TABLED UNTIL FALL 2015.

TRUSHENSKI ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REVIEW:

Clerk Kimberly-Maas asked for the Board's approval of the Encroachment Agreement Draft which had been provided by counsel. The Board had no concerns with the language and approved the Encroachment Agreement to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT:

Clerk Kimberly-Maas presented the Board with the DRAFT Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting. She noted that she is waiting for the meeting moderator to return a signed copy, but there is an unsigned copy in the Township's minutes book.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

VARIANCE COMMENTS ON DETACHED GARAGE:

Residents Neil and Holly Altenhofen were present to answer questions on their application for a variance. Supervisor Hassett asked for confirmation on the distances of the new garage, from the lot lines. The Altenhofens confirmed that there would be 12' from the north property line and 50' from the Wildlife Refuge property line. The Board had no further questions, comments or concerns with the proposed building site.

Comments made on the form indicated that the Board had no concerns with the Variance Request

REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON SHERBURNE COUNTY DRAFT SOLAR ORDINANCE:

Supervisor Adams gave some background information on the Solar Energy Initiative. He noted that a number of years ago the State legislature required the energy providers to start using renewable energy. Last year the legislature decided that solar is considered a renewable energy source. To increase their source of renewable energy to meet the State's requirements, energy providers are looking to build Solar Farms. That is the reason that Sherburne County is being proactive and looking at adopting an ordinance addressing the construction of Solar Farms.

Clerk Kimberly-Maas suggested that the Board consider a comment to ask the County to table the adoption of the Solar Energy Ordinance until after the MAT legal seminar. That seminar has the topic of Solar Farms on the agenda and if Board members attend, there will be more information that can be used to give appropriate comments to the County Zoning office. Supervisor Hassett suggested contacting other county townships to see what their thoughts are on the ordinance and also the Rural Minnesota Solar initiative be contacted for their input on the DRAFT ordinance. Supervisor Adams suggested the DRAFT ordinance be sent to MAT to get their input, as well.

The Board charged Clerk Kimberly-Maas with sending comment to Sherburne County Planning and Zoning, requesting that the ordinance be TABLED until after the MAT Legal Training Seminar on April 23, 2015 and after we have some input from MAT.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE FIRST TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER AS THE TOWN GENERAL ELECTION DATE:

Clerk Kimberly-Maas addressed the Board. She recapped the Resolution explaining that the schedule for terms is the same as the DRAFT copy, which was presented in February. She stated that she will prepare the Special Ballot Question for the 2016 Annual Election Ballot and that if the question passes in 2016, the next election of Board officials will occur in November of 2018. She also noted that the Board must adopt a Resolution Moving the Annual Election to November, as the Electorate had passed the Resolution Initiating the Move of the Annual Elections to November at the Annual meeting. She also stated that the schedule presented in the DRAFT could be amended if the Board had another schedule worked out. Supervisor Hassett mentioned that MAT's suggestion was to lengthen terms instead of shortening them, when creating the term schedule.

Motion/Second to adopt the Resolution Designating The First Tuesday After The First Monday In November As the Town General Election Date by: Silverberg/Hassett
Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
Opposed by: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

STATE FUNDING FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE:

Supervisor Silverberg addressed the Board with regard to the potential of acquiring additional funding from the State for maintenance of roads that travel into and through State land, as was brought up at the Annual Meeting. He stated that resident Gary Goldsmith had volunteered his help with speaking with State representatives. Gary noted that the process would be a multi-year effort. He suggested that some background work should be done. Comparable rates and services of other townships be acquired so good information could be presented to the representatives. Supervisor Silverberg stated that he and Chair Gotzian had been to the Board of Equalization training and spoke with some other township's Supervisors, who have similar situations of a lot of green space. They were told that the other township Supervisors had essentially been told that there was no additional funding that would be available to them. However; those townships were looking for more money in the way of property taxes, not specifically, for road maintenance. Gary said that if the Board wished to move forward, he would like a designated Supervisor with whom he would be working. Supervisor Silverberg said that he would be willing to work with Gary on these efforts. Gary also informed the Board that he had seen a Bill introduced that was designed for small cities that don't get local government aid.

Mike Neilson also addressed the Board. He noted that there are some other opportunities that may be available to the Township and he would look into those possibilities.

SINGLE GARBAGE SERVICE:

Supervisor Silverberg addressed the Board with regard to the potential of utilizing one garbage hauling service, for the entire township, as was brought up at the Annual Meeting. Supervisor Silverberg wanted to ensure the avenue was investigated. Clerk Kimberly-Maas addressed the Board letting them know that she did hear back from the City Administrator of Sauk Rapids. She has his contact information. Mike Neilson stated that he believed that he had an outline of the process that needed to be followed. He would look for it in his office and would send it to the Clerk.

Further discussion of the topic brought to light that from a road wear perspective it makes sense. But some residents may feel like it is a situation where government is taking away their right of choice. Other concerns were if the rates would be comparable and if service would be of good quality.

Supervisor Hassett stated that he had feedback from a resident that Sherburne County had previously tried to implement a single service, county-wide and it was struck down. He had not been able to confirm this report.

Supervisor Silverberg felt that more discovery was needed so the Board could make an informed decision on moving forward or not. And have good information to share with the residents as to their decision.

Mike Neilson noted that a seven year contract was just negotiated. He thought that the cost savings was quite significant. Mike also stated that he believed that he had an outline of the process that needed to be followed. He would look for it in his office and would send it to the Clerk, who would pass the information on to the Board.

TREASURER’S BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CURRENT PAY CLAIMS (AS SUBMITTED BY TREASURER):

Treasurer Jones noted that she had added one claim to the Consent Agenda, for Connexus Energy.

Motion/Second to pull Shane Berg’s MAT training reimbursement claim for amendment by:
Silverberg/Gotzian
Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

Motion/Second to accept the Consent Agenda less Berg’s MAT training reimbursement claim by:
Gotzian/Adams
Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None
Motion Carries

Discussion was made on paying Shane Berg’s submitted claim to attend MAT training. Supervisor Silverberg felt that since the Board had approved his attendance, no proof was found that Shane knew he couldn’t sit on both Boards was found and Berg did submit a summary of the information he learned to the Board; that the Board should pay for the hotel, parking and round trip mileage to Duluth only, should be paid. But that the meal portion of the claim was not an approved expense and should not be paid.

Motion/Second to pay the hotel, parking and 288 miles on the claim made by Shane Berg for the MAT training he attended in November 2014, in the amount of \$425.28: Adams/Hassett
Approved: Adams, Hassett and Silverberg
Opposed: Gotzian and Peterson
Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

Treasurer Jones addressed Chair Gotzian and Vice-Chair Adams. She informed them that they will need to go to Klein Bank with a copy of the DRAFT Minutes from this meeting and their ID to become signors on the account. Until they do that the claims can’t be paid. Both Gotzian and Adams agreed to take care of that item of business as soon as the minutes are available. Clerk Kimberly-Maas stated that she would have the DRAFT done for them on Thursday.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Jones read the balance sheet for the report.

General Fund: \$ 95,588.14	Road & Bridge: \$ 649,591.51
Fire: \$62,567.60	Capital Reserve: \$139,253.24

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 02/28/2015 by: Gotzian/Silverberg
 Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
 Opposed: None
 Abstaining: None
 Motion Carries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Meier addressed the Board. He stated that the next Big Lake Fire Board meeting will occur on April 16, 2015 and that he is no longer able to represent the township, as he is no longer a Supervisor. Supervisor Hassett stated that he would be willing to attend as the Orrock Board representative.

Board of Equalization and Adjustment will occur on April 15, 2015 at 4:00PM at the town hall.

The Big Lake area Food Shelf has a fundraising event on March 27, 2015 at the Friendly Buffalo. Tickets are available by contacting Jodi Benker or at the door.

Annual Joint Clean-up Day will be on Saturday May 2, 2015 at the Big Lake Township Maintenance Building. Six volunteers are needed. Michael Eisinger, Mike & Kathy Pruchnicki, Michael & Brenda Maas offered their time.

Supervisor Adams requested pre-approval for any Board member that wishes to attend the MAT Legal session that is scheduled for April 23, 2015. C

Motion/Second to authorize reimbursement for Board members who wish to attend the MAT Legal Short Course on April 23, 2015 by: Silverberg/Gotzian
 Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
 Abstaining: None
 Opposed: None
 Motion Passes

Chair Charlie Gotzian expressed thanks to Michael Eisinger and Mike Meier for their service to the Board. Supervisors Silverberg and Hassett also thanked Michael Eisinger and Mike Meier.

LAST CALL FOR BUSINESS:

No further business brought forth.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second to adjourn the March Monthly Meeting at 8:02PM, on Wednesday, March 25, 2015:
 Gotzian/Adams
 Approved: Adams, Gotzian, Hassett, Peterson and Silverberg
 Abstaining: None
 Opposed: None
 Motion carried adjourning the March Monthly Meeting, on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 8:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Brenda Kimberly-Maas
 Orrock Township Clerk

Accepted this 29th day of April, 2015, by the Orrock Township Board of Supervisors.

 Chairperson

Attest: _____
 Town Clerk