

# Meeting Minutes

## Vermillion Township Regular Meeting

### February 16, 2021

#### **Opening**

Chairman Chris Schaffer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were:

- Chairman Chris Schaffer
- Supervisor Larry Ring
- Supervisor Bruce Lohmann
- Clerk Judy Sloan
- Treasurer Nick Rueger
- Deputy Clerk Cindy Ladzun

Deputy Clerk Ladzun read the minutes from the January 19th regular meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Schaffer to accept the minutes as read and Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Treasurer Rueger presented the prepared Treasurer's report and addressed the following items:

- Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) personnel corrected the federal mileage rate being used and clarified that it is 0.575 and not 0.58.
- The Beaver Creek invoice was received the day of the meeting and there was not enough time to process it. It was understood that a check would be issued at the next regular meeting.
- A correction was made to the January 19, 2021 Treasurer's report to indicate that one of the deposits omitted six checks and that there were three deposits made during the last 30 days (not two).

Supervisor Ring inquired about the balance in the checking account, to which Rueger reported an amount of \$272,000 as indicated by the bank statement. Ring also inquired if the majority of funds in the Gopher account had been transferred to the checking account as previously requested. Rueger reported that it had.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schaffer to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

#### **Terry Sieben / Duane Groth Property Transfer Discussion**

Duane Groth, accompanied by family members Debra Carlson and Grandson Jed Carlson, indicated agreement to the transfer of the previously discussed buildable lot to Terry Sieben, but does not agree that there are no other buildable lots available on his property after the transfer has occurred. Groth does not want to sign away the ability to grant a buildable lot to his grandsons in case they ever wanted to establish a homestead on family land.

Using Frandrup Circle as an example, Debra Carlson requested clarification about the ordinances that govern buildable lots in Vermillion Township. Chairman Schaffer indicated that the formation of Frandrup Circle may extend as far back as 1982 and that not a lot of present-day information is known about it.

The Supervisors explained that unless the present-day housing density ordinance is changed, the buildable lot being transferred to Terry Sieben is the last buildable lot on Duane Groth's property.

Debra Carlson emphasised that the family does not agree that there would be no buildable lots left after the transfer to Sieben. As also mentioned by Duane Groth, the family feels there is another buildable lot on the Groth land that was established before the 1-40 ordinance. What complicates the definition of this lot is the time period in which it was established; they report it was established previous to the 1-to-40 ordinance, but the recording didn't happen until after. Schaffer indicated that they may want to ensure that the correct lot is being moved to the cluster that also includes Debra and Rick Carlson's lot.

Schaffer explained that Sieben would have to pay an approximately \$300 attorney fee plus a \$46 recording fee to complete the transfer after closing. Sieben estimated that closing would be complete in about two weeks. Schaffer also explained that Barbara Groth, wife of Duane Groth, would also have to add her signature to the land use application.

Chairman Schaffer made a motion to accept and sign the prepared resolution and Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. Schaffer also made a motion to accept the prepared notice and Supervisor Ring seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Mike Slavik Visit**

District 1 County Commissioner Mike Slavik stopped by during the meeting and discussed the following points:

- 2021 DCTOA Spring Meeting. It will be held on Saturday morning, March 20th.
- COVID vaccine update
- The former Rother machine shop has been converted to a group home
- Letter of support for Supervisor Ring's recent Road & Bridge proposal

### **Verizon Antenna Upgrade & Generator Replacement**

The Board addressed the questions from Renee Fontaine, Consultant to Buell Consulting/Verizon Wireless and confirmed that no building permit nor additional zoning was needed for the generator replacement as long as it could fit within the existing shelter and met the noise requirements established by the CUP. Fontaine also inquired if an electrical, fire or mechanical permit was needed, and the Board indicated that the general contractor would have to work with the township inspector to answer that.

### **Dream Team CUP Update**

Jill Scottston and Ben Strehlo arrived to update the Board on the status of their efforts to obtain a conditional use permit (CUP) for their business. They'd been attempting to get the signature of property owner, David Quade, but have not been successful. They are now pursuing the purchase of the property and were wondering if the approval of a commercial inspector was needed for the CUP. Scottston explained that they could not identify a commercial inspector for this area. The Board was not able to give information about a commercial inspector and suggested talking with a mortgage company.

### **Lucy Marthaler (Simones) Solar Project Inquiry**

The subject was discussed via cell phone and established that the family wanted to place solar panels on the roof of a shed at 20470 Fischer Avenue and more panels on the property at 19489 Fischer Avenue. The panels for the 19489 Fischer property would need to be mounted on a post because the roof is too shaded. The Board indicated that roof-mounted panels are allowed, but must be installed per the state

and local ordinances. The Board also indicated that the ground-mounted panels planned for the 19489 Fischer property could not be installed because the solar ordinance prohibits ground-mounted solar panels. Chairman Schaffer asked for a more detailed drawing for the next meeting.

### **Issuing Addresses within the Township**

The 17720 Fischer Ave address conflict was discussed and Supervisor Ring indicated that Todd Musk typically issues addresses for Dakota County. Ring indicated that he would work with Musk to resolve the address conflict and also indicated that the Board may want to direct Attorney Fluegel to draft a joint powers agreement to allow future work with Musk.

### **Other Business**

- Owl permit - a permit application was mistakenly started for a property in the City of Vermillion. Since Vermillion Township had not processed the check, the check would be returned to the contractor and no further action would be taken.
- Lock Change at the Town Hall - Supervisor Ring contacted Al's Lock & Key, but the person has retired.
- Off-site storage research for Township records and equipment - a 5'x10' unit would cost approximately \$75 per month, and 10' x 10' would cost approximately \$100 per month.
- A motion was made by Supervisor Ring to set the Deputy Clerk's compensation at \$125 per meeting and \$20 per hour for work done outside the meetings. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
- A motion was made by Chairman Schaffer to approve the selection of Christina Haan as Head Election Judge for the March 9, 2021 election and also grant Haan the authority to appoint additional election judges as needed in case of emergency. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
- A motion was made by Chairman Schaffer to approve the selection of election judges Sahrene Roberts, Joan Moes, Debra Marthaler, Diane Volkert-Ring and Denise Werner. Supervisor Ring seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
- A motion was made by Chairman Schaffer to approve tax document preparation by Hastings accounting firm Lewis, Kisch & Associates. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
- The Board discussed posting meeting minutes on the Township website and gave approval to post Board-approved minutes. They also discussed the option of fore-going the usual reading of minutes at the meetings if they will be posted on the website after approval. The intention is that the Supervisors would review the minutes before the meeting and then grant approval during the meeting.
- Supervisor Ring motioned to approve the claims submitted. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.
- The Board of Audit meeting was set for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm in order to review past levy data. Clerk Sloan was directed to publish the required notice.
- The Board will review the flooded 180th St. section by Marshall's pond in the spring and determine a course of action at that time.

### **Adjourn**

At 9:54 pm Chairman Schaffer motioned to adjourn. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

Judy Sloan  
Vermillion Township Clerk