

Vermillion Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022

Attendance:

Supervisor Chairman Larry Ring
Supervisor Bruce Lohmann
Supervisor Audrey Felty
Clerk Cindy Ladzun
Treasurer Nick Rueger
Attorney Leah Koch

Chairman Ring opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The supervisors reviewed the March 15, 2022 meeting minutes and Felty motioned to accept them as written. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Rueger presented the claims to the board. Felty motioned to accept the claims as presented. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Rueger presented a verbal summary of the Treasurer's report, highlighting some of the larger claims. Felty motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Ring seconded the motion; all were favor and the motion carried.

Deputy Visit – It was mentioned that the county has been dealing with catalytic convertor thefts, mail thefts, and drugs within the county. These issues are not necessarily in the area of Vermillion Township, but within the county as a whole. Ring mentioned that they were a few complaints of mail thefts in the area a while back and inquired about updates. The deputy was unable to give an update without the case numbers. It was brought up again that the USPS offers a service that would send an email showing a photo of what items will be delivered in your mailbox. It was noted that mail thieves may be following the rural postal delivery driver vehicle and removing mail from the mail boxes right after it was delivered. Since many rural drivers drive normal looking vehicles, nothing may look out of place when this occurs. As always, if you see something weird, say something.

Permits:

- 8010 200th Street East – A variance application for an addition onto the existing home located at the property was submitted by the home owner. The supervisors agreed to hold the public hearing for this application on May 17th during the regular town board meeting.
- 19360 Hogan Avenue – The future property owner attended the meeting to discuss the business, SafeBasements with the board. A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is already in place for this property that was granted by the board in 2017. As long as the new property owner abides by the original conditions of the permit, then they would be able to operate their business under the current permit. If the owner finds that they are unable to abide by any of the original conditions of the permit, they would then have to apply for a modification to the CUP and it would need to be presented to the board for review. The board had concerns regarding gravel and dust control due to the additional traffic that may be created from this business. Koch explained that modifications cannot be made to the existing CUP that is currently in place.

Old Business:

- Schedule of Fees – A brief discussion was had however, the building inspector was unable to attend the meeting as originally requested. Felty motioned to table this topic until the May meeting. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.
- Dream Team – This business has been operating without a CUP in place, which is a violation of town code. An application had been submitted earlier, however the property owner’s signature was missing from the application. The board requested that Koch reach out to the renter of the property along with the property owner to complete the application.
- Bridge off 180th – Koch explained that an ordinance would have to be made in order to enforce the issues that the township is incurring on this bridge. Felty motioned to table this topic until the May meeting. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.
- Annual Resolution – Koch created an annual resolution that will show the yearly appointments and designations of the township and will be created each year following the annual meeting. Felty motioned to adopt the Vermilion Township Annual Resolution for 2022 that was presented. Lohmann seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.
- Planner Discussion – Ring explained that he had made contact with Bolton Menk and mentioned that many surrounding townships use them as their planner. Per Ring, the planner could be used to assist with buildable lots and submission of applications for permits to build a home. They would also be able to assist with all the permits and relocation and/or change of property boundaries. He noted that a contract would need to be in place in order to have them as the official planner for the township.
- Planning Commission - Ring reached out to Steve Fenske the lead attorney at MATIT and asked about planning commissions. It was explained that the planning commissions would consist of three to seven commission members that would be paid for their time. They would be responsible for doing the leg work for the town board and would meet on a monthly basis. Ring suggested that the supervisors do an exploratory evaluation by attending a few of the surrounding townships planning commission meetings to get a better idea of what a planning commission does. After attending these meetings, the supervisors would then report back to the board as a whole to discuss their findings.

New Business:

- CSAH 66/62 Area Interchange at Hwy 52 Study – Doug Abere, Senior Project Manager, Dakota County Transportation provided a detailed presentation regarding this study. He emphasized the need for a long-term vision for the safety and mobility and growth issues that are being seen in the area. Four potential locations were discussed and the next step in this study would be to move on to the planning process. A possible open house is being discussed for the second half of June. For further information contact Doug at: (952) 891-7101 or doug.abere@co.dakota.mn.us. Or online at: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction/CR66/Pages/default.aspx>.

- Intersection 47/85 Project – Jacob Rezac, Design Engineer, Dakota County Transportation provided a presentation showing the proposed realignment of the intersection. This will eliminate the skewed design that is currently in place, improve the sight distance, and will add the addition of turn lanes. The township owns a short segment of 205th Street and the county is offering to remove that section of road at no charge to the township. The residents in attendance expressed concerns on both sides of the fence regarding the removal option of this section of road. Further information regarding this project can be found online at: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/PlannedConstruction/CR47-85/Pages/default.aspx>.
- Intersection 46/85 Concept Proposal – Jacob Rezac explained that Dakota County is submitting an application for federal funds to the Metropolitan Council and will find out if this application was successful sometime this summer. This is an informational item only, as the county is just looking to see how this intersection would score on the fund process with the Metropolitan Council.
- Bridge Maintenance/Repairs – Dakota County notified the township that two bridges located within the township are in need of repairs. Bridge one is located off of Hogan Avenue and bridge two is located off of 180th Street.
- Spring Road Tour – This is an opportunity for the township supervisors along with the road and bridge contractor to drive the gravel roads within the township to inspect and provide comments once completed. This tour will be on May 7, 2022 from 9am–11am. Township resident, James Sathra will work on scheduling a bus for this year’s tour.
- Township Financial Audit – This process had been started a while back and is now being brought up again to the board to see if the board shows an interest in bringing this back to the forefront. The township is not required to have an audit completed as we do not have a combined clerk/treasurer position, in addition, the township does not take in enough tax dollars on an annual basis. Lohmann said he is in favor of an audit and further mentioned that additional checks and balances have been put in place. Felty also agrees an audit would be beneficial for all residents as well as the township supervisors. Ring will reach out to the township CPA firm, Lewis Kisch & Associates to inquire about approximate costs of the audit and what it would encompass.
- Town Hall (natural gas) – The supervisors agreed that they would be interested in receiving more information from CenterPoint Energy, via the City of Vermillion, about pricing to bring natural gas to the town hall.
- Community Development Agency – It was explained that every three years HUD requires urban counties to requalify their participation status for the various programs and grants that are available which are currently administered by the CDA for the county. County Commissioner, Mike Slavik relayed that it would be in the best interest of the township to continue to be part of the program through the CDA. The supervisors agreed to continue participation, so no action is needed from the township at this time.

Other Business:

- Resident, James Sathra suggested that the town board move to a five-person board so that township elections could be held in November. Mike Slavik mentioned that currently, two townships in Dakota County have five-person boards. Koch suggested that further research would need to be done regarding this topic before the board could make a decision.

- Resident, Craig Ohern attended the meeting to discuss the progress happening at his property. He explained that progress is going forward daily and is looking good, although it's not as fast as he would like to due to the weather. Felty mentioned that she drove by the property yesterday and was concerned on what Ohern is calling progress. She observed more trailers along with a building that the roof was caving in on. Ohern explained that the roof is down although it is not off yet. He also explained that the vehicles in the back are almost all gone. He is working with a dealer on the truck removal, however the dealer backed out so he will be getting those to the scrap yard in next week. Trees are all down and that there is a lot of stuff gone. Ring inquired if one or two of the supervisors along with Ceminsky could stop by the property to look at the progress. Ohern was open to the idea of meeting them on the property and Felty thought it sounded good.
- Dust Control – The bids for dust control will be opened up this Friday. The dust control may possibly be applied as early as the end of May.

Adjourn

At 9:57 p.m. Lohmann motioned to adjourn; Felty seconded. All were in favor and motion carried.

Cynthia Ladzun
Vermillion Township Clerk

CLAIMS (BILLS TO PAY)

NAME	INVOICE DATE	ACCT. NUMBER	ITEM		
BEAVER CREEK	4/4/2022	VT-22-103	PERMITS		(\$902.65)
CAMPBELL KNUXTSON	3/31/2022	3525G	VT GENERAL BUSINESS		(\$2,547.00)
ECM PUBLISHING		494825	ADS AND BALLOTS		(\$181.50)
FLUEGEL LAW	4/7/2022		VT GENERAL BUSINESS		(\$375.00)
KIMMES ENTERPRISES	4/10/2022		MARCH WORK		(\$14,016.30)
PERA			EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT		(\$898.14)
PINE BEND PAVING	4/18/2022	VERTOW	3/4" MINUS		(\$11,601.14)
VERIZON	4/3/2022	980631378-00001	VT CELL		(\$50.01)
XCEL ENERGY	3/22/2022	51-4765961-6	VT UTILITY		(\$15.30)
MICHELLE KUHN			TOWNHALL CLEANING 2020&2021		(\$150.00)
CYNTHIA LAOZUN			PAYROLL		(\$5,466.83)
CYNTHIA LAOZUN			MILEAGE & REIMBURSEMENTS		(\$579.65)
BRUCE LOHMANN			PAYROLL		(\$467.75)
BRUCE LOHMANN			MILEAGE		(\$20.48)
LARRY RING			PAYROLL		(\$1,237.19)
LARRY RING			MILEAGE		(\$174.92)
NICK RUEGER			PAYROLL		(\$1,092.19)
NICK RUEGER			MILEAGE & REIMBURSEMENTS		(\$157.57)
JAMES SATHRA			ANNUAL MEETING MODERATOR		(\$30.00)
DENISE WERNER			ELECTION JUDGE		(\$229.30)
			TOTAL		(\$40,192.92)

YTD

YEAR	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT
2022	KIMMES ENTERPRISES	\$39,479.10
2022	BEAVER CREEK CO	\$6,934.02
2022	HRFA	
2022	ENVIRO TECH	
2022	PINE BEND PAVING	\$11,601.14
2022	SOIBERG	
2022	CAMPBELL KNUXTSON	\$10,415.68