

Vermillion Township Regular Meeting

January 19, 2021

Opening

Chairman Chris Schaffer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:36 p.m. In attendance were:

Chairman Chris Schaffer
Supervisor Larry Ring
Supervisor Bruce Lohmann
Clerk Judy Sloan
Treasurer Nick Rueger

Clerk Sloan read the minutes from the December 15th regular meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Schaffer to accept the minutes as read. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Treasurer Rueger distributed and verbally summarized a prepared report containing financial information from the December 15, 2020 through January 19, 2021 period. The financial matters discussed included

- missing Kimmes invoices and Verizon invoices
- the Dakota County Invoice for the township share of bridge work
- Gopher Fund account and the decision to reduce the holdings to \$700.00 and transferring the excess to the checking account
- A brief review of the Napper escrow account

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

The claims and invoices were presented by Treasurer Rueger. A motion was made by Chairman Schaffer to authorize payment. Supervisor Lohman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Cindy Ladzun was appointed Deputy Clerk.

Permits

Adam Girgen attended the meeting to discuss buildable lot options he is researching. Chairman Schaffer indicated that if a buildable lot is clustered with others, then the original 40-acre parcel would no longer have a buildable lot. There was also a reminder that there is a requirement that any lot must have a minimum of 225 feet road frontage unless no portion of the lot is within 300 feet of a public road and in that case, the Board must be provided with recorded documentation showing that a 33-foot-wide driveway with permanent easement has been created.

Terry Sieben attended the meeting to discuss the purchase of a parcel from Duane Groth and future plans to build a home. There is a need for Groth to eventually attend a meeting and agree to move a buildable lot. When there is agreement on the lot, then the clerk will work with the county to assign an address.

Brett & Andrea Terpening attended the meeting for approval of the building application for their garage with loft. Chairman Schaffer asked about the use of the loft to ensure it is not to be used as a living space. He also asked about the height of the structure relative to the house to ensure it was no taller than the house and counseled that the eaves and gutters must be within the allotted footprint. Schaffer made a motion to approve the building permit. Supervisor Lohman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Jill Scottston and Ben Strehlo attended the meeting to discuss their continued efforts to obtain a conditional use permit for the land rented from David Quade for the use of their business The Dream Team Academy (formerly J. J's Equestrian Academy). They have not been able to secure agreement from Quade but are now pursuing purchase of the property. After the purchase, they plan to obtain the required conditional use permit.

Old Business

Continued discussion about the flooded area at 180th St & Marshall's pond. The Hastings Public Schools purchased the land to provide their students with a biology research area. Joe Beattie, a Hastings High biology teacher indicated concern via email about access to the land being restricted due to the flooding. There needs to be a place for parking of student cars and a bus turn-around. Al Singer, a Land Conservation Manager with Dakota County indicated by email that "*The County easement begins 55 feet south of the 180th Street centerline so there would not be any impacts to the easement, nor approval requirements for potential road improvements.*" Supervisor Lohman expressed concern about creating a bus turnaround; he feels it would attract un-intended use by off-road vehicles.

Other topics

- Unifying the locks on the town hall. Supervisor Ring took the action item to contact a locksmith.
- Contracting IT service, Supervisor Lohman recommended contacting either Paul or Chance Munger for help and guidance with the township technology hardware and security strategy.
- Clarification that Wally Stoffel has resumed issuing burning permits and that Supervisor Lohman is a backup point of contact.
- Rented storage is needed to better organize the township files, equipment and furniture. Supervisor Ring suggested calculating the volume needed so that pricing and location can be researched. The question of climate-controlled space was explored along with a quick survey of temperature sensitive electronics owned by the township.
- Clerk Sloan and Treasurer Rueger gave status on the transition activities and emails received during the previous month. The control of the township iPhone Verizon account continues to be a problem (we are not able to change the address yet).

At 10:00 pm Chairman Schaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Lohmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Judy Sloan
Vermillion Township Clerk