

Vermillion Township Regular Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021

Attendance:

Supervisor Chairman Larry Ring
Supervisor Audrey Felty
Clerk Cindy Ladzun
Treasurer Nick Rueger

Chairman Ring opened the meeting at 7:36 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The supervisors reviewed the May meeting minutes and Supervisor Felty motioned to accept them as written. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Bills were presented to the board; Ring commented that he had asked Kimmes to work the north portion of Emery with Solberg gravel and the south portion with Pine Bend gravel. Ring also asked Kimmes to grade 180th at Marshall's Pond area between Goodwin and Fischer.

Ring also addressed several issues related to the events of 2020; invoices for September and October 2020 are available for use on the over-due state audit report. The township computer was returned by the FBI so work on the audit can go forward. Judy Sloan is working with Clerk Ladzun to complete the audit.

Felty gave an overview of a discussion she had with a Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) attorney about posting financial documents for public review; documents like the treasurer's report can be posted on the township website because it does not contain confidential information such as account numbers. Felty would like a detailed report posted.

Felty motioned to accept the claims as presented. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer Ruger presented a verbal summary of the Treasurer's report. Ring gave the general opinion that the township was in good shape for the coming months, even if the winter road maintenance is heavier than last year. The payment for Fire protection (approximately \$50,000) can also be met with no issues. Felty motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Ring seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Permits:

- Rachel & Tom Doffing approached the board about installing an above ground swimming pool. They have been in contact with building inspector Mark Ceminsky, who indicated they could go ahead and build a pad but then wait for board approval before continuing. R. Doffing indicated that no concrete pad was planned (just a sand base). No paperwork was provided by Ceminsky, so Felty suggested the possibility of board approval contingent upon communication and documentation from Ceminsky. Subject tabled until Ceminsky calls the board. Ceminsky could not be reached that night and further discussion continued; Rachel checked the distance

to the drain field and found it in compliance. James Sathra asked where it states that an above-ground pool needs a permit? Ring motioned to approve the permit contingent on Ceminsky's inspection and payment of the permit fee. Felty seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

General Discussion:

- Sargent Tim Samuelson of the Dakota County Sheriff's Office attended the meeting to address a few issues. He noted that Vermillion Township is the only township in Dakota County that has uncontrolled intersections. Samuelson recommends that the township purchase warning and yield signs and have Kimmes install them. It is estimated that 19-20 signs & posts would be needed. Some intersections have a higher priority than others (180th & Fischer, 180th & Hogan). Samuelson also noted an increase in
 - vehicle thefts in the area (trucks are being targeted and then used to steal from ATM's)
 - mail thefts
 - scam calls
- Township resident Loren Kahl brought up a problem concerning the reporting of dirt bikes and lack of police response.
- Judy Sloan brought up the frequency of scam calls claiming to be from the IRS and wondered if the Sheriff's Office would like to set up a sting operation. Samuelson indicated that most of that type of scammer is so far away that it would not be of value.

Old Business:

- Craig Ohern, property conditions - Ring has received calls complaining about Ohern's barn roof collapse and the noise from canvas or metal flapping in the wind. Ohern indicated that more than one has collapsed. Ring also indicated neighbor concern about the amount of equipment harboring varmints. Ohern is thinking of putting up another shed to house the equipment to address the demolition of the two collapsed barns. Felty wondered if there was an estimated time it could be done and what to tell people when they call to complain (what is the plan). Ohern is looking to get rid of unused farm stuff and trucks but will focus on the metal removal.
- Loren Kahl complaint about neighbor Gary & Melanie Tharalson's automotive repair activity - in the past, Attorney Fluegel has indicated that proof in the form of receipts is needed to verify that the property is being run as a business. Tharalsons maintain that the automotive repair activity is just a hobby and to help friends and emphasized that it is not a business. Kahl feels it is the responsibility of the board of supervisors to investigate and gain proof. Ring indicated that if noise is the issue, the board can issue a warning. Felty suggested the two parties get together and come to an agreement. Ring explained the conditional use permit process and took the action to review the situation again with Attorney Fluegel.
- CTAS status - Treasurer Rueger had planned to get help from the city of Coates Clerk, but the appointment had to be canceled and was rescheduled for the following Monday. Felty shared information from the MAT attorney and indicated that MAT can train for a fee.
- Wes King and the moving of earth on his property - email discussions with Dakota County's Dee McDaniels (Water Resources Environmental Specialist) indicated no objections from Dakota County since the property is not in shoreland or floodplain, but recommended checking with Mark Ryan, P.E., Water Resources Engineer, of the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) to see if a permit is needed from the VRWJPO for land-disturbing activities. McDaniels also recommended checking if mining of sand were planned

and if township regulations would address that. Ryan responded by email saying that VRWJPO has not been granted permitting authority by Vermillion Township (does not issue permits in Vermillion Township), so enforcement of water resource requirements would come from the township. Ryan went on to recommend erosion control in the disturbed area that could include erecting a silt fence on the downhill side of the exposed area as well as seeding / mulching after grading so the slope does not wash away. Ring favored the idea of the silt fence, mulching and grading and suggested one of the supervisors go out to the site to review and talk with King.

- Felty inquired about the shed that Matthew Bohl was planning on building. An invoice was sent for what the building inspector, Mark Ceminsky had to complete. Ring thinks he will find a different spot to build a shed.
- Fee schedule – need to add \$5 self-contractor administration fee for self-performed work and to check for a valid contractor license (the license number would be noted on the permit). The township also needs to derive values for swimming pools in Vermillion Township. There was a question about whether labor costs are included since an expedited job would most likely cost more. Ring thought that the assessor value should be used to calculate the permit cost, but there have been past examples where the assessor value was considered too low. Ring also noted that permit fees should cover the total cost of administration (including lawyer fees); administration costs should not be coming from the general fund. There is an outstanding question about the ability to change the fee schedule during the 2021 year.

New Business

- Attorney Fluegel has given notice of resignation but will continue to support the township until a new attorney is found. Ring and Felty have been gathering information about potential candidates and their firms. Attorney Leah Koch from firm Campbell Knutson attended the meeting to introduce herself, give a presentation and offer a written agreement for services.
- Other Topics:
- Resident J. Sathra asked if Vermillion Township would consider forming a planning commission that would give input on ordinances. The supervisors think there is value in the idea but want to be careful of associated costs.

Adjourn:

Felty moved to adjourn, and Ring seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Cindy Ladzun
Vermillion Township Clerk

