

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2024

The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday, August 8th, 2024 at the Grant Valley Town Hall.

Board Members present were Chairman Hiltz, Supervisor Hiltz, Supervisor Eckman, Treasurer Slough, Clerk Stevens, and Road Supervisor Christianson.

Chairman Hiltz welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Hiltz motion to approve the July 11th, 2024, Regular Meeting with changes, seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion on Schroeder Rd (Graded) not paved as written in July minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Slough reported fund balances as General \$75,975.77, Road and Bridge \$1,195,673.80, Fire Fund \$55,574.44, Covid Fund of \$79,809.26 with outstanding items of \$0.00 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,407,033.27. Supervisor Eckman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Supervisor Hiltz seconded motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Verification on Northern Paving bid and bill, numbers match.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

The bills were reviewed and discussed. Supervisor Eckman made a motion to pay the bills as presented seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kari Howe is present, representing herself for County Commissioner. She is appreciative that she is able to be here, her husband was the chair of Bemidji's board for a while. She expressing the importance of Townships/County relationships. She became a resident of Beltrami County in 1978. She has a background with collaboration and communities nearby. She wanted to come to meet in person, ask our concerns and answer questions. She is excited to serve on a local level. Supervisor Eckman questioned about the round-about, why aren't they mowed? The board is concerned because the roundabout by Gene Dillion has traffic with bicycles, you can't see the bikers with the tall grass. Scott Wigner mentioned that roundabouts can be 'Adopted' and made nice.

Trengrove Rd/ County Road 16, is another concern the Board brought forth... the Board is concerned about the shape of that road and it is not in the 10-year plan. Discussion of 5- and 10-year plan. Discussion of the jail and budget. The Board is mostly concerned with safety, roundabouts, bus stop locations and county roads. Discussion on election, election training, using the portals, we are looking forward to a great turnout for the elections.

Scott Winger is present, he is running for County Commissioner as well, he lives in Grant Valley Township, worked in the Sheriff's office 22 years, public safety, roads, crime, & Mental health help are at the top of his concerns. He is concerned about taxes, many people talking about property taxes going up and not being able to keep their land. He mentioned big issues with the state, we need to get more money from them. The county needs to find ways of helping themselves. County Board is looking at the staffing of the jail, the new jail will be able to be staffed. Discussion of the tough times they are having to employ law enforcement. He cares about the community and wants to keep it a place people want to live.

Keith Christianson would like to pressure wash the building and the garage before the fall, Discussion on spraying for bugs outside. Supervisor Eckman made a motion for Keith Christianson to pressure wash the Townhall and Garage for up to \$400, Supervisor Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Supervisor Eckman requested approval to shop for Town Hall Supplies. Motion made by Chairman Hiltz for Supervisor Eckman to shop for supplies, Supervisor Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion on election judges and keeping the party balance as equal as possible for the upcoming elections.

OLD BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Country Side- This matter is turned over to the legal department at the DNR. They will make a plan and get back to the Township. Matt Boyer from the DNR has not contacted Chairman Hiltz yet. Jason Hill called Chairman Hiltz and they reviewed the road. He can't find that it has been vacated on a form yet. If there isn't a form it is our road still. It all depends

what the DNR says. The township attorney would like to wait until the DNR responds and make his comments. We need to keep access to the Kimmes property so it is not land locked. We either need to move the road, leave the road or possibly purchase the road. Since it is a non-motorized section, makes this difficult as well. There was a tree cut, Matt Boyer was going to look it. As of now, we are on a hold until we hear from the DNR.

Jamie commenting, she did not build the house there, she purchased the house and at the time thought that the property lines were correct, she did say the water well is close, (when the well went in, it looked to be on her land).

Jamie talked to Joe Reisknief, DNR to let him know that the tree was cut, she was told that he gave someone permission to cut down one tree. He did not give permission to limb it on the North side of the road though. A snowmobile sign is down on the stump, the branches are still there, the mess is not cleaned up. Tree was cut on May 19th. Discussion of the ideal situation and what could happen. In the early 70's they did brushing on the road, it was mainly all gravel. Any communication we get about this Chairman Hiltz will let Jamie Listebarger know.

Signs- coming West from Division, an old stop ahead sign with bullet holes. Do we legally need a STOP AHEAD sign there? Yes, let's replace. Keith Christianson will replace the Stop Ahead sign

City of Wilton- Discussion of road into the Rognlien Park, the intersection of the road we own, and the bad spot at the intersection of the roads. At last meeting they were asking of help paying for 1/3 of the work, we responded that we would like to see a grant for this work. The township would like to see someone here to explain it and something from the County that they will be helping pay for it as well. City of Wilton needs to come here and explain.

Ditch mowing Chairman Hiltz will call to make sure he hits the townhall and ball field as well.

REPORTS:

Fire- Meeting next week with contract for City. New City manager is still being introduced. Looking for at least 4 more full time fire fighters. If the SAFER grant comes through that will help. Fire truck is pretty much ready to be ordered. Trying to save some money Rural and the city are each buying them. Tanker and Pumper truck were recently bought and it was 1.2 million. 46 POC as of right now, they have good staffing.

BATO- No report

Animal Control- July 24th, Keith is looking into Stray Feral Cat Rescues in Hines, they will take in. he has taken about 40 from 2 trailer parks. Keith would like to look at the facility she has, he is going to ask if he can. She does fix the cats.

Discussion on State Statute, when a dog is picked up it has to be identified.

JAYZB- Final draft in process, more info to come

ROADS:

Whisperwood- Supervisor Eckman has been over there many times, she is not happy with the approaches, the shoulders, the driveways, it looks like there is deep washouts by Balsam. Platt is concerned that the culverts are closed. Discussion on the road, it could've been better. The South side lane is not as good as the North side lane. The Township had to take the lowest bid. Discussion on the road and the disappointment as of right now. Keith will go out there and look at it, put up some stakes and the Board will discuss this next meeting.

Rodeny Platt would like his road graded, it has not been bladed like it should. Chairman Hiltz will give Dale Vogt a call about this.

Discussion about the complaint with the road, the board went out there and did not see any issues.

Washout on County View (wait for now until DNR) & Stone Lake Rd- West side

As there was no further business, Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to adjourn seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous voice call vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kayley Stevens
Clerk