

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday March 21, 2024 at the Grant Valley Town Hall.

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

Chairman Hiltz welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag at 7:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Eckman made a motion to approve the February 8, 2024, Regular Meeting, seconded by Supervisor Hiltz and it carried on unanimous voice call vote.
Supervisor Hiltz Board of Audit February 8th, 2024 Minutes seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Review only Annual Meeting minutes

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Slough reported fund balances as General \$65,681.22, Road and Bridge \$1,120,405.48, Fire Fund \$34,238.81, Covid Fund of \$80,657.74 with outstanding items of \$600.27 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,301,583.52. 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.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Whisperwood- Kaci Petersen, she has lived on Whisperwood Ct SW for over 15 years. update to petition for Whisperwood Ct, and request that the township start the planning process to pave Division Street W. She received two bids to get Whisperwood Ct paved but did not get 75% of residents to sign the petition. She is noting that Division Street W also needs work, Rierson Construction has damaged the road by constantly hauling on it. She is understanding that since it is a through road this could be paved by the Township, she listed the 3 shared roads and the 69 parcels. She is asking that we consider paving. Another resident lives on Whisperwood & Division is explaining how rough the road is. Discussion on the ways Division could be paved and how it would be paid for, what the options are. Up to the board to decide to pave Division, this will be decided after the road tour, the Board will decide by prioritizing the roads. We have \$140,000 set aside to pave roads in the budget this year. Discussion on what other roads might need paving. We have \$15,000 set aside to repair roads. Discussion on trying to pave Whisperwood and Division at the same time to save money in the long run. The township would have to put class5 on both roads we are estimating about \$80,000 to add the class 5. Whisperwood will not get the petition this year, but the residents would like to see Division St paved and asking how to get it paved. Is there anything the residents can do to get it paved? Ms. Peterson asking who will be responsible for getting the bids for Division? The township will not be responsible for bids if this is petitioned. Discussion of Fern Lake, why it was paved (Grant was not received hence why the south half of Fern Lake Rd is not paved). Discussion on how bids work and putting out for bids. When would the road be paved? Bids would be for June (possibly) and completion by end of August approx. Road Tour coming up State Law requires us to drive all roads and set up a meeting, post the date and set the meeting. Roads are spouse to be thawed and not frozen. The meeting discussing the road tour is open to everyone. We try to add it to the regular meeting in May but depending on the agenda, a special meeting may need to be called or reconvene to a later date. Question on the Covid fund, we can use it on many different things but not new road construction, discussion on where the money could be shifted to use the covid fund up.

Supervisor Eckman spoke up and would like to move on, this discussion has become lengthy. back to the paving of Division St W, this was discussed 4 years ago and the Board Members have been all over there many times to check the road, this road is still at the top of the list to have work don, she is in favor keeping this road on the top of the list. The Board is understating that Whisperwood is off the table, it will not be paved.

Question, do they need to petition to get Division Street W paved? Yes, they can petition us but they do not have too, it is ultimately up to the Township if the road will be paved.

Red Oaks is possibly petitioning for pavement as well, no one is present here from that area.

Matt Murray is present; he is explaining what he proposed to the County for subdividing 8.3 acres into 6 residential lots. Chairman Hiltz motion to send county letter stating that we are in favor of the 5 parcel lot at 1449 Schroeder Rd NW but the 6 parcel is okay with us as long as it is a permanent piece of the parcel. We do not want to see an easement; any questions please contact us. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Red Rose Drive and culverts

Resident from Royal Oak Lane-to Red Rose Drive, Adam Smith brought in more dirt to help with resident's driveway/ditch. Then took the dirt away to a neighbor's driveway. Question is whose dirt is this? Who is responsible for the driveway? Paul Hoffman is also scraping the dirt away, Adam Smith said he did not give Paul Permission. At that point and time it was Adam's road- so his dirt and property. If he is taking dirt out of his property that is between the property owner and Adam Smith. Discussion on the placement of the ditch, resident showed the Board many pictures and videos of the dirt being removed. Chairman Hiltz will go look at this and if Adam Smith did anything wrong he will call Adam Smith. Most of this is before the Township owned the road in September 14th 2023, Adam Smith must maintain the road for 2 years.

Birch Hill Court- Dan LaCroix- when bladed they are spouse to turn around at the mailboxes and last week they had a new blade operator who went down into the back and busted up the crushed concrete and moved it around on a private driveway. This will cost Mr. LaCroix \$3,094.67 to fix it. We agreed to pay and will have a check ready for our next meeting as long bill matches the estimate.

Wes Hegna- Assessor, he would like to be the assessor for Grant Valley Township. We have 1390 parcels, 39 trailer houses, 138 tax exempt, 13 State parcels. Discussion on how he bids. We have 90 days from the Board of Appeal to decided. He wouldn't start in this township until about September 2024 if he got the bid. Can he assess people on the paving of a development? Asphalt vs gravel? He isn't seeing much difference in the increase of value to a property. Does paving the road raise the value of the house? April 26th we can ask this question, we need to know because legally we can not add the money to the property taxes unless equals the value. Discussion on assessment and paving roads. He will give us a quote by our May meeting.

The Township is over the FDIC Insurance at First National Bank, Chairman Hiltz will go to the bank and look into this.

Sign reflectivity- we will look at this during road tour.

Organizational meeting, Board Appointments, leave as is. Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to leave Board Appointments as is with Chairman Hiltz as the Vice Chairman, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Oath of Office- Clerk Stevens and Chairman Hiltz completed

OLD BUSINESS:

Countryside Road- No report

Culligan- Chairman Hiltz stopped at Home Depot to look at water softeners, \$399- 32-gram capacity, \$499 42-gram capacity (this one will take the iron out better). They think the hookup will be the same, hopefully the height is close to the same. Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to purchase the \$499 water softener plus salt (3 bags) along with a starting purifier. We will install this and have a water softener. Supervisor Eckman seconded this and it

Mailboxes on the website. We as a Township Board deem non breakaway mailboxes as a public hazard in accordance of MN state 169.072. Clerk Stevens will make a tab on the website. The posts are \$135-\$150ish in price. Cable needs to be located while doing this. We have 475 mailboxes currently that are not breakaway.

Resident is requesting Grant Valley Road reduced to 35 MPH, a resident asked. MN State Statue 169.142 Subd. A3- default speed limit is 55 MPH. Additionally rural residents MN 169.142 subd. a8 35 MPH zone, visible dwelling houses averaging 300 feet or less for a ¼ mile plus. Urban MN 169.14 2 Subd. A1 30 MPH zone, houses less than 100 feet. MN State Statue 169.14. There aren't many places in our township that this applies too. We will observe this while we do the road tour.

Chairman Hiltz made a motion for anyone on the Board to go to the Short Course, this will count for 2 meeting times to be paid. Either bill the township or pay this and the township will pay you. Supervisor Eckman seconded this and it carried on unanimous. Supervisor Eckman called 3 times today to see if we could have the township billed for the Shortcourse, she couldn't get an answer today from calling. Clerk Stevens found the answer online

Supervisor Eckman is picking up supplies for the townhall

REPORTS:

Fire- Met last week, working on contract for City of Bemidji due next year, end of 2025. Revisions are put together next Thursday meeting for how they want to change the by-laws. Fire Chief is pushing for a new fire station downtown.

BATO- Meeting date moved, proposed By Laws are to be voted on at the Short Course, many emails about this. Supervisor Eckman will be at next meeting

Animal Control- Maria Wiley received a citation for dog running at large, she paid this and \$500 to Animal Care Clinic and got her dog back. This was the second citation; the third citation will be \$300 and a misdemeanor fine.

JAYZB- None

ROADS:

Roads have been bladed every month, roads are rough but we have the best roads in township. Dale Vogt is buying a packer for behind the blade, he would like to see another \$15/hour. The packer is nice, the County and City are going to this. This will cost more fuel. We will still need to blade the same amount of times, he blades our township 2 days a week. Discussion on what the options could be, we have a contract with Vogts. Chairman Hiltz will offer him \$5/hour for the packer and invite him to the next meeting in April.

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to set the ANNUAL ROAD TOUR- April 27th, 2024 at 8:00 Motion is seconded by Seconded by Eckman and it carried on unanimous roll call vote. Clerk Stevens will post at Town Hall and in the Bemidji Buyline.

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 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kayley Stevens
Clerk