

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH.

The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday November, 9 2023.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to approve the October 12th, 2023, Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Supervisor Eckman and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Slough reported fund balances as General \$69,836.90 Road and Bridge \$992,256.68, Fire Fund \$46,035.10, Covid Fund of \$94,898.23 with outstanding items of \$0.00 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,203,026.91. 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:

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

Discussion of weed control and what is needed to do this service.

Discussion of Buyline vs Bemidji Pioneer costs and who sees the information.

NEW BUSINES:

Election/Poll Pads- We used the one Poll Pad we have for the election; election judges think we need more. Poll Pads are used to register people. Clerk Stevens will see what our options are and the cost of getting more Poll Pads and how long they would take to receive. Clerk Stevens will ask how long they are updated for, or is there something new we should wait for?

Discussion of upcoming elections.

Melvin Miller property/driveway- Melvin's driveway came off Archery originally with the stipulation that when he is not there the driveway will come off Paul Miller Lane. Frank Gehrke bought the lot and one other lot, Frank was pleasant and will make sure the driveway will come off Paul Miller Lane. Supervisor Eckman did the research and contacted Frank Gehrke. Frank would like to use the original driveway to access the lot with his equipment to get his mobile home set, once set he will use Paul Miller Lane. Chairman Hiltz made a motion to send letter, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Strowbridge's are asking if they need a building permit to put storage units in on Becida Rd near the Grant Valley Townhall.

Quiet Pond Trail Key- the key that Road Supervisor Christianson had did not open the gate, therefore Chairman Hiltz put a new lock on the gate, the one the Township had was cut and replaced. The new lock has keys that will go to the Grant Valley Board Members, Archery Club (Steve Jarensen), Weibolt's, Keith Christianson, Sherrif Department, Beltrami County Land Use, and Mark Sand & Gravel. Discussion on who should be charged for replacement of the lock and labor install the lock. Supervisor Hiltz made a

motion to send the bill to Mark Sand & Gravel for the lock, the keys, and to replace the lock and two hours of labor. Chairman Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Adam Smith (Red Rose/Yellow Rose Lane) signs were discussed, the Township was billed from the County for the signs but the bill included a Dead End Sign, Adam did not need this sign, where it is? Adam Smith needs to be billed for a No Outlet Sign from Newman Sign Co, along with the signs from Beltrami County, we will charge Adam Smith \$68.79 for the No Outlet sign.

Discussion on what is in the garage and what needs to be removed this summer.

The lady with the water in basement from the beaver dam stopped by during the election and was grateful that the Township took care of the beaver dam, this has cleared up the water.

Another lady commented on the website and said thank you for responding to the emails in a fast matter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Countryside- No update

Administration Policy- no update- add to next month

Bus Stop off Archery- Superintendent Olson reached out to Clerk Stevens and stated with no disrespect that this is not a matter for the township but they are still reviewing the road and bus stop. They must follow the half a mile policy. Chairman Hiltz noted that the road is longer than half a mile. Clerk Stevens will use Google maps and inform Mr. Olson of the length the children are having to walk and inform him that the Township has the road authority therefore it is a Township matter.

Rose Bush- Next month

Culligan- Next month

Gravel/Class 5- Next month

Clerk Stevens reached out to Lynn Boyer and Tippy Schmidt, they both are okay with being deputy's for the Treasurer and Clerk in the event of an emergency. Deputy Schmidt is planning on attending the February meeting for Clerk Stevens.

Pre-registration form for the Annual Meeting was presented. Chairman Hiltz made a motion that anyone who would like to attend the MAT Conference can attend and the Township will pay, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Clerk Stevens and Treasurer Slough met with Mark from the State Office and helped with a few CTA's codes.

REPORTS:

Fire- Long Range Planning meeting and regular meeting. The budget will go up probably about \$200,000, looking at hiring 2 full time firefighters (\$200,00 approx). The Chief can get a SAFER grant to pay for the wages for 3 years but we are not getting that Grant. Are they going to get grant next year and try to hire 2 more next full time firefighters? Yes, the rural refused that plan, it would cost too much. The Chief wants to hire to Part-Time firefighters and a get SAFER Grant and hire 2 more full time firefighters the next year. Mershman and Chief had discussions about the costs of hiring 2 full time firefighters and how it will increase \$500,000 along with wages. Another meeting coming up to discuss the options on part time vs. full time firefighters. Rural needs to be able to raise the levy and plan for this. Long range planning is frustrated with the numbers the way this is being gone about. City ordered new fire truck on Monday night, over a million dollars and will be here in 4 years. These costs may go up as well. More meetings next week and

over the month. During fire week there was a bouncy house and kid event but the fish fry did not exist. Our levy is estimated to go up next year for fire.

BATO- Supervisor Eckman reported, first guest from DNR talked about invasive plants. The first (hydrilla) came from SE Asia, there is a concern of it coming to MN, it is currently around us in WI and near states. There is no federal control yet, Zebra Mussels survive 23 days out of water. Sherrif was there to speak about jail. County Commissioner was present and reported they may be redistricting, Richard Anderson voted the way he did because he did not want additional City Wards. BATO authorized payment for up to \$500 to attended, 3 or 4 are going to Annual Meeting. Only 11 people at the Bato meeting, Mershman from Bemidji Township is attending and hopeful the Buylaw changes will be discussed. Discussion on the weeds near Gene Dillion in the ditches and roundabout. Why isn't is being mowed by the County? Supervisor Eckman and Chairman Hiltz have been told it is because the special weeds are there.

Animal Control- Oct 25th there was a meeting, lot of traps set for cats. Complaints from Township resident that it was hard to get in contact with Animal Control Officer, he had contacted her though. It would be \$65 plus tax to chip an animal when received, this would not be worth it currently. Comment of the Animal Control Policy's being on the Grant Valley website. Animal Control Officer Christianson reported that he can't bring cats to the Animal Care Clinic currently (this month) because of a disease they are trying to treat the cats for presently. Discussion on the number of cats that he gets calls about and picks. Clerk Stevens will look at Frohn Township and Bemidji Townships for examples and add something to our website about Animal Control.

JAYZB- No report

ROADS-

Roads will be icy tonight, discussion about salting the roads, we are watching the weather and will start when necessary. Discussion on roads being tore up from ATV's and vehicles. Discussion on mail carriers and how they are delivering late due to Amazon packages.

Supervisor Hiltz made a Motion to adjourn meeting on November 11th at 8:42 PM. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Eckman and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayley Stevens, Clerk