

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWN BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.

The Grant Valley Town Board of Supervisors met for their regularly scheduled monthly business meeting on Thursday December, 14 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 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to approve the November 9th, 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 \$65,978.76 Road and Bridge \$974,647.61 Fire Fund (8,102.11), Covid Fund of \$80,657.74 with outstanding items of \$0.00 for a total cash on hand balance of \$1,113,182.00. 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.

NEW BUSINES:

Salaries rates and pay were discussed and the adjustments were made as following

- Chainsaw labor is going to change from \$25/hour to \$30
- Clerk and Treasurer rates change from \$50/meeting to \$100/meeting
- General Labor- from \$15/hour to \$20/hour
- Milage- follow federal guidelines
- Snowplow- Change from \$50/time to \$60/time
- Road maintenance person- \$65 to \$75/meeting

Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to make the adjustments salaries and rates of pay as listed, Chairman Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Set dates for 2024 calendar, Clerk Stevens will look up the March meeting dates in regards to elections. All other regular meetings will be the 2nd Thursday of the month. This is will posted in Bemidji Buyline.

Chairman Hiltz made a motion to set the 2024 dates, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Chairman Hiltz made a motion to set the Buyline as our official newspaper, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on an unanimous roll call vote.

Sherrif Bender was present, he was asked how the new jail is going, Bender reported it is in the works, the location is in the Industrial Park, the old building will be repurposed as a holding place, possibly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Countryside- No update

Administration Policy- Board members will look this over and put on agenda for January.

Archery/Midvalley bus stop- Jeremy Jensen, the Transportation Supervisor from ISD#31 reached out to

Clerk Stevens, they have evaluated this stop and decided it is a safe stop. They will not be moving the bus stop at this time. Clerk Stevens will tell Jason Sanderson the update and that at the Road Tour in May the Township will look at the bus stop and possibly add a sign.

Rose Bush- Supervisor Hiltz made a motion to send the letter from Jason Hill to Tammy Orris regarding the rose bush, Supervisor Eckman seconded the letter and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Culligan- Water softener installation is \$99 plus tax, rent is \$46.80 plus tax/month plus the cost of salt and delivery. Discussion on getting prices of our own water softener. Chairman Hiltz made a motion that they will get prices on a softener and installation on the softener, Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Gravel/Class 5- Yes, we can spend the covid money on gravel.

Poll pads- supervisor Eckman made a motion to purchase 2 poll pads, Supervisor Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Clerk Stevens will notify Road Supervisor Christianson to let know him when the flag needs to be at half staff and he will do so.

REPORTS:

Fire- Chairman Hiltz attended a long-range planning meeting end of Nov, hiring of two full time firefighters was voted down, a special meeting was called the 13th to rediscuss the vote. Budget numbers varied from paper to paper. With the 2 full time firefighters 22.97% increase in budget. Chairman Hiltz and others reviewed the budget they were given and found missing things. Year-end differential varied on different papers. Budget discussion got lengthy. Paper ballot vote, 8 to 6 in favor of not supporting the two full time firefighters. Chairman Hiltz got many calls and texts in regards to the full-time fire fighters and voting yes after the Facebook post. Chairman Hiltz responded to the calls/texts with the budget numbers and many agreed that we cannot afford to hire 2 full time firefighters. The post online did not have accurate numbers or dates. This morning was a long-range planning meeting at 7:00 am. Since we do have the 2 full time firefighters for January the ISO rating is dropping from a 3 to 4, we are very close to a 4. Supervisor Eckman asked if the discussion of a fire district is still happening, yes, the discussion is still happening. This would help with the levy we set, we set our levy 9 months before we get the actual numbers. Discussion on the budget numbers and how the numbers are not adding up representing true numbers. Discussion of a possible audit or compilation statement. Next meeting is the annual meeting, last Thursday in January, in February there will be another regular meeting.

BATO- No report

Animal Control- Meeting end of January, Port Hope has a sled dog issue, over 35 sled dogs. Roosevelt Manor has 24 cats Leech Lake Legacy is going to help with them. Grant Valley has been quiet, besides one area.

JAYZB- No contact to Supervisor Hiltz.

ROADS-

Chairman Hiltz reported that Jake is purchasing a house with contract for deed from Paul Hoffman, the West side of Red Rose. There is no easement and the road needs to be accessed. Adam Smith put in culverts and road approaches and it is not in the place that Jake would like for his house to match the driveway/house. There was a complaint black dirt being removed and that it is township dirt but the picture is from August and the township did not adopt the road yet. The owner sent a complaint with a picture of dirt back by the cul de sac and pictures of other spots with dirt being removed. He was invited to the townhall meeting and was not present. The board members will look at this in May during the road tour. Adam Smith is still responsible for warranty of the road for 2 years from date it was accepted. Last Saturday, the 9th, the Snowplow was sent out to put some sand and hit the corners and intersections. Blading is happening in December when needed.

Road signs are up that needed to be up.

The assessor was going out last week with a tape measure, they are to hit 1/5 of the sections each year. She is very clear and explains things well if you have any questions. Wes Hagen would like to bid on this when the contract is up.

Supervisor Hiltz made a Motion to adjourn meeting on December 14th at 8:52 PM. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Eckman and it carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayley Stevens, Clerk