

TOWN OF FALL LAKE

BOARD MINUTES – July 3, 2024

Chairman Supervisor Eric Hart called the regular May meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Pledge recited. Present: Supervisor Eric Hart, Supervisor Craig Seliskar, Supervisor Sheila Gruba, Treasurer Don Stocks, Clerk Cheri DeBeltz.

Minutes of the previous meeting approved with motion by Supervisor Craig Seliskar second by Supervisor Eric Hart and supported by Supervisor Sheila Gruba.

Minutes of Special Meeting Recreational Funds Distribution approved with a motion by Supervisor Craig Seliskar, seconded by Supervisor Eric Hart, and Supported by Supervisor Sheila Gruba

Treasurer's Report -

The treasurer's report was read and approved as read with motion by Supervisor Eric Hart, second by Supervisor Craig Seliskar and support by Supervisor Sheila Gruba. Receipts of \$2,249.06 were received and disbursements totaled \$18,808.92. The recreation fund balance is \$9,805.80. Funds available to run the township are \$219,964.98. Treasurer Don Stocks also reported that as of tomorrow July 4th we will receive our first tax apportionment will be deposited in the bank for \$231,122.51

Transfer Site:

Supervisor Craig Seliskar has spoken to Doug Scheibe, the transfer site attendant, and he said everything has been going well. Dean Barrett is out sick until further notice. Doug Scheibe advised he will cover Deans shifts.

Sandbags are available for free to all citizens.

Supervisor Craig Seliskar advised the Transfer Site will need to order more small bags.

Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to have Supervisor Criag Seliskar purchase more small bags. Supervisor Sheila Gruba seconded the motion.

Commissioner Joe Baltich:

He did some checking at the county about our Recreational funds that the county sends to us. He spoke with Commissioner Goutermount and Matt Huddelston. They advised as far as any Recreational funds they send us there are NO rules that we must spend it all in one year. They don't care if we put them away and use them later or even another year later.

The county is starting to work on 2025 Budget - All the different PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) were talked about and the differing amounts that could be given to Lake County.

He said they did discuss the sale of the parking lot next door to our town hall and looks like it should go through, The next meeting should have it addressed.

Correspondence:

An email was received from Lake County advising that they are starting the 2025 Budget process. The administration will present the first draft of the budget to the county Board in early August. They asked if we have any budget requests, please send them by July 19th 2024.

An email from Minnesota Association of Townships advised their offices will be closed July 4th and July 5th, 2024.

Another email from Minnesota Association of Townships highlighting resources available to Townships due to the recent flooding in many townships.

An email was received from Paul Peltier at RAMS (Range Association of Municipalities and Schools) This email was a notice of Grant opportunities. The one that sparked interest in Clerk Cheri DeBeltz was Grant Writing Assistance. She advised the board that she had not had time before the meeting to research this specific grant but will investigate it and report back to the board.

Matt Pollman at Lake County sent an email to us with a QR code to have citizens self-report any damages that they have encountered during the recent storms. Clerk Cheri DeBeltz will post it on the bulletin board outside town hall and put it on the township website.

New Business:

Sunset Road Speed Limits –

Supervisor Eric Hart presented 2 different resolutions for proposed speed limits on Sunset Road. One was for a limit of 25 miles per hour and the second was for 35 miles per hour. A discussion was had about adopting this for all township roads and then post limit signs at later dates. This way the Sheriff's can enforce the speed limit.

A motion was made by Supervisor Sheila Gruba to adopt Resolution 2024-3 for a 25 miles per hour speed limit on all township roads. Supervisor Criag Seliskar 2nd the motion and it was supported by Supervisor Eric Hart. Clerk Cheri DeBeltz will finalize the resolution and all the township roads to it and then have Chairman Supervisor Eric Hart and herself sign it.

Amended Joint Powers Lodging Tax Agreement –

Supervisor Sheila Gruba said that she and Treasurer Don Stocks attended the recent Joint Powers Lodging Tax meeting. They advised that the Township of Stoney River no longer wants to be part of the Joint Powers Lodging Tax Board. This amended agreement is to remove them from the board.

Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to accept the amended agreement to remove Stoney River. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2nd the motion and was supported by Supervisor Craig Seliskar.

Braun Intertec Agreement –

Supervisor Criag Seliskar received the contract and pricing for Braun Intertec to review all our roads and come up with a plan to maintain and improve the township roads. A discussion was had regarding the need to include all our roads in this agreement. Supervisor Sheila Gruba brought up the request for a CAD file drawing in the agreement. She thought we could get Mr. DiPiazza from Lake County Highway Department to help us with the topography on the Sunset Project. He was able to provide the information for free. Supervisor Eric Hart wanted to get directions from the experts instead of contacting Lake County Engineer about it at this time. Supervisor Sheila Gruba said July 11 is too quick to get started and Supervisor Craig Seliskar agreed that it is too close. That date could be adjusted once the agreement is in place.

Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to edit the agreement and eliminate the roads of Aurora and Borealis and then accept the Braun Intertec agreement. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2nd the motion

and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported. Supervisor Sheila Gruba brought up concerns about the Villa Road being included in the agreement due to it having pavement on it. Supervisor Craig Seliskar agreed, and we don't want them drilling on paved roads. He said blacktop is hard enough to maintain.

Supervisor Sheila Gruba also asked if the general conditions of the contract have been reviewed because this is the first time she has seen the contract. Supervisor Eric Hart advised that we do need to keep moving on and we can review it later if we have any questions or comments.

New Chairs for town hall –

Clerk Cheri DeBeltz presented two price quotes to get new chairs for the town hall. Currently we have a maximum seating capacity of 60 and right now we only have enough chairs for 32 people. A discussion was had regarding the need to purchase the remaining 28 chairs or get all new 60 chairs and then get a rack to store them on.

Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to purchase all 60 chairs from Sam's club for the price of \$1799.70 without shipping and to also purchase a rack to store them on. Supervisor Sheila Gruba seconded the motion, and it was supported by Supervisor Craig Seliskar.

Weisinger Quote for town hall doors –

We received a quote from Weisinger construction to replace the front door due to the frame being broken. Also replace the office door with a solid door and no longer have glass windows on it.

Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion once proper insurance is on file to change the doors per the quote and add when they do the work for them to adjust the door at the end of the building facing Ernie's Road and between the far stalls. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2nd the motion and Supervisor Eric Hart will support.

Resolution 2024-04 Establishing Policy for Compensation and Reimbursement of Town Officers –

This is to follow the Minnesota Statutes and found on the Minnesota Association of Townships website. This resolution is to highlight and lay out the allowable expenses paid by the township to its officers.

A motion was made by Eric Hart to accept Resolution 2024-04 Reimbursement of Town Officers. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2nd the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported.

Attorney for Township possibilities –

Clerk Cheri DeBeltz presented to the board 3 possible attorneys for the township to use. She gave information about each one of them regarding rates they would charge and their experience with townships. Supervisor Craig Seliskar would like to have some sort of ground rules in place that any contact with the attorney be made at the direction of the board. Supervisor Sheila Gruba and Supervisor Eric Hart both agreed to that stipulation.

Supervisor Sheila Gruba recommended we work with the firm Couri & Ruppe, Bob Ruppe. With the rules in place that any contact with the attorney be made at the direction of the board. Supervisor Eric Hart 2nd the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported.

Approve Election Judges for Primary Election 8/13 –

Clerk Cheri DeBeltz presented the board with the Election Judges she has scheduled to work the election being held on August 13 – Teresa Sagen, Nancy McReady, Delores Delany, Cheri DeBeltz

Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to approve the election judges Teresa Sagen, Nancy McReady, Delores Delany, Cheri DeBeltz for 8/13/24. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2nd the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported.

NSF Policy –

Clerk Cheri DeBeltz explained that recently we had a check that was presented for payment at the Transfer site returned due to a closed account. After checking with Steve Fenske the MATS attorney, he advised that we cannot charge any fees to the citizen unless we had it posted. This is stated in MN Statute 604.113. Treasurer Don Stocks stated that the citizen has since paid the check. Clerk Cheri DeBeltz recommended that the board adopt a policy to charge \$30.00.

Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to adopt the policy to charge a fee to any returned checks. Supervisor Eric Hart 2nd the motion and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.

Old Business:

Sunset LRIP – Supervisor Sheila Gruba presented the updated MSA agreement. After our June meeting she found errors in the contract, she decided to Clerk Cheri DeBeltz hold up the contract. She reached out to Jeff Goetzman, MSA and Jason DiPiazza, Lake County and had them go through the entire contract. Jason requested to have certain milestones added to the project and added full or almost full-time construction inspection during process. Other recommendations were made. Jeff Goetzman has made those recommendations to the contract, Supervisor Sheila Gruba was still waiting for final approval from Jason DiPiazza.

Supervisor Sheila Gruba obtained the contractor's insurance, written authorization from the property owner to allow access to the property prior to the donation of the land to the township as required by MSA'S contract and contacted MN to determine the width of the powerline right away in relation to the project to save township costs.

Supervisor Sheila Gruba motioned to approve the agreement once she gets the final approval from Jason DiPiazza. If any further adjustments need to be made, she will bring them before the board. Supervisor Eric Hart 2nd the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported.

Power Dam Road – Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to allow Clerk Cheri DeBeltz to reach out to Attorney Bob Ruppe for assistance with the Power Dam Road legal questions. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2nd the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported the motion.

Locust Lane – nothing currently

Warren Johnson Parcel Sale – A discussion was had about the possible purchase of the parcel from Warren Johnson. Supervisor Sheila Gruba wants to know everyone's reasons why it is in the best interest of the township to purchase the property. Supervisor Craig Seliskar – "once it is sold, we may never be able to purchase the property again also would allow us to put a new right away IF Locust Lane were to be developed.", Supervisor Eric Hart – "if our septic were to fail, we currently do NOT have the footprint here to put a new one in. This could give us the additional footprint", Supervisor Sheila Gruba would like to see as a whole thing how this would lay out. And

what footprints we need. Supervisor Sheila Gruba is going to reach out to someone to see what kind of footprint this would take.

Cloquet Line – Supervisor Criag Seliskar has spoken to Jeff Schulze about his previous estimate.

Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to hire Jeff Schulze to remove trees and brush before the spring 2025 and cover the timbers for about \$15,000.00 worth of normal maintenance. 2nd by Supervisor Eric Hart and supported by Supervisor Sheila Gruba.

Community Center Group – Clerk Cheri DeBeltz they have set up a meeting to tour the Morse Fall Lake Fire Hall on Wednesday July 10th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Recreation Funds Distribution Clerk DeBeltz has received a couple more donation requests

- The Ely Baseball Association - Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to donate \$400.00 citing statute 365.10. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2nd and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported
- Ely Area Senior Citizens - Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to donate \$500.00 citing statute 471.935. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2nd and Supervisor Sheila Gruba had a discussion to increase the donation to because they are struggling right now.
 - Supervisor Eric Hart altered his motion to donate \$1,000.00 Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2nd and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.

Supervisor's Comments:

Supervisor Sheila Gruba – After the Lake County Board as a Whole meeting they agreed to meet and discuss with us the Fall Lake results from Granicus software for the short-term rentals. She asked last Fire Meeting what the width of the road is needed for a fire truck to go down. The answer given was 14ft high by 14 ft wide. 911 signs should be brushed out and cleared so fire and emergency personnel can see them.

Supervisor Craig Seliskar – he discussed the application of chloride on the Sunset road. Gravel was just put on and the road is still muddy where it is shaded. The road will get slimy if we apply chloride to these muddy areas. Supervisor Eric Hart reminded the board we did make a motion to apply chloride at the last meeting to spend \$10,000.00 at the discretion of the road supervisor. On top of that we will need to grade that before the chloride and provide and escort down Sunset. Supervisor Seliskar will reach out to Enviro Tech and work with them.

Sunset road a culvert has been repaired close to where the old road will meet up with the new road. This could be changed later depending on the construction plan.

He has also spoken to our State Representative about how to get more money to help with our roads. Some suggestions were

- Raise the levy
- Talk to the county
- Special sales tax money
- Asses the citizens of the road

He also asked the other supervisors to please not run off to our contractors the day after our meetings and tell them something you thought you heard at a meeting.

Supervisor Hart – He did attend the hospital presentation at the Senior Center. One of the recommendations from that meeting –

- 2 ambulances in Ely
- 1 ambulance in Tower
- 1 ambulance in Bobbitt

This would give 30 fulltime employees with wages of \$19 – \$25/hr. and full benefits.

He liked this option that looked sustainable, did not require a big funding from townships and cities. Could have some downfalls, such as tower doesn't have somewhere to house full-time employees, Ely already has that in place.

He hopes everyone goes into discussions with an open mind.

He did some research on open meeting laws. MATS website, township manual. Open meeting law He found open meeting elements. 5 things must as an open meeting

- Quorum
- Voting members
- Gathering requirements – he read off this “This may seem like a minor point, but it has raised questions over whether discussions via electronic communications such as on the telephone, by e-mail, or through social media are covered by the Open Meeting law. When interpreting the Open Meeting law, courts often turn to the law’s purpose. When one considers that many of the evils the Open Meeting law is intended to guard against can be committed through electronic communications, it becomes clear that such communications between supervisors must be avoided. In other words, do not hit “Reply all” when responding to an email relating to town business.”

Supervisor Eric Hart did not read off the final 2 elements but went onto state that there is also a note of Limited Exceptions for On-Site Inspections and read the following -

“Because most towns do not have staff, the Legislature created a limited exception for towns, allowing a quorum or more of supervisors to perform an on-site inspection for the town. Minn. Stat. § 366.01, subd. 11. This exception is only available when the town has no employees or other staff able to perform the inspection and the town board acts in a staff capacity. If a news medium has filed a written request for notice of on-site inspections, the board must make a good faith effort to inform the news medium before the inspection.”

He also did some research on Meeting Minutes he handed out copies he made from the State of Minnesota Office of the State Auditor. He went on to explain that our meeting minutes are ridiculous and should NOT be 12 pages long. He highlighted the things that should be included in the minutes.

Road Report - Supervisor Craig Seliskar reported that Jeff Schulze has been out grading.

Citizens:

Treasurer Don Stocks asked Commissioner Joe Baltich that a couple of days ago the State of MN implemented a .50 cent tax on packages, such as through vendors like Amazon, is the county going to get any of this back? Commissioner Joe Baltich had not heard about it. He will do some checking.

Willam Wagner – He is under the impression that the silver Rapids Lodge Expansion is a “Done Deal”. Is that true? Supervisor Eric Hart advised if he has concerns about the project to come to the meeting on July 18th and voice concerns.

Janelle Hart, a couple of citizens, would like to be part of the grant writing opportunity if that is something that all citizens can attend. Clerk Cheri DeBeltz will research and let her know

Ed Seliskar asked more about what Sheila said about the 14 x 14 fire access. Supervisor Eric Hart advised that there usually is nothing that will normally keep a truck from going down. The other question Mr. Seliskar had was regarding septic systems, if you get to surveying septic systems could you please let him know what surveyor we are using so he can utilize as well.

Motion to pay the bills by Supervisor Eric Hart, Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2nd the motion and supported by Sheila Gruba.

Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Supervisor Shelia Gruba 2nd and Supervisor Eric Hart support.

Future Meetings

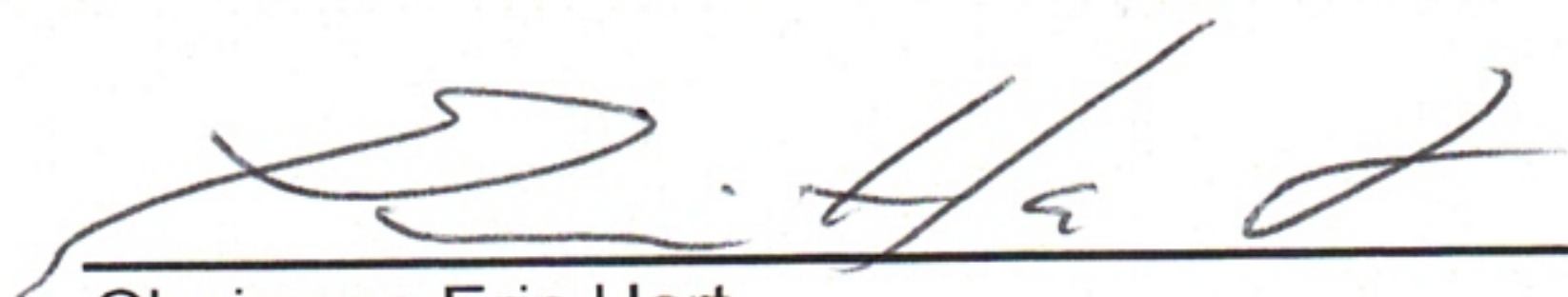
Community Center Group Meeting – Tour Morse/Fall Lake Fire Hall – Wednesday July 10th, 6pm

Morse Fall Lake Fire Meeting – Wednesday July 17th, 6 pm

Lake County Planning and Zoning Meeting for Silver Rapids Lodge – Thursday July 18th – 4pm Fall Lake Town Hall

Next Regular Township Meeting – Wednesday August 7th – 6pm

Primary Election - Tuesday August 13 – 7am - 8pm



Chairman Eric Hart

8/8/24

date



Clerk Cheri DeBeltz

8/8/24

date