

## TOWN OF FALL LAKE

### BOARD MINUTES – Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Chairman Hart called the regular August 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 were given to the supervisors for review. Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to approve the minutes. Supervisor Sheila Gruba had a few spelling corrections and 2 other edits to be made. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to approve the minutes and Supervisor Sheila Gruba.

Due to time constraints with the Township Attorney Mr. Bob Ruppe, the board took a call from him to go over The Johnson Vacant Land Purchase, Power Dam Road, and Locust Lane questions.

Mr. Ruppe explained Locust Lane is a plated road and held in trust until the township wants to show interest in it. The public can use the road if it shows no interest in the road and has no liability or responsibility. The road is held in trust until the township accepts it.

You accept road by making a motion or resolution or finally by actions by maintaining the road. Do NOT do any maintenance, do NOT tell people what they can or cannot do on the road. Stay away from it completely until the township wants to accept it.

As for the dirt on the plat is it worth drafting a contract or moving it. It may not be feasible to do anything with it.

Vacant Land purchase on Johnson Parcels. Mr. Ruppe advised we can make a motion to approve the contract contingent on Attorney review. There was an edit that Mr. Johnson requested to remove 7E on pages 4 & 5 and Supervisor Sheila Gruba had a question as well regarding potable water listed on contract.

*Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to accept the contract and the removal of 7E. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Eric Hart Supported.*

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to accept the contract contingent on the removal of 7E and attorney review, Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, Supervisor Sheila Gruba not approving it because she did not approve the purchase.*

*Supervisor Eric Hart amended the motion to add attorney review to the motion.*

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to use North East Title for the doing the closing of the transaction. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.*

Power Dam Road he summarized the letter he sent to Clerk Cheri DeBeltz regarding Power Dam Road. If you have used or maintained a stretch of road for 6 years continuously you establish a road easement over the road you have maintained. Based on the information from Jake Takvam he stated he maintained the road from 1996 until his retirement in 2009. That tells Mr. Ruppe that this is a town road. The next question he advised is did we lose any portion of the road when the road vacation was requested in 1995? The road vacation was NOT properly done the town never vacated the portion of power dam road. The final portion is the township has not maintained the road since Mr. Takvam retired in 2009. There is a statute that if we have not maintained the road for 25 then it is presumed abandoned and we can't maintain without

electoral authorization at annual meeting. Given we have maintained in the past this is a township road.

We would need to do the road vacation again if we want to vacate that portion. To get that portion vacation we would need to go thru the formal process again. We could just leave the gate up and ignore that it is there.

What happens if MN Power maintains the road? It would go back to if we are going to vacate it and give it back to MN Power. We could have a contract with MN Power to maintain the road. He suggests that we get a contract with them.

There is a potential for liability if we are not maintaining the road.

He advised that we can provide MN Power with the letter he drafted we will not give them anything stating this is a public road.

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to provide the letter to MN Power that was drafted by Mr. Ruppe. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported*

Treasurer's report was read and approved as read with motion by Supervisor Eric Hart, seconded by Supervisor Craig Seliskar & supported by Sheila Gruba. Receipts of \$3,007.51 were received and disbursements totaled \$26,984.31. Recreation fund balance is \$7,905.50. Funds available to run the township are \$334,931.14.

Transfer Site: Dean Barrett stated Really busy 2 days of the week 60 – 80 cars a day. Brush pile also needs to be pushed back. Supervisor Craig Seliskar has reached out to Lake County to see if they can move our sign or put a new one up closer to the entrance on the road.

### **Correspondence**

Received an email from Teresa Floberg with the Ely Fireshed Coordinator. There is going to have a Pile Burning Workshop being held on Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 12 pm at MN North Vermilion Campus, Room 104.

Received a letter from the Attorneys office Couri & Ruppe that their rates will increase effective January 1, 2025. The rate will go to \$300.00/hr.

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to accept the new rate beginning in 2025 of \$300/hr. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported.*

Lake County sent a letter about now having naloxone kits available at three locations in Lake County – Lake County Health and Human Services, Silver Bay Service Center, & Clair Nelson Center. People can pick up kits no questions will be asked and are free of charge.

Mike and Pam Turnbull sent an email thanking the town board for getting Winton Point Road work done. Thanks for the great service!

Ely Community Health Center sent a letter requesting donation to their 501c that offers free medical and dental services. This falls outside of our scope. No donation at this time.

Northern Lake Art Association Board Members sent out a Thank you card for our continued generous support.



## **New Business**

Election Judges for November Election.

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to approve the elections judges Delores Delany, Nancy McReady, Teresa Sagen and Cheri DeBeltz. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.*

New Election Judges Becky Peterson and Mary Johannsen.

*Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to approve new Election Judges Mary Johannsen and Becky Peterson. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Eric Hart supported.*

New Road Name Request – we received a letter from Lake County Sheriff's office due to new parcels/homes on a gravel access road off of Fernberg, they require it to be named. Gave the board 3 options.

*Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to approve the road name Fernwood Lane. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Eric Hart supported.*

New Computer quote from Voltz. – there were 2 quotes one that had 2 monitors for the amount of \$920.87 and one that only had 1 monitor for the amount of \$716.86.

*Supervisor Craig Seliskar made a motion to accept the quote for the amount of \$920.87 to include 2 monitors. Supervisor Eric Hart 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.*

Braun InterTech Road Report. Clerk DeBeltz has had copies printed at the Echo for everyone to review, however she has not picked them up yet. An email copy has been sent out to everyone. This is just a draft report. A plan will need to put into place how to implement these suggestions.

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion that if any changes need to be done to notify clerk Cheri DeBeltz within one week. Otherwise, if no changes go ahead and finalize it with Braun InterTech.*

Furnaces in Garage – both of the furnaces in the garage need to be serviced and cleaned. Clerk DeBeltz will contact OJ's to have them cleaned.

## **Old Business**

Sunset Road – LRIP – Supervisor Sheila Gruba gave an update on status. MSA has flagged Boring locations. She contacted Schultz, RLT, and Hegfors to do some scrubbing for a drill site 8' x 10'. Schultz is not available. She received bids from RLT and Hegfors.

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to accept the bid from RLT. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and Supervisor Sheila Gruba Supported. Clerk Cheri DeBeltz will verify insurance with RLT.*

Community Center Group – Supervisor Craig Seliskar the group meet on 9/30. The group applied for a grant with the University of Minnesota. The group formed a formal committee.

*Eric Hart make a motion that the committee at this time is Craig Seliskar, Craig Seydel, Kerry Davis, Deb Muraski, and Janelle Hart. Supervisor Sheila Gruba 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and Supervisor Craig Seliskar supported.*

Snowbank Road Bid – Supervisor Craig Seliskar did receive complaint that the road could use more gravel.

*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to move forward with the Bid from Phil Hegfors for the work on Snowbank Road. Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.*

Cannabis Follow up with Lake County – Clerk Cheri DeBeltz gave update she had gotten email from Matt Huddleston at Lake County. The county is still checking into all aspects of the new cannabis regulations and requirements. They will let townships know as they make determinations on this issue.

### **Supervisor Comments**

#### **Supervisor Sheila Gruba**

There was a Lodging Tax meeting on 9/23 and Lake County finally sent the parcel information for Granicus.

Supervisor Sheila Gruba asked to have a motion from the board to have her as a voting member on the Lodging Tax board.

A discussion was had and both Supervisor Eric Hart and Supervisor Craig Seliskar stated that Treasurer Don Stocks was the voting member on the Lodging Tax Board and they would not be changing that at this time. They can revisit in April at the reorganizational meeting. RAMS update she advised that Paul Peltier was appointed to the Permanent School Trust Funds Task Force. She feels it's a good addition. Next Rams meeting on 10/23 at the Mt. Iron Community Center.

#### **Supervisor Craig Seliskar**

Everything is pretty quiet; roads will need grading before winter.

#### **Supervisor Eric Hart**

Nothing at this time.

### **Commissioner Joe Baltich –**

He has spoken to Jason DiPiazia at Lake County to look into the washouts on the roads.

Ely Area Ambulance he advised that Chuck Novak has resigned from the board due to personal reasons. Commissioner Baltich is now the chairperson of that board.

### **Citizens**

Mr. George Spaulding is formally requesting that the small section of road that will be created after the LRIP (reroute) to the Sunset Road be named Fortier Trail.

*Supervisor Sheila Gruba made a motion for the spur to be named Fortier Trail. A discussion was had regarding timing of this due to the road not even being done yet. Supervisor Eric Hart is for it but wants more information. It was determined to be tabled until more information is found out. Clerk Cheri DeBeltz will reach out to Lake County Sheriff's office to determine the correct timing and procedure for this.*

Brian Seliskar wondering what makes small jobs out for bids? The board clarified that they were quotes and not bids. The board also clarified the difference between bids and quotes. He wanted to know who we send quotes to? We usually send them to our 3 contractors that are on file with township. His wife has sent his company pricing information over for us to use as a contractor.



*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to have Brian Seliskar on file as a contractor as needed Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Sheila Gruba supported.*

Mr. Seliskar also asked about Locust Lane has the ability to dig thru there? Board would not comment on it.


Supervisor Sheila Gruba pointed out we have not finalized what we are going to do with the dirt pile on Locust Lane. It is not worth having attorney draft contract. Should we pay contractor to move the dirt or let the property owners just utilize the dirt.

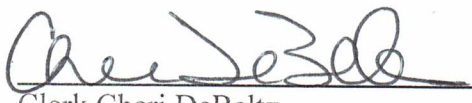
*Supervisor Eric Hart made a motion to not to worry about the gravel due to the neglectable amount of gravel that could fall onto the roadway they are creating Supervisor Craig Seliskar 2<sup>nd</sup> and Supervisor Sheila Gruba abstained due to she doesn't know how much gravel is there.*

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

Motion by Eric Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig Seliskar and supported by Sheila Gruba, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm.

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 11/6/24  
Chairman Eric Hart Date

 11/6/24  
Clerk Cheri DeBeltz Date