

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING

August 12, 2020

The Fairview Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday August 12th, 2020 beginning at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held in the town hall, with the proper social distancing taken into consideration. The meeting was also available by "Zoom" for anyone who was concerned about meeting COVID-19 restrictions. Board members in attendance were Supervisors Jim Weizenegger, Walt Richmond, Tom Dechmann, Clerk-Treasurer Marla Yoho and Deputy Treasurer, Jenny Gunsbury.

Dechmann/ Weizenegger/Unanimous: Motion to approve the **Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting** as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The following are the July 31st balances in the Township accounts: \$242,419.28 in Checking and \$228,681.98 in Money Market funds. **Revenues for July were \$86,484.60** (\$31.82 MMI Interest; \$83.02 Gas and Electricity reimbursement; \$21,900 Federal CARES grant; \$50,809.80 and \$10,790.75 May/June Property Tax Settlements; \$2,200.00 Certified Town Aid; \$667.21 Forfeited Tax Apportionment; \$2 filing fee); **Expenditures totaled \$11,215.30** (\$7,608.86 Road & Bridge; \$181.42 Fire; \$3,425.02 General Gov't expenses; \$0 Trail).

Dechmann/ Weizenegger/ Unanimous: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Marla has spoken to the bank concerning the marked decline in the interest earned on the MMI account. As a comparison, interest in July of 2019 on a \$405,462 balance was \$723.42. The balance in July of 2020 was \$228,681 and the interest was \$31.82. The bank said that interest rates have dropped drastically due to the COVID-19. Current rate is .16% for MMI. CD's are: 3 Mo-.35%, 6 Mo-.38%, 12 Mo-.45%. However, loan rates are very good right now.

Road Report:

- Tom unplugged the first culvert on **Birch Forest Rd** twice. We contacted Mark Mortenson (a former DNR forester) who was able to trap 2 male and 1 female beaver over a period of a few days. He believes that is all of the colony at this time.
- Dale Braddy contacted Marla about an "excessive" amount of sand and soil that was being washed down the ditch and into a driveway as the result of a recent switch box installation on **Gull Lane**. Marla contacted Crow Wing Power and they said they would send someone to check on the situation.
- There has been no update from Anderson Brothers Const on a timeline for the work on **Ponderosa Ln**. Marla will advise resident Ron Miles as soon as we are notified.
- Tom sent **Ted Sullivan (Northern Tree)** over to the town hall to remove a tree hanging over the fire hall roof.
- **Anderson Bros crack sealed** 26 roads and the town hall parking lot last month. Even though they had not recommended doing any crack sealing on Gregory Dr, they did rout and crack seal 55 cracks, at a total cost of \$19,431.23.
- Rardins submitted an estimate of \$1,025 to replace and extend the end of the **first culvert on Birch Forest Rd.**, which has been damaged by continuing removal of beaver dams and clogs with the backhoe. The board gave approval to go ahead with that repair. Tom felt a sleeve might be better, but he will discuss with Mike Rardin.

Fire Report:

- Walt reported Greg has returned the old boat to Willow River since it has only been used twice in 13 years and the gas tank had water in it. Now there is no need for the dock the fire dept provided at Maddens. The fire dept will estimate a value since Maddens is interested in buying it.

- An air compressor and hoses were purchased for maintaining the pressure in the air brakes on the trucks as was discussed last month.
- Greg will be completing his Level 2 Fire Inspection training at Camp Ripley this month, which will qualify him to do fire inspections on nursing homes and commercial buildings.
- In the last 2 weeks the fire department joined with other agencies in two more search and rescues.
- Fire Prevention Week is coming up. The Fire Dept. will be working with the schools to see how they can best interact with the children and schools.
- The Fire Dept. has a new applicant. Aside from passing the physical, new applicants must now pass a drug test and background check.
- The department had **17 runs in July**, for a total of 163 (151 in 2019). 1 was in Fairview.

Trail Committee:

- Advertisements for bids were placed in the Brainerd Dispatch and "Finance & Commerce" over the last 3 weeks and 18 Primary Bidders downloaded the plans. The bids were opened on Monday, August 10th at 10am, but only 3 bids were submitted. Local companies Anderson Bros and Knife River did not submit bids. **Bids were as follows: JR Ferche (Rice MN) \$4,308,117; Borden Excavating (Merrifield) \$3,578,379; Landwehr Const (St. Cloud) \$3,568,067.**

The bids were substantially more than anticipated. The township had been working with the estimate of \$1,700,000 which was provided by Bryan Drown of Bolton & Menk three years ago. During the fund-raising portion of the process he had been asked if the figure needed to be adjusted for inflation, but he thought it was fairly accurate. Over the last few months, as the Cass County Highway engineer has reviewed the plans and made copious notes, the plans have been revised and Bolton & Menk had apparently made a revised estimate of \$2,832,999. That specific number was never shared with the board or the committee.

- The **goal figure for fund-raising was always \$1,700,000.** Total funds raised include: \$100,000 DNR Regional Trail grant, \$150,000 DNR federal trail grant, \$1,206,311 Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails grant, \$180,000 from Cass County Fund 73, \$2,500 Initiative Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Areas Community Foundation donations of \$34,584, Cash donations \$6,848. There was also money in the township's Community Projects fund of approximately \$72,000.
- **Total expenditures are in the range of \$178,500.** Those expenditures were covered by \$32,000 deducted from the BLACF donations, \$68,271 requested from the DNR Regional Trail grant, and \$2,500 from the Initiative Foundation. The balance of about \$71,381 came from monies allocated from the Community Projects Fund. These expenditures cover not only engineering but archaeological surveys, topographical surveys, soil borings and analysis, wetland delineations, and minor fund-raising outlays. All but \$6,650 (wetland delineation, DNR fees, and fund-raising costs) was paid to Bolton & Menk.
- Marla has had conversations with Darrick Anderson and others trying to find a way to reduce the cost. Anderson said there could be minor changes, but his responsibility is to protect Cty 77, a state-aid highway, and to prevent drainage issues, which they don't have at this time. We could consider re-bidding in the spring before contractors have already committed their construction season to others. The county would consider allowing a 5-ft extension of the pavement on each side of the road when they do their mill-and repave of Cty 77 in 2024, as was done in LakeShore. That isn't a good option since they already don't like it in LakeShore where the speed limit is 30 mph, and our portion of the road is much windier and the speed exceeds the 55 mph limit.
- Marla must contact Joe Czapiewski and Renee Mattson of the GMRPT to see if they can suggest options, and most importantly, Dan Golner, DNR grant coordinator, to see if it will be necessary to reimburse the \$68,271 that was already advanced if we don't go ahead. We can look at alternate routes around the area, but rough and steep terrain or attempting to cross State of MN land will be an issue almost everywhere. In the remote chance the State of MN were to give permission to cross their land, the trail would have to be non-motorized. She will also discuss the situation with Neal Gaalswyk at the Commissioners Mtg on Aug 18.

- Marla was instructed to write a letter to Phil Martin at Bolton & Menk, in which she asks them for an explanation of how this projection could be so far off.

Planning Commission:

- Twedt Variance Application: Brenda Twedt applied for a variance to construct a new residence with a reduced setback to Pillager Lake with the same footprint and volume as an existing dilapidated structure. After reviewing the property, the Fairview Planning Commission recommended that the proposed house be reconfigured with the same volume, but different length and width measurements and relocated on the property. The Cass County P&Z Commission tabled: “applicant to work with ESD (Navratil) to identify more suitable location that would require less vegetative alteration”.

- Tom Bercher attended the August 10th field inspection at the Twedt property and Fairview planning commission meeting that followed. After watching the procedure, he indicated that he would like to be appointed as a member of the commission.

Richmond/ Weizenegger/ Unanimous: Motion to appoint **Tom Bercher as a member of the Fairview Planning Commission.**

Old Business:

- **COVID 10 CARES act:** Marla made the application for the \$21,900 allocated to Fairview Township and the money has already been deposited into the township checking acct. There is a specific report that must be filed with the MN Management and Budget Dept on the first of each month. There will be additional reports required on a federal level. The report for July covered a total of \$1,484.99 in expenditures including the election equipment, Zoom costs and PPE. All money not spent on COVID related expenses must be returned to the county on November 15th. There are some plans in the works where some of this money that isn’t needed for township use could be sent to agencies in the area which are providing COVID related services within our township, such as the Pillager Food Shelf or Fire Assn. We should receive that information soon.

- **2020 Primary Election:** The Primary election turnout in this township was the highest found in township files. The numbers have ranged from 24 to 79 for Primaries. There were 105 voters in-person voters and at least 16 absentee ballots. The final numbers will be released on Thursday night by Cass County after the final ballots are received and processed.

Moving everything into the fire hall was a logistical problem, but the election day process went very well overall. At the last minute, we were one election judge short, but the schedule was revised, and all posts were covered. The fire hall worked “okay”, and it will be revamped for the General so we can set up 4 more voting stands (for a total of 10), which we will borrow from Sylvan. Greg Ringler has agreed to move the large fire truck out to the parking lot during the General, which will give us 2 bays for more space and a better flow pattern.

The mask mandate was an issue a couple of times, but there were no major incidents.

Five other precincts brought their ballots and equipment here at the end of the night since we have a larger space with the fire hall. Sylvan is usually the collection point, but they opted for Mail Ballot this year. Marla had to transport Poll Pads, ballots and supplies to Walker on Wednesday morning.

New Business:

- **LakeShore Conservation Club Gambling Permit:** The Club has a permit for a raffle that was supposed to be held at an event in Nisswa, but it had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. They are holding the raffle drawing at their club in Fairview instead, requiring permission from the township.

Weizenegger/ Richmond/ Unanimous: Motion to approve a gambling permit for LakeShore Conservation Club.

Clerk’s Report:

August 18th Cass County Commissioners at LakeShore City Hall 6 pm

August 26th MAT Dist 11 Annual Meeting 5:00 pm (teleconference)
September 8th September Board Meeting

Claims Submitted:

10820	Xcel	Natural Gas	27.26
20820	Crow Wing Power	Electricity	97.00
30820	Bremer Bank Visa	Voter Booths, Printer, supplies	1792.60
40820	Bremer Bank	Service Charge	7.50
50820	CTC	Internet, Telephone	100.85
60820	PERA	Retirement	489.72
4725	Sylvan Township	Pillager Park Dues	2,000.00
4726	Mark Mortenson	3 Beaver- Birch Forest	150.00
4727	Elevated Surface Cleaning	Pressure Clean Town & Fire Hall	625.00
4728	Elevated Surface Cleaning	Pressure Clean Fire Hall Floor	175.00
4729	Ken LaPorte	Planning Comm- Twedt	50.00
4730	Joe Fitterer	Planning Comm- Twedt	66.10
4731	Anderson Bros Construction	Crack Sealing	19,431.23
4732	Croix Property Mgmt.	Townhall Mowing	105.00
4733	Finance & Commerce	Trail Bid Ads Candidate Filing & Trail Bid Notices	281.87
4734	Forum Communications		585.20
4735	Tom Dechmann	Admin, Planning Comm, Road	416.30
4736	Jenny Gunsbury	Admin and Election Judge	341.69
4737	Marla Yoho	Admin and Election Judge	2,165.48
4738	Walt Richmond	Admin, Planning Comm, Fire	308.71
4739	Jim Weizenegger	Admin & Bldg Repair	168.39
4740	Ellie Dechmann	Election judge	210.00
4741	Paul Cibuzar	Election judge	200.00
4742	Sharon Owen	Election judge	230.00
4743	Angie Rardin	Election judge	240.00

Total \$30,264.90

Weizenegger/Dechmann/Unanimous: Motion to approve all claims for payment as submitted.

Richmond/ Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Yoho, Clerk

Jim Weizenegger, Chairman