

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING

May 12, 2020

The Fairview Township Board of Supervisors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 beginning at 6:30 pm by “Zoom” teleconference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the peacetime state of emergency declared by Governor Tim Walz. All board members in attendance appeared by telephone or computer, but there were some technical difficulties with feed-back. All votes were held by roll-call votes as pursuant to Statute so that each board member’s vote on each issue can be identified. Chairman Jim Weizenegger called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board members in attendance were Supervisors Walt Richmond, Tom Dechmann, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jenny Gunsbury and Clerk-Treasurer Marla Yoho.

Richmond/ Dechmann Unanimous: Motion to approve the **Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting** as presented. Weizenegger: Aye, Richmond: Aye, Dechmann: Aye.

Treasurer’s Report: The following are the April 30th balances in the Township accounts: \$174,772.43 in Checking and \$228,545.70 in Money Market funds. **Revenues for April were \$100,666.80** (\$117.21 MMI Interest, \$271.08 Gas and Electricity reimbursement; \$32,000 Trail Community Giving Acct; \$68,278.51 DNR Regional Trail Grant reimbursement); **Expenditures totaled \$44,420.74** (\$5,877.50 Road & Bridge; \$340.36 Fire; \$4,597.87 General Gov’t expenses; \$33,605.01 Trail).

Richmond/ Weizenegger/ Unanimous: Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Weizenegger: Aye, Richmond: Aye, Dechmann: Aye.

Road Report:

- Tom received a call reporting a **wash-out** around the first culvert on **Orchard Park Lane**. When he went to check on the culvert, he also checked the culvert by the campground. Water was flowing through it but there was a **large piece of tree across** the opening. He contacted Rardins to take care of both problems. The wash-out was repaired well, but the tree may not have been removed yet.
- Tom conducted a Road Review alone in view of the COVID-19 social distancing limitations. A list of his observations is included with these minutes, but some issues that need Board review include:
 - **Ponderosa Ln:** The road is in bad condition. It should be paved but the residents are still opposed to that. The road needs to have several large rocks removed and a new layer of Class 5. While Tom was there, resident Greg Johnson pointed out the location of 3 culverts that we couldn’t find before. The Board was in agreement that he should get a quote on removing the large rocks, adding Class 5 and grading the road.
 - **Pinewood Dr:** Tom reported that the inside of the curves are in need of crushed asphalt, especially by Holsapple Ln. There are also 17 holes that have been patched several times. He asked Walt and Jim to review the road so they could discuss how to proceed.
 - Tom asked Marla to send the list of roads needing **crack sealing to Jerry Beckman at Anderson Brothers** so they can get the township on their schedule for the summer. They do crack sealing on a time and materials basis.
 - **Road grading:** Tom reported Pillager Lake Rd is in good condition and doesn’t need grading at this time. He told Marla to have Rardins hold off on any road grading right now. Pillager Lake Rd doesn’t need it, it’s too far to travel with the grader to just do a small section on Orchard Park Lane and the Board must make a decision adding Class 5 to Ponderosa Lane.
 - **Load Limit restrictions** were lifted at 12:01am on May 8th.

White Pine Dr Vacation: Today the Board held a public hearing at the site near Cty 77 where Thomas Young had requested the township to vacate a portion of a platted road. Surrounding property owners received priority mailings, and a notice was published in two papers and posted at the town hall. There were no objections received. The Board approved the vacation of the portion of the platted White Pine Drive adjacent to Lot 2.

Fire Report:

- Walt reported the May Fire meeting was held by teleconference again.
- All firefighter **training is on hold** except the parts that can be initiated by Zoom.
- The first round of **agility training** will start at the end of May.
- One **firefighter resigned** this month since he was moving out of the area, but they have one **new applicant**, who is pending until he passes his physical.
- There has been some discussion about the **dangers to firefighters from using foam in fighting fires**. Greg Ringler said it is used very little, only to keep flames from spreading when buildings are too close together. If it is used, the state must be advised, and any foam debris must be taken to a landfill and buried.
- The department had **27 runs in April**, for a total of 85, (83 in 2019). 6 were in Fairview.

Trail Committee:

- Marla has been in contact with Bryan Drown and Darrick Anderson concerning the trail plans. The **DNR** has requested an extensive amount of information as their team discusses the potential for giving us a **lease for trail placement**.
- One of the private property owners with whom the county doesn't have a **recorded easement (the narrow section down by Jakes)** stopped by the office to ask about trail plans. He indicated that he would consider giving the township an easement if the plans were acceptable to him. Marla advised Bryan Drown so he is aware of the possibility. The area in question is tricky due to the convergence of the Jakes parking lot, Rardin Rd and the curve of Cty 77 all in that area.
- Cass County finally returned the plans to Bryan Drown with many notations concerning how trail placement might affect drainage. Bryan is currently revising the plans to answer their concerns. This will delay final approval and bid letting again. We are now hoping to go out for bids in mid-June, after receiving MnDOT (CSAH) approval.
- On April 17th Marla submitted a fully documented reimbursement request from the DNR Regional Trail grant to Dan Golner. Qualifying payments (documented expenditures) totaled \$91,038. Exactly 75%, or \$68,278.51 was credited to our township checking account on April 24th.
- The trail account was depleted and there were two outstanding Bolton & Menk invoices due for payment. Since we weren't sure how long it would take for the DNR reimbursement, Marla requested a \$32,000 reimbursement from the BLACF Community Giving account. There will be approx. \$37,500 left in the trail fund after approving claims tonight.

Planning Commission:

The Board and the Planning Commission members were deeply sorry to learn of the passing of PC member and Walt Richmond's brother, **Herb Richmond**. The Board extends heartfelt sympathy to Herb's family.

Old Business:

Board of Equalization & Assessment: The LBAE meeting was held on April 21st via teleconference. It went well, with several letters and a property owner joining the ZOOM meeting. A summary of the decisions is included with these minutes.

PNP Election Reimbursement: Sharon Anderson finally received all the paperwork from other voting precincts and just submitted the reimbursement requests to the state. The reimbursement requests for Cass County totaled just over \$91,000 (with not all expenses reimbursable). There was a total of 4,539 votes cast in the election, leaving the average cost per vote at just over \$20.00. In a regular election, the cost per vote is normally in the \$2.50 per vote range. (Fairview reimbursement due: \$1,087)

Birch Bay Plowing issue: "Birch Bay on Big Gull" was originally platted in 1958. In 1978, Richard Volkmuth submitted a new plat for "First Addition to Birch Bay on Big Gull". Both plats included a road originally named "White Pine Drive", which extended from Lot 1 on Govt Lot 4 to Lot 34 on Govt Lot 7. In 1988, during the township road recording project, it appears the road was recorded up to the intersection with Gull Ln. In 1991 the road was (briefly) renamed Birch Drive East.

In Nov. 1995 the township received a petition from the property owners (through the realtor, John Hunter) asking the township to accept the newly paved portion of the road extending from Gull Ln to the small turn around across from #9868. The petition was sent back to the owners for presentation at the 1996 Annual Meeting.

In December of 1995 John and Kari Rihm asked the Board if they paved an extension of the road to the top of PID 14-363-0330 to meet county spec, would the township consider accepting that part of the road also. The Rihms then joined the petition being submitted by John Hunter on behalf of Richard Volkmuth. The petition wasn't presented until the 1997 Annual Meeting, where it was approved since the pavement had been in place for 2 years at this point.

The cartway or path extending up the hill and accessing PID 14-005-3302 was not paved until sometime later and does not meet county spec.

Marla will write a letter to the current owners of PID 14-005-3302 (Heath Walker) and explain that the township cannot and has never maintained that portion of the road.

New Business:

2020 Primary and General Elections Mail Ballot: Under normal circumstances, a township with 400 or more voters would not be encouraged to switch to mail balloting due to logistic and cost factors. However, in an effort to keep voters and poll workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and knowing that many poll workers will not want to serve, the county has provided the opportunity for all townships to convert to mail balloting for the 2020 elections. There is a process for townships to revert back to in-person voting after this year. All cities with 400 or more voters MUST have in-person voting. Any precincts conducting in-person voting will be trained in sanitizing voting booths and election equipment. Voters will each be given a new pen. Masks will be offered to anyone entering the polling place and Judges will be encouraged (may be required?) to wear masks throughout the day. Proper social distancing will be required. Since Fairview Township has such a small town hall, the county considered making it mandatory that this precinct went mail ballot only, but since we have the option of holding the election in the fire hall (which must also be sanitized), they were willing to leave it up to the Board to decide.

Walt felt that voting in person was an important part of the process, Tom spoke of the potential for voter fraud, and Jim would prefer that all elections were held by mail vote. Motion to have the Fairview Township precinct retain in-person balloting for the 2020 elections: Weizenegger: Nay, Richmond: Aye, Dechmann: Aye. The township will continue to hold in-person voting for the 2020 elections.

Building Maintenance: Jim tore the old, rotting porch off the back of the building and constructed new stairs, allowing a secure emergency exit from the work-out room upstairs. He also cleaned the gutters.

Jake's Gull Lake restaurant has been sold. Marla made a note on the assessment search form advising of the pending trail construction and making the new owners aware that the big sign will have to be moved out of the road easement.

Property Tax Settlements: On May 5th the Cass County Commissioners passed a resolution to not charge a penalty for late payment of property taxes for up to 60 days. Tax payments will be sent in slower, which also means tax settlements sent to the townships will be delayed. There will be 3 settlement payments instead of the usual 2 (usually June 20th and July 1st more or less). The third payment is now projected before August 1st.

Claims Submitted:			Weizenegger	Richmond	Dechmann	
10520	Xcel Energy	Natural Gas	111.16	Aye	Aye	Aye
20520	Crow Wing Power	Electricity	177.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
30520	Bremer Bank Visa	Young Rd Mlg, Software. Htg Elem.	263.94	Aye	Aye	Aye
40520	Bremer Bank	Service Charge	7.50	Aye	Aye	Aye
50520	PERA	Retirement Contribution	434.42	Aye	Aye	Aye
60520	CTC	Internet, Telephone	95.54	Aye	Aye	Aye
4683	Bolton & Menk	Trail Engineering	17,646.50	Aye	Aye	Aye
4684	Bolton & Menk	Trail Engineering	34,462.50	Aye	Aye	Aye
4685	Family Safety Network	Human Services Donation	500.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4686	Cass Cty Ag* Cass Cty Economic Dev Co	* VOID- Pillager Fair	0.00	No	No	No
4687		Economic Dev Membership	500.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4688	Cass County Sheriff	Lakes Area Dive Team	250.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4689	Faith In Action	Human Services Donation	500.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4690	Support Within Reach	Shuman Services Donation	250.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4691	Herb Richmond Cass Cty Historical Society	Planning Commission Memorial	50.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4692		Membership	250.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4693	Crisis Line & Referral	Human Services Donation	250.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4694	Forum Communications	Published Notices	452.60	Aye	Aye	Aye
4695	Croix PM	Mow Town Hall	95.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4696	GovOffice	Website Service Contract	630.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4697	Tom Dechmann	Administration to 5/12	458.39	Aye	Aye	Aye
4698	Jenny Gunsbury	Administration to 5/12	138.52	Aye	Aye	Aye
4699	Marla Yoho	Administration to 5/12	1,686.44	Aye	Aye	Aye
4700	Walt Richmond	Administration to 5/12	420.97	Aye	Aye	Aye
4701	Jim Weizenegger	Administration to 5/12	374.20	Aye	Aye	Aye
4702	Bruce Martin	Gopher Bounty	80.00	Aye	Aye	Aye
4703	Rardin Excavating	Sweeping, Drainage	2,762.00	Aye	Aye	Aye

* Cass County AG donation for Pillager Fair voided due to 2020 Fair cancelled due to COVID-19.

Total \$62,846.88

Dechmann /Richmond/ Unanimous: Motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Yoho, Clerk

Jim Weizenegger, Chairman