

On Tuesday May 21, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Town Board Chair Eugene Stoeckel called the regular monthly Town Board meeting to order. Other Supervisors present were Greg Anderson, Bill Whitcomb, Dave Persing and Thomas Duden.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Approve Minutes

Thomas Duden stated he would like to note the comments that Mr. Ripple made regarding a no vote and also wanted to note that the owners of Moonshine Bar and Princeton Lanes spoke at the meeting and what the ordinance number was. The Clerk stated it was 300:245.

Eugene Stoeckel stated that in regards to the misunderstanding regarding a vote at the last meeting, the vote was 2 in favor to allow the Resolution for Mr. Anderson to provide services, and since 2 abstained, the vote was unanimous, so the Resolution passed.

Bill Whitcomb stated that he would like to see more robust information about what Todd McLouth said regarding the road report. He also stated that he would like to have the questions that Marcia Anderson asked of the Township Engineer added in the minutes.

A motion was made by Thomas Duden to amend the minutes of the April 16, 2019 regular monthly meeting and then approve them at the next monthly meeting. Motion seconded by David Persing. Motion Carried.

Approve Financial Report

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Greg Anderson to approve the Financial Report for April 2019 as submitted. Beginning Balance of Township funds was \$746,987.35; total receipts of \$631.11; total disbursements of \$19,874.36; leaving a balance of \$727,744.10. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Old Business

Discuss Road Manager position. Bill Whitcomb asked what is not working any longer that they need to look at someone else. Mr. Anderson stated that the Chairman always took care of, but the task has been overwhelming due to personnel issues and trying to find drivers. Bill Whitcomb and David Persing thought the Board was looking at adding a paid position. Greg Anderson stated that when they first discussed it, he thought that was the best, but realized that was a mistake and hoped another Board member would take over since he has done it the last 20 years.

Eugene Stoeckel stated that he would continue to be the Road Manager until they figure out a better plan. He also stated that his job is his first responsibility and he cannot always be available. Bill Whitcomb stated that he will be available to work with him on the issue. Thomas Duden was also under the impression that they wanted to hire a paid position and therefore motioned to strike a paid Road Manager position from anything for the next 12 months. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Discuss the Zoning Administrator Contract. Eugene Stoeckel stated that he would like to suggest that they call for Statement of Qualifications for the Attorney, Zoning and Engineering. David Persing asked Todd Geske, Metro West Inspections, whether he wanted to continue with the Township since Loren is out. Todd Geske stated that he is not sure when or if Loren will be back, so he would most likely step back from the Zoning, but can continue with the Building Inspecting. Dave Persing motioned to update the contracts with Statements of Qualifications for the Engineer, Building Official, Zoning Administrator and Attorney. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Motion Carried with Greg Anderson opposing. Mr. Anderson stated that their current professionals have treated the Township very well and donated a lot of time and feels it is a slap in the face to those that have been so good to the Township for so many years.

Adam Ripple stated that all of those contracts are for professional services and the Township has the flexibility to consider price, experience, depth of personnel, etc. when they award a contract. He stated that MAT (Minnesota Association of Townships) may have RFP (Request for Proposal) templates for those professionals to address in the proposal.

New Business

Noise Complaint-Diane Smith. Eugene Stoeckel stated that Ms. Smith has filed a noise complaint against the neighbor and has been informed that if the issue is between just one neighbor and another, unless others file a complaint, there is nothing that the County Sheriff or Attorney can do. In the meantime, she should continue to file complaints with the Sheriff.

Zoning Clarification on small lots-Shelly Lumley. Ms. Lumley explained that her and her husband purchased several lots in Spruce Haven when the acceptable lot size was 1 acre, however now the lot size minimum is 2.5 acres and wanted to verify that they were buildable lots. Wendy Wicktor, Princeton Realty, stated that she has had all of the properties inspected and they all have 2 acceptable septic sites. Adam Ripple stated that some ordinances state that if the same owner owns adjacent lots, they would need to be combined. Dave Persing motioned to review the issue again next month so the Attorney and Zoning Administrator have a chance to review it. Thomas Duden amended the motion to also send it to the Planning Commission. Motion Carried.

Easement Acceptance – Section 20. Bill Whitcomb asked if this is something that was approved in 2010 but never recorded. Eugene Stoeckel stated yes and now it is beyond the 60 day timeframe. Bill Whitcomb motioned to approve the Easement Acceptance-Section 20. Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Claim Submittal – Richard Reiman. Thomas Duden stated that he assisted in pulling out the plow truck and charged the Township \$125 for the service. He stated that his claim was denied due to a conflict of interest so his father-in-law submitted a bill since the tractor used is in his name. Adam Ripple stated that anytime a Supervisor does work for the Township, it needs to be preapproved. Dave Persing motioned to deny the claim. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Bill Whitcomb asked whether Eugene Stoeckel voted. Mr. Stoeckel stated that he did not. Mr. Whitcomb stated there were two voting yes and two abstaining. Mr. Stoeckel stated that a non-vote goes to the prevailing side. Adam Ripple stated that he encourages everyone to vote or to abstain because it makes for difficult record keeping. Bill Whitcomb called for another vote. Motion Carried Unanimously with Thomas Duden abstaining.

Outdoor Event – Dave Persing. Mr. Persing stated that he will be having a graduation party, invite only, on June 8th. He submitted 3 applications for outdoor events and since the other two could have staff meetings, only the first one needed to be reviewed by the Board because of the timing. Mr. Persing stated that he had family parties out there last year and he received a letter from the Township stating that was illegal. He stated that he will turn in an application anytime he does anything with more than 10 people at his place. Greg Anderson stated the difference is that he was advertising it as a business. Mr. Anderson stated that the State will be getting involved when the Townships do not enforce their own ordinance in respect to the building code. Todd Geske stated that private events for family are exempt but if it is open to the public, then the building code comes into full force. Mr. Persing stated all three events are not open to the public. The Clerk stated that Mr. Persing put a deposit of \$150 until they determined if he needed to pay the fee. Thomas Duden motioned to refund \$50 for the family event. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Motion Carried with Dave Persing abstaining.

IUP recommendation from Planning Commission for Kathy Stoeckel, Section 3. Greg Anderson motioned to approve the IUP for Kathy Stoeckel for a Home Occupation-Self-employed Insurance Broker, with the following recommendations by the Planning Commission: 1. If approved use ceases, the I.U.P. will be withdrawn by the Township. 2. If the property is sold, the use and I.U.P. are not transferable and will be forfeited. Thomas Duden seconded the motion. Motion Carried with Eugene Stoeckel abstaining.

IUP recommendation from Planning Commission for Sheperd's Shanty/Tari Zortman, Section 35. Rock Zortman questioned as to whether he could use his bathroom in his home rather than spend a lot of money to build a bathroom. Todd Geske stated that if the bathroom could meet all of the building codes, it's a possibility. Thomas Duden motioned to reassess the permit in August to give them time to work out the details. The Zortmans stated they have been closed and do not want to wait any longer. Thomas Duden withdrew his motion. There was some more discussion about an accessible bathroom.

Thomas Duden motioned to approve the IUP for a Home Occupation/Small Gift Shop for Tari Zortman/Sheperd's Shanty with the following suggestions, along with a 6 month temporary permit to complete the bathroom issues with the Building Official; 1.) No outdoor storage of any products, inventory, or materials of any kind related to the retail business. 2.) Comply with all applicable Building Codes relative to the "Change of Use" for the accessory structure.

Building is currently classified as an IRC-4 but will be re-classified as an M occupancy. A Certificate of Occupancy is required. 3.) Annual review of the I.U.P. to be conducted by the Township Clerk/Administrator at no extra charge. 4.) Upon sale of the property, the use and I.U.P. are not transferrable and will be forfeited. 5.) No employees 6.) Any signed, written complaints, the I.U.P. may be reviewed by the Town Board for possible suspension or revocation. Greg Anderson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Discussion on Ordinance changes from Public Hearing. Eugene Stoeckel stated that the Planning Commission did not give the Board a specific recommendation. Dave Persing motioned to abandon the Moratorium on cul-de-sacs so they can figure out a more sensible plan. Greg Anderson stated that is why the Moratorium should remain on, until they can come in with an option. Mr. Persing asked Todd McLouth if he had any problems with the current ordinance. Mr. McLouth stated only the 66 feet on curves. He thinks that the lot width should be applied to the front building setback so the front lot line can be a little bit narrower around a cul-de-sac. Bill Whitcomb questioned whether the road frontage for Rural Residential should be 200 instead of 300 so all the zones are the same.

Bill Whitcomb motioned to change all the road frontages to 200 feet. Adam Ripple stated that a change in Ordinance requires a public hearing.

Bill Whitcomb motioned to leave the cul-de-sac language as is with no changes. Adam Ripple stated that a motion does not need to be made in order to make no revisions, it just stays as it is.

Dave Persing motioned to remove the Moratorium on the cul-de-sacs. Bill Whitcomb seconded the motion. Thomas Duden, Greg Anderson and Eugene Stoeckel were opposed. Motion Failed.

Thomas Duden suggested having the Planning Commission look for an option to a cul-de-sac and review road frontages. Eugene Stoeckel stated that the Moratorium will continue.

Finalize payment for fire invoice – City of Princeton. Dave Persing stated that he would like to see something in writing from the City. Greg Anderson stated that the payment was for a one time equipment upgrade. Greg Anderson motioned to finalize payment for fire invoice to the City of Princeton. Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion. Motion Carried with Dave Persing opposing.

Complaint – Shipwreck Boat Repair. The Board asked Todd Geske if he could pay them a visit to let them know there is a complaint. Mr. Geske stated that he could stop there.

IUP Review – Crystal Eller. The Clerk stated that she spoke with Ms. Eller that day and indicated that the space is only used for storage and she does not need the IUP anymore.

Temporary Liquor License – Rum River Trails Association/Grass Drags. Thomas Duden motioned to approve the temporary liquor license. Greg Anderson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Discussion regarding Solar Farms - Joel Minks. Joel Minks presented some information regarding Solar Farms and would like to the Board to recommend to the Planning Commission to start building a Solar Ordinance for the Township. Thomas Duden motioned to make the recommendation to the Planning Commission and start with reviewing Benton and Sherburne Counties Ordinances. Greg Anderson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Road Report from Road Tour. Bill Whitcomb reviewed a list regarding some pot holes on the asphalt roads. He also stated he will have more information at the next meeting regarding the gravel roads and the reclaiming. Eugene Stoeckel suggesting contacting someone to fix the holes. Bill Whitcomb stated that he would contact them and get the numbers to review at the next meeting. Greg Anderson motioned to have Bill Whitcomb contact West Branch or Erickson Asphalt to get the pot holes repaired. Dave Persing seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Township Engineer

Todd McLouth did not have anything to report.

Open Forum

Rock Zortman stated that there is a sink hole on Aspen Rd. He showed it to Mr. Whitcomb on the map.

Thomas Duden stated that he was approached by Brian Dahlheimer on behalf of the race track in town and they wanted to mine 10-15 loads of clay off Richard Remian's property. Mr. Reiman inquired at the town hall and was told they did not need a permit and he just wanted that on record. Eugene Stoeckel stated that mining is allowed without a permit up to 5000 yards.

Tari Zortman stated that she was approached by the neighbor about a swing arm mailbox. The Clerk stated that the neighbor could come to the town hall for more information.

Scott Richards and Liz Stockman from The Planning Company explained who they are and what they offer in terms of Zoning Administrating.

Supervisor's Report

David Persing felt they needed to have a discussion on what information they wanted listed on the county website or a standalone website.

Bill Whitcomb gave an update on the Fire Advisory Board.

Bill Whitcomb stated that he feels that improvements need to be made to the Special Event Ordinance and not label it Outdoor Events for clarity.

Bill Whitcomb stated that he would like to look into the possibility of having the meetings recorded for audio and video.

Thomas Duden gave a handout on parliamentary procedure to keep the meetings running smoothly and get some structure.

Eugene Stoeckel stated that he and Mr. Persing are attending a meeting with the City of Princeton regarding 33rd St. and 82nd Ave.

Eugene Stoeckel wanted to give a thank you to Isaac Wubben and Mike Schimming for all their hard work on Clean-Up Day.

Dave Persing wanted to know when the Moratorium for Barn Venues would be discussed. Eugene Stoeckel stated that the Planning Commission will need to review.

Clerk's Business

The Clerk stated that in regards to the minutes, she tries to condense things and has been told by the MAT attorney that less is better.

Approve Payment of the Bills

A motion was made by Greg Anderson and seconded by Bill Whitcomb to approve payment of the bills, Check numbers 12437-12465. Motion Carried.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Greg Anderson and seconded by Bill Whitcomb to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wubben
Clerk/Treasurer

Attendees: John Roxbury, Jr., Mille Lacs County Deputy Tony Erholtz, Nancy Moan, Tari & Rock Zortman, Cyndi MacDonald, Jim Kusler, Curt Strombeck, Joel Minks, Bonnie Nelson, Tim Wilhelm, Eldon Johnson, Scott Moller, Shelley Lumley, Wendy Wicktor, Jason Betzler, Jesse & Joss Jondahl, Cyndi MacDonald, Tom Braun, Dale Thies, Liz Stockman, Scott Richards, Cheryl Schimming, Lacey Broding, Ella Minske, Kathy Stoeckel