

## BALDWIN TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

April 6, 2020

**Present** – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Bryan Lawrence, Patrick Hudson, Tom Rush and Larry Handshoe. Because of COVID-19 health concerns, social distancing was observed.

**Call to Order** – The Baldwin Township regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Swanson at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** - All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Additions/Corrections to Agenda**

- Add 'Discuss/Approve/Disapprove COVID-19 Issues' to New Business.
- Add 'Nick Anderson's Report' to under Road Report.
- Add 'Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Sign at Young Park for Covid-19' under Park Committee Report.
- Strike 'Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Second Amendment Sanctuary Letter' from Tabled Items.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda With/Without Additions/Corrections** - Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.

**March 2020 Final Treasurer's Report** – Receipts of \$18,863.75 and disbursements of \$38,555.50, check numbers 23677 through 23738 and 10 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$1,604,913.65.

**April 2020 Preliminary Treasurer's Report** - The Clerk/Treasurer reported receipts of \$0.00 and disbursements of \$49,700.95 check numbers 23739 through 23782 and 1 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$1,555,212.70.

**Sheriff's Report** - Not present.

Lawrence/Rush unanimous to move 'Approve/Disapprove IUP, Request for 3 MW AC Solar Farm, Section 5 – Ian Schonwald, EDF/Prairie Restorations, Inc. and Approve/Disapprove Variance to Not Plant Trees Around the Perimeter of Solar Farm, Section 5' to under Sheriff's Report.

**Approve/Disapprove IUP, Request for 3 MW AC Solar Farm, Section 5 – Ian Schonwald, EDF/Prairie Restorations, Inc. and Approve/Disapprove Variance to Not Plant Trees Around the Perimeter of Solar Farm, Section 5, Bright Stream Solar/Prairie Restorations, Inc.** – Ian Schonwald was present and explained that the City of Princeton approved a variance for Zone A that was to allow for building. Due to the location to the airport the airport and MnDoT do not want trees along with the City of Princeton as the claim is that the trees would obstruct views for pilots and the height of

the trees. They are planning on planting trees on the east side no higher than 12 feet. Lawrence questioned how the city mandate cutting all the trees as part of the project and believes the city is out of line. Handshoe stated that the trees would be cut when the extension is put on the runway. Mr. Schonwald stated that it is not a requirement, but the city would like it. The county is requiring an old septic be capped. Lawrence stated that the township has recommended that this whole 80 acres be rezoned. That has not been heard by the county yet. Regarding the IUP request the concept makes sense. Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to approve the IUP with the conditions from the county at this location.

Regarding the variance request, Lawrence stated that the county requires alternating coniferous trees. We have seen solar farms placed in the middle of farm fields. The perimeter has always had trees around solar farms in Sherburne County. No one has been allowed to bypass the tree ordinance. There is valid concern from the FFA. The FFA does overrule county ordinances. Swanson/Rush unanimous to recommend approval of this variance of no trees. Hudson stated that he would be in favor of 12-foot trees.

#### **Fire Department Report:**

**Approve/Disapprove Hiring Jacob Julik, Firefighter; Approve/Disapprove Hiring Giovanni Neal, Firefighter; Approve/Disapprove Hiring Michael Valento, Firefighter; Approve/Disapprove Hiring Tony Maciej, Firefighter, Pending Passing Physical; Approve/Disapprove Hiring Brandon Lage; and Approve/Disapprove Hiring Nicholas Boisvert** – Rush/Lawrence unanimous to approve hiring firefighters Jacob Julik, Giovanni Neal, Michael Valento, Brandon Lage, Nicholas Boisvert and firefighter Tony Maciej pending passing a physical.

#### **Road Report/Zac Good dated April 6, 2020:**

##### **Repairs:**

- Rust repair on Gator Tandem utility trailer

##### **Roads:**

- Discuss adding 313<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> Intersections to project
- Discuss 305<sup>th</sup> repair options w / engineer
- Discuss Cleanout of Development stormwater collection drain systems schedule/ 42 total
  1. Hawk Ridge (Areas are 100% blocked) / 2 Inlets
  2. Nordwall / 28 Inlets
  3. Cumberland Creek / 2 Inlets
  4. Southern Pines / 4 Inlets
  5. Sandy Lake South Side (Collection Basin / Ditch needs to be dug out) / 3 Inlets
  6. North Elk Lake Loop (Collection Basin) / 1 Inlet
  7. 142<sup>nd</sup> West Elk Lake (Collection Basin) (Basin is clean, Drain Field needs Cleaning) / 1 Inlet
- East Elk Lake Road / Cold patching

- Discuss 287<sup>th</sup> cul-de-sac repair (Southern Pines)
- Livonia's Grader is being repaired. ETA for grading by end of week.

**Vehicles:**

- Case 621D (Loader) developed steering column leak /. Options @Ralph Beniek's Heavy Repair
  1. Remove steering column and steering shaft; remove steering motor to be sent out to be resealed / \$1,160
  2. Disassemble steering column and steering shaft; remove seal and replace seal. Put back together / \$612.50

**Parks:**

- Picnic area cleared at Goose Lake Park
- Trails cleared off at Young Park
- Picnic table installed at Young Park
- A.R.C. for spring application \$

**Approve/Disapprove Hiring Summer Help** – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve hiring Brody Johnson and Jacob Chase for summer maintenance help.

**Discuss Nordwall Estates Roads (Phase 2 Accepted by the Township on May 6, 2008)** – Zac Good stated that there are 28 stormwater drains in Nordwall Estates.

There is a total of 42 in the township. His question is who is responsible for them? Nick Anderson told him that if they were under our road then is it the township's responsibility. There are 2 inlets that need to be blown out and 2 others that need to be repaired. How do we go about handling these failing stormwater drains? Swanson questioned if the township could assess Nordwall Estates the added cost of doing maintenance. In doing so, it would require a public hearing and an ordinance. The township would need to determine the cost of the maintenance. Hudson stated that the municipality to the south has a jetter and has loaned it to the county. Swanson suggested investigating that also. He stated that the township accepted the road but questioned if the township accepted it with what was not to our standard. Lawrence suggested contacting the township attorney as well as the township engineer. Hudson stated that he could show the board where they go. They go to underground tanks, settling ponds and then into Goose Lake. Lawrence stated that he remembers the septic system but does not remember the plan and would like to see it. Swanson stated that he will send something to the township attorney.

**Discuss 125<sup>th</sup> Street Project to Include Intersections of 313<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Highway 169 and Possibly 126<sup>th</sup> Street** – Good questioned if the board would consider extending the project to include the intersections of 313<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Highway 169 along with 126<sup>th</sup> Street. Swanson stated that it could be added and it does need to be addressed.

He recalls that the county would help us with it due to the roundabout detour. Swanson will talk with the township engineer and the county. The culvert issue will be addressed with the 125<sup>th</sup> Street project.

**Discuss Timeline for Repair of 305<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Severely Failing Road Between 136<sup>th</sup> Street and County Road 45** – Good supplied photos for the Town Board to review.

Swanson stated he had talked with the township engineer. The base looks okay. It could be addressed with reclaim and overlay. There is no timeline but it is in the township sites.

**Discuss South Sandy Lake Catch Basin Clean Out** – The last time the basin was cleaned out was in 2017. Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve renting a mini backhoe to clean out the catch basin at south Sandy Lake.

**Discuss R.O.W. Stormwater Drain Responsibility** – Item covered with the Nordwall Estates discussion.

**Discuss Southern Pines / One-Half of Cul-de-sac is Turning into Rubble (Delaminating)** – It was decided to have the township engineer look at the cul-de-sac at Southern Pines, then move forward with the process of repairing it. Swanson will talk to Nick Anderson, township engineer.

**Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Loader Repair Quote** – The loader is leaking from the steering column. Rush/Lawrence unanimous to approve up to \$1,500 for repairs though Ralph Biniek's Heavy Repair.

**Nick Anderson Report** – Swanson reported that 125<sup>th</sup> Street project is out for bid right now. Do we want to think about random inspections of the product? The cost would be approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 and would consist of inspections of the asphalt material as they are laying it. Hudson stated that if there is no inspector on site the company is maximizing their profits. Discussion on the township engineer being on site.

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve the Board of Canvass meeting minutes of March 10, 2020 and Town Board Regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2020.

#### **CONDITIONAL & INTERIM USE PERMITS:**

**Approve/Disapprove IUP, Auto Mechanical and/or Body Repair Shop, Section 4 – Richard Arlen Properties, LLC/Shipwreck Boat Repair** – According to Lawrence the county is trying to write this as tough as they can because of past experiences. An IUP can be revoked but there is a legal process and it is very lengthy and costly. Handshoe/Hudson unanimous to disapprove the IUP for an Auto Mechanical and/or Body Repair Shop in Section 4 of Baldwin Township.

**PLATS:** None.

**VARIANCES:** See above.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Park Committee Report** – Handshoe/Rush unanimous to approve the quote from Arc Irrigation for trails and the ball field for \$1,160.

**Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Sign at Young Park for COVID-19** - Some cities have closed their parks including Mark Park in Princeton who have installed a barrier around the playground. The playground area at Young Park is not disinfected. Hudson/Rush unanimous to install a sign at Young Park saying, 'Park is not disinfected / Play at your own risk'.

The picnic area has been cleared out at Goose Lake Park. The Park Committee is going to try to meet this month.

**TCI Baldwin Volunteer Corps Update** – The Baldwin Volunteer Corps meeting was cancelled.

**Planning Commission Report** – The county planning commission meeting was cancelled.

**City of Princeton Council Report** – Handshoe reported that the Princeton Council are still trying to have meetings. The main issue is up on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street with Princeton Township.

**Airport Advisory Board Report** – No meeting.

**TABLED ITEMS:**

**Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Second Amendment Sanctuary Letter** – Rush/Hudson unanimous to table above item to the April 20, 2020 regular meeting of Baldwin Township.

**Discuss Midco Request to Expand into Township and Permitting Process** – Swanson reported that he talked to the township engineer. All of the cost, the township engineer and the township attorney, will be charged back to Midco. The township engineer will put something together. The clerk will send him the Midco maps.

**Approve/Disapprove Clean Up Day Prices and Determine Reduced Price/Free Items** – A motion was made by Jay Swanson; seconded by Bryan Lawrence to cancel the May 16, 2020 Clean-Up Day. A voice vote was taken with Swanson, Handshoe and Lawrence in favor; Rush and Hudson opposed. Motion carried.

**Approve/Disapprove Letter to Resident on Lake Place Road Regarding Dogs Running Free** – Lawrence stated that the township should not get involved with a civil dispute. The sheriff should be contacted as they are our enforcement. Hudson stated that he understands that the sheriff was contacted, and they declined. Lawrence stated that it is a trespass issue. Handshoe suggested sending the resident a copy of the township ordinance. Hudson stated that he has received numerous calls from this one

resident. Swanson stated that he would not have a problem with it when it goes into the newsletter. Swanson will talk to Sheriff Brott and determine if the person did call the sheriff.

**Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Resolution 20-06; Resolution Authorizing Township Office to be Closed to the Public Due to COVID-19** – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve Resolution 20-06; a Resolution Authorizing Township Office to be Closed to the Public Due to COVID-19.

**Approve/Disapprove Resolution 20-07; Resolution to Designate Baldwin Township Emergency Managers, Primary and Secondary, During the COVID-19 County Declared Emergency** – Lawrence/Rush unanimous to approve Resolution 20-07; a Resolution to Designate Baldwin Township Emergency Managers to be the chairman and vice chairman of Baldwin Township during the COVID-19 County Declared Emergency.

**Review/Approve/Disapprove Increasing Election Judge Wages** – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to approve increasing election judge wages to \$15 and head judge wages to \$17.00.

**Discuss Clerk/Treasurer Position** – Business is being conducted as usual.

**Review Monthly Building Permits** – The monthly building permits were reviewed.

**Fire Department Report** – Robin Fischer arrived at 8:52 p.m. He reported that all the firefighters passed their physical. With the new recruits there are 33 firefighters with one out on leave. There were three grass fires in the township; and one bad accident on County Road 2.

**COVID-19 Issues** – Discussion with Robin Fischer. Fischer stated that it will be about a week and a half before we get to a top number. The curve is almost linear now. He does not think our hospital will get overrun. The big thing is to stay home. He wants people to be cautious. It is serious. Both old and young die from it. The Mayo has come up with a new antibody test. 100% of the medical personnel will be tested. The fire department is not conducting training. The 911 calls have gone down significantly.

Lawrence/Handshoe unanimous to hold the April 20, 2020 regular meeting as usual at the town hall, but cancel the planning commission meetings, the Baldwin Volunteer Corps meetings and the park committee meetings until further notice.

Lawrence said he would add 'Discuss/Approve/Disapprove One Meeting a Month' on the next agenda. The April 20 and May 4, 2020 meetings will be scheduled as usual.

Lawrence/Handshoe unanimous to cancel the Road Tour scheduled for April 7, 2020.

**Announcements:**

- Local Board of Appeal & Equalization, Tuesday, April 7, 3:00 p.m.
- Road Tour, Tuesday, April 7, Immediately Following Local Board of Appeal Meeting (which has been cancelled)

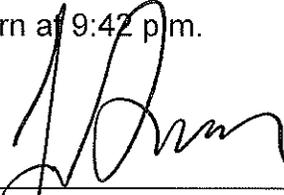
**Any Other Business:**

Handshoe received a bid from ASTECH of \$29,000 for the triple chip seal which includes everything but Sandy Lake. He will obtain a price for the rest of it and it will be on the next agenda.

**Motion to Approve Bills for Payment** – Hudson/Handshoe unanimous to approve for payment check numbers 23739 through 23782 and 1 EFT payment totaling \$55,561.96.

**Adjourn** – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to adjourn at 9:42 p.m.

  
Submitted/By: (s/) Cathy Stevens  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Baldwin Township

  
Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Baldwin Township

4-20-2020  
Date

Attendees: Zac Good, Ian Schonwald, Robin Fischer, Tim Hennagir