

## BALDWIN TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

August 5, 2019

**Present** – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Bryan Lawrence, Larry Handshoe and Patrick Hudson. Supervisor Tom Rush absent.

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

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

- Delete 'Approve/Disapprove Motion to Allow Solar Farms in Industrial Districts' from Old Business;
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Leave of Absence for Cal Watson' under Fire Department Report;
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Increase in Firefighter Strength to 35 Members' under Fire Department Report; and
- Add 'Discuss Rescue Van' under Fire Department Report.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda With/Without Additions/Corrections** - The regular meeting agenda was approved as amended.

**July 2019 Final Treasurer's Report** – Receipts of \$253,827.20 and disbursements of \$160,398.24, check numbers 23051 through 23157 and 9 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$1,774,443.62.

**August 2019 Preliminary Treasurer's Report** - The clerk/treasurer reported receipts of \$0.00 and disbursements of \$34,626.54 (not including payroll) check numbers 23158 through 23184 and 2 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$1,739,817.08.

**Sheriff's Report** - Officer Wilson reported there were 155 calls for service in the month of July 2019. He handed out results from the 136<sup>th</sup> Street (north of County Road 9) speed summary. Wilson said the department is working on curtailing an increase of vehicle thefts in the county as well as speeding complaints especially along 136<sup>th</sup> north of County Road 9 and County Road 42.

**Fire Department Report** – Chief Case reported there were 21 calls for service in the month of July.

**Approve/Disapprove Resolution #19-11; Resolution Accepting Donations** – Handshoe/Lawrence unanimous to approve Resolution #19-11; a Resolution Accepting Donations.

**Approve/Disapprove Firefighter Resignation** – Handshoe/Hudson unanimous to approve the resignation of Mike Rademacher from the Baldwin Fire Department. The Town Board would like to thank Rademacher for his long service and wishes him the best of luck in future endeavors.

**Approve/Disapprove Leave of Absence for Cal Watson** – Handshoe/Lawrence unanimous to approve leave of absence from the Fire Department for Cal Watson.

**Approve/Disapprove Increase in Firefighter Strength to 35 Members** – With an increase in the number of firefighter applications, Chief Case requested that the Town Board approve an increase in the strength of firefighters for the department from 33 to 35 in order to utilize all qualified applicants. There are some expected retirements and people leaving. We are at 30 right now. Lawrence stated that if Case runs into a problem at 33 and have 3 qualified applicants then adjust the number at that time. Handshoe/Lawrence unanimous to approve

**Discuss Rescue Van** – There was discussion on the rescue van leaking fluid and having had to be towed. Currently, it's not certain what the problem is. The Apparatus Committee has been told to start looking for used vehicles. The department is utilizing Grass 1 currently.

**Comments from the Fire Department Regarding Solar** – Chief Case voiced his concern regarding having the fire department be included, and to have training for emergency response, from any companies considering installing solar farms. In case of grass fires, it's important to know where the high voltage lines are located.

#### **Road Report –**

Road Report for August 5, 2019 by Zac Good:

#### **Roads**

- Tree concern at 28318 – 100<sup>th</sup> (South Sandy Lake). Tree inside ROW last of canopy leaning over resident's shop. Pictures available. Three (3) quotes available.

#### **Parks**

- Staining project of boardwalks. (One coat applied)
- Goose Lake Trail / Parking Lot (Completed)
- Installing Split Rail Fence
- Park Picnic Tables / Cost \$105 per table w/ wood / brackets and hardware

#### **Completed Projects**

- Backstop Young Park Field (Net)
- 300<sup>th</sup> (Long Pond) Shoulder Extension
- Goose Lake / Completed Trails / Parking Lot
- Ditch Mowing
- Street Sweeping Various Areas
- Installed Overhead LED Lighting
- Frontier Trails Septic Area Mowing
- Fire Hall Bush Removal
- 290<sup>th</sup> Tree Trimming of ROW (Resident Call-in)
- Drain Tile (South Sandy Beach)
- Stain Boardwalks and Ramp / Young Park

After reviewing three quotes Handshoe/Lawrence unanimous to contract Hanson's Tree Service and Landscaping, LLC to remove the tree from 28318 – 100<sup>th</sup> (South Sandy Lake).

There are three trees in the ROW on 284<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup>. Lawrence wondered what price Hanson's would charge to do them all. Zac will get quotes on the whole package from all 3 vendors. Lawrence/Handshoe unanimous to table the original approved motion to proceed with Hanson's Tree Service and Landscaping, LLC until quotes can be obtained for all the trees that need to be removed.

Handshoe stated that he had a conversation with the contractor out at the County Road 38 project regarding employees not using the park toilet and not parking heavy equipment in the park parking lot. They should be paving soon. Lawrence would like to know how the county can get away with no dust control mitigation. The clerk was instructed to contact Dave Roedel (Sherburne County Public Works) stating that the next county project in Baldwin Township must have dust mitigation in place.

Handshoe reported that the roundabout should be done the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. The entrances to Conoco and the car dealership will need to be rebuilt.

**Approve/Disapprove Final Payment, TS Dirt Works, 305<sup>th</sup> Culvert Project, \$2,970.00** – Lawrence/Handshoe unanimous to approve the final payment to TS Dirt Works for the 305<sup>th</sup> culvert project in the amount of \$2,970.00.

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – Lawrence/Handshoe unanimous to approve the Town Board special meeting Minutes of July 15 and regular meeting minutes of July 15, 2019; to approve the submission of a EMS sign order; to approve Maintenance Supervisor vacation from Thursday, August 22 to Sunday, August 25; to approve Maintenance 2 vacation from Friday, August 16 to Sunday, August 18; and to approve Clerk/Treasurer vacation from Wednesday, August 21 to Friday August 23.

**CONDITIONAL & INTERIM USE PERMITS:** None.

**PLATS:** None.

**VARIANCES:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Park Committee Report** – No report.

**Approve/Disapprove Change in Park Dedication Fees** – No action taken.

**TCI Baldwin Volunteer Corps Update** – Consensus of the Town Board was sought on the idea of having a two-day carnival for the FunFest event. The board would entertain the idea although a lot of discussion needs to happen.

**Planning Commission Report** – The Baldwin Township Planning Commission is still working on revising and updating the comprehensive plan.

**City of Princeton Council Report** – Handshoe reported that nothing at the Princeton City Council pertained to Baldwin. There seems to be quite a few issues concerning the Princeton Public Utilities. The council approved quite a few donations.

**Airport Advisory Board Report** – Handshoe said the Airport Advisory Board is talking about the length of grass and discussion regarding opening the road although it would be a gravel surface.

**Approve/Disapprove Motion to Allow Solar Farms in Industrial Districts** - Removed from agenda.

**TABLED ITEMS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discuss Solar Energy Production at Prairie Restorations** – Ron Bowen, 128<sup>th</sup> Street, was present. He handed out maps that showed a proposed solar farm. This would be a Connexus Energy project. EDF is the developer. The project would consist of 15 acres of pivotal panels. They plan on growing seed under the panels and would be fenced with gate access to the southeast. It would produce 2 megawatts. They need phase 3 power which is already on County Road 45. The power would go to Crystal Cabinets and the industrial park. He has not heard talk about building additional infrastructure. He stated that it doesn't matter if it happens or not. He likes the location of it as it is out of sight. Their other property may be developed within 10 years and may use the power. He needs a letter from the township and sent to the county expressing the township's support. This would be a 25-year lease with two 5-year extensions. The intent of these is after 25 years they take them and out and return the fields to farming. They are trying to develop equipment that would reach underneath the panels. The production of shade species would be valuable to the industry. It is a flat and sandy site so erosion would not be an issue. The project would not get done until the spring of 2020.

Lawrence stated that in all meetings he has been in the contractor has been presenting. Bowen stated that he doesn't really know but EDF has been to the site more than once. That is a good question. Lawrence stated that Connexus is not at the table and the contractor is not at the table and we have not heard anything from the county about official dialogue. Bowen stated that Connexus asked him to attend. Swanson stated that he would like to talk to the contractors that want to do this. With a 2-megawatt size he is curious how they would do that without poles. Bowen stated that, if it fits, they can attend the next meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Swanson stated that if August doesn't work then try to schedule for September. Hudson stated that he believes Bowen is the best man to be here as the landowner. He believes it is a great idea and the project fits. Some of the solar farms have landscaping around them. Are there any plans to

landscape around the edges? Bowen stated that part of the county's solar ordinance does require tree planting around the outside which is also contrary to gathering the sun. Hudson stated that he would like to see the plan before writing a letter. He suggested going out and talking to the adjacent landowners. Swanson stated that he agrees with all of that and is intrigued about not needing poles.

**Discuss Noise Ordinance** – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to table discussion on a noise ordinance until the August 19, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township.

**Review/Approve/Disapprove Newsletter** – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to approve the newsletter with additions and corrections as noted.

**Review Monthly Building Permits** - The June 2019 building permit list was reviewed.

**Announcements:**

- District 7 Meeting, Thursday, August 8, 7:00 p.m., Big Lake Town Hall

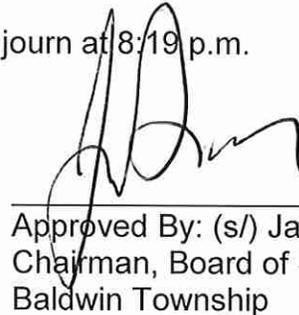
**Any Other Business:** None.

**Motion to Approve Bills for Payment** – Hudson/Handshoe unanimous to approve for payment check numbers 23158 through 23184 and 2 EFT payments totaling \$35,726.39.

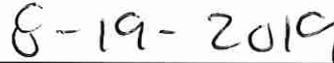
**Adjourn** – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to adjourn at 8:19 p.m.



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



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



Date

Attendees: Tim Hennagir, Lester Kriesel, Zac Good, Scott Case, Jeff Holm