

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

JULY 15, 2019

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

Call to Order – The July 15, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Jay Swanson at 7:02 p.m.

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

Additions/Corrections to Agenda

- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Firefighter Ron Dehn Reinstatement from Leave of Absence' under Fire Department Report
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Hiring Jim Artmann' under Fire Department Report
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Thank You Letter from Township to Xcel Energy for Reimbursement' under Fire Department Report
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Letter to Firefighter Nick Cole for His Status on Department' under Fire Department Report
- Add 'Public Comment Request, Carla Mertz, 136th Street' under Road Report

Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda With/Without Additions/Corrections – Lawrence/Handshoe unanimous to approve the agenda as amended.

July 2019 Preliminary Treasurer's Report – The clerk/treasurer reported receipts of \$246,750.69 and disbursements of \$151,997.57 (not including payroll), check numbers 23051 – 23151 and 5 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$1,807,957.83.

Fire Department Report

Approve/Disapprove Resolution #19-10; A Resolution Governing Congruent Memberships of Northeast Sherburne Fire & Rescue Department's Firefighters Gaining Employment on Other Fire Departments – Swanson stated that this resolution was approved and passed. Lawrence asked if there was any additional concern regard the resolution. Fire Chief Case stated that, at the last meeting, there was concern from the board. Some situational concerns. People that were officers are now on another department. Swanson stated that he wrote this to clear up a potentially messy issue. Discussion regarding the word "congruent". Handshoe asked how this would work with the DNR. Case responded that the DNR is a state department and we are only doing grass fires with them. The board can change the resolution if they want to include the DNR. There are several firefighters that also work with the DNR. Rush stated that the resolution states "other departments" on it. He would like the attorney to go over it. Swanson stated that, if that is the case, with mutual aid agreements, the resolution says, "holds a mutual aid agreement". Case stated that we have a mutual aid agreement with every Sherburne County fire department and Princeton and Milaca. If

you send it to the attorney, you will lose me. Assistant Chief Robin Fischer stated that when he was captain on our department and had applied at Princeton, he was pulled into the office by then-Chief Rademacher and was told he can be on Princeton but cannot be on our fire department as captain. He was told that it was not in the handbook, but it was policy. He then withdrew his application from Princeton. Rush stated that the resolution has passed already but he would like our attorney's opinion. Swanson stated that we have sent many things to our attorney in the past and, by resolution, we are adopting a policy from the board. He doesn't know that there could be any legal ramifications and doesn't see this resolution putting the town in harms way. The only thing we have are training and call percentages. Lawrence stated that he thinks Fischer gave an accurate view and has valid points. Lawrence moved that seeing that the resolution has already been approved he will approve Resolution 19-10 (the number). Hudson seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

Approve/Disapprove Replacement of 3 Fire Station Doors & 3 New Remotes (Gave Garage Door Quote) – Handshoe/Hudson unanimous to approve Gave Garage Door's quote for 3 fire station door mechanisms and 3 new remote at a cost of \$3,255.

Approve/Disapprove Reinstatement of Ron Dehn From Leave of Absence – Handshoe/Lawrence unanimous to approve.

Approve/Disapprove Hiring Jim Artmann – He is also a Minneapolis firefighter and his spouse is on our department. Handshoe/Hudson unanimous to approve.

Approve/Disapprove Thank You to Xcel Energy – Case would like to thank them for the reimbursement for the gas outage. They reimbursed the fire department \$2,656. Handshoe/Hudson unanimous to approve. Swanson made a friendly amendment that Chief Case will write the letter. Both Handshoe and Hudson accepted the friendly amendment.

Approve/Disapprove Letter to Firefighter Nick Cole for His Status on Department Cole's last call was a year and half ago. He has turned in his equipment, but the department needs a letter from him. Rush/Handshoe unanimous to have the clerk pen the letter with a 30-day deadline to hear from him.

Letter of Resignation from Jim Oliver – Oliver has been a long-time firefighter and he will stay on the Fire Relief Board. He is also a former town board member. Rush/Lawrence unanimous to give a big thank you letter to Jim Oliver and accept his resignation.

Miscellaneous – Hudson stated that at the last meeting 2 weeks ago Case gave recognition for one of the members who worked at a house fire. Case responded that he had given recognition to the firefighters who spent many hours at the plant fire at Sylva. Firefighter Joe Hodge went in with a fire extinguisher and helped put out a fire and saved the guys life. Hudson stated that he would like to see that in the newsletter along with a thank you to Jim Oliver.

Road Report – Carla Mertz, 136th Street, stated that traffic conditions have gotten worse since construction has started. Better signage was promised, and it has not been done. She was almost rear ended 6 times in the last week. A tractor passed and ended up on her lawn. This is happening daily. The sign says, 'no thru traffic' and she has seen people move the sign. She has seen people in the ditch. The top speed on that road 6 years ago was clocked at 83 mph. She has called the Sheriff's department. Swanson stated that the county would put a 'no thru truck traffic' sign up. Hudson suggested contacting Sergeant Wilson as it is a public safety issue. Swanson stated that he will contact Sheriff Brott tomorrow. Discussion regarding temporary speed bumps.

313th Avenue Culvert – Handshoe stated that both Zac and Nick Anderson were looking at it, but he does not think it is ours. Swanson stated that it is a driveway culvert and we should not be doing anything with it. Handshoe has told Zac to stay away from it.

Roundabout Update – Handshoe stated that there has been 2 dead days on the roundabout. They are putting curb down the end of this week or next week. The storm drains are all in.

Maintenance Park Update – Handshoe reported that Zac and crew called and said they needed overtime hours to get the boardwalks done. The Sandy Lake beach drainage issue has been repaired. Rush reported that the Goose Lake trail is all done.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Approve Town Board Meeting Minutes of June 3 (4 sets), June 17 (2 sets) and July 1, 2019 – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve.

Approve Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Ord No 238; Sec18, Subd 3, Board of Adjustment – Lawrence stated that the biggest change is going to 7 people from 5. Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve.

CONDITIONAL & INTERIM USE PERMITS: None.

PLATS:

Approve/Disapprove Reduction in Letter of Credit, Misty Hollow – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to reduce the letter of credit for Misty Hollow to \$60,000.

VARIANCES: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

County Planning & Zoning Report – Lawrence reported that the meeting will be held later in the week.

Park Committee Report – Rush reported that the boardwalks are being stained and additional stain will be purchased to stain the split rail fence. The satellite bathroom at Young Park is being used by not only the softball and park visitors but also the construction people. The netting is supposed to arrive this week. The Park Committee will be meeting this Thursday. Brackets are needed from Swantec. At the last Park Committee meeting the comprehensive plan was discussed and the committee feels we should go out for an RFP to see how much it will cost. This will also be discussed at the next meeting. Goose Lake is done, and discussion was held on what type of signage and verbiage will be used.

Baldwin Volunteer Corps Update – Rush reported they met last month and have another meeting scheduled for the 22nd of July.

City of Princeton Council Report – Handshoe reported that four firefighters were sworn in. There are five people interested in the Public Utilities Commission. They are doing a lot of stuff for the block party coming up.

Airport Advisory Board Report – Handshoe reported that there was not a meeting held.

TABLED ITEMS:

Approve/Disapprove Final Pay Request, \$57,769.74, to Sherburne County for 136th Street Project – Hudson/Handshoe unanimous to approve the final pay request of \$57,769.74 to Sherburne County for the 136th Street project.

Approve/Disapprove Sherburne County Proposed Reimbursement of \$2,000 for County Road 38 Project (Now Changed to \$4,000) – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to table until the August 19th meeting. Hudson stated that the Department of Forestry will be able to tell us how many trees there were.

Approve/Disapprove Comments to County Regarding Solar Moratorium – Lawrence/Rush unanimous to approve the comments from the June 3, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township and send to the county.

Review/Approve/Disapprove RFP for Wastewater Service Provider Document – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to table until August 19, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Wastewater Operator Training – Hudson stated that, knowing what other municipalities do, we could send our township workers to school and get certified. Within 6-12 months after certification we would get paid back but he has not done a full cost benefit analysis. This is just an idea for the Town Board. He would like to see sending both maintenance employees. Lawrence stated that he would want to see that this is the right training to qualify them as some of the courses may be

geared toward cities. Handshoe stated that he will find out what type of license we would need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Solar Farms – Lawrence requested that a motion to only allow solar farms in our industrial district be added to the August agenda.

Staff – Lawrence stated that, as far as the clerk goes, she requests time off. The maintenance staff, on a regular basis, never request time off. Just a notice that they are taking off. Why do we require the clerk to notify us when maintenance just lets us know? Both are employees of the township and it should be consistent. Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve that all employee time off be pre-approved by the Town Board and emergency time off be given through email.

Discussion regarding overtime with Lawrence stating that overtime is not based on how many hours worked per day, just the work week. Rush/Lawrence unanimous to alleviate the road supervisor that if they need overtime, they contact the clerk. Lawrence would like that overtime be requested from Handshoe but with the rest of the board notified with this is what happened and why. Rush/Lawrence unanimous to approve communication that the Town Board be notified.

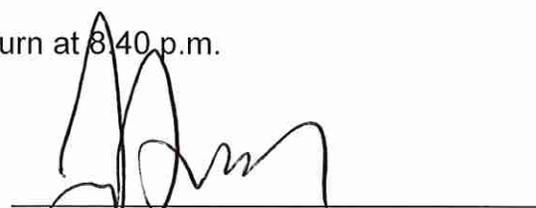
Pledge of Allegiance – Swanson/Lawrence unanimous that it will be standard procedure that we will start every meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

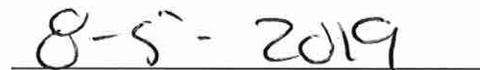
Motion to Approve Bills for Payment – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve check numbers 23087 – 23151 and 5 EFT payments totaling \$90,740.60.

Adjourn – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to adjourn at 8:40 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, Carla Mertz, Lester W. Kriesel, Scott Case, Robin Fischer