

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

September 23, 2019

Present – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Tom Rush, Larry Handshoe and Patrick Hudson. Supervisor Bryan Lawrence arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Call to Order –The September 23, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township 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 'Approve/Disapprove Letter of Intent for Dryer' to Fire Department Report
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Light Duty for Firefighter Phil Holland' to Fire Department Report
- Add 'Approve/Disapprove Hiring Joseph Sullivan' to Fire Department Report

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

September 2019 Preliminary Treasurer's Report - The Clerk/Treasurer reported receipts of \$7,271.80 and disbursements of \$45,469.00 (not including payroll) check numbers 23260 through 23299 and 4 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$1,684,218.90.

Fire Department Report:

Approve/Disapprove Hiring Cory Klocek – Handshoe/Rush unanimous to approve hiring Cory Klocek as a Baldwin Township firefighter.

Approve/Disapprove Light Duty for Firefighter Phil Holland – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve light duty status for firefighter Phil Holland until an order released from his doctor.

Approve/Disapprove Hiring Joseph Sullivan – Handshoe/Rush unanimous to approve hiring firefighter Joseph Sullivan pending passing a physical examination.

Approve/Disapprove Letter of Intent for Dryer – Captain Chad Miller explained that the money is a runoff of last year's grant when a washer extractor was purchased. The dryer unit cost \$7,800 with a 10% match for the Baldwin Fire Department. Baldwin Fire Department would be responsible for \$800.00. Rush/Hudson unanimous to approve a Letter of Intent to purchase a dryer for the Baldwin Fire Department.

Miller thanked the Town Board for the Open House as there were over 400 in attendance.

Captain Scott Case reported there were 14 calls for service in the month of August. One of the calls was the fire at the pheasant farm. One firefighter will be going to the Century College Fire Academy; and 2 firefighters will be going to the Elk River Fire Academy later this year. The Fire Department Relief Dance is September 28 at the Pizza Pub.

Road Report:

Discuss Double Yellow Lines on Neighborhood Roads – Linda Burkholder, 302nd Avenue was present along with Fred Miller, 302nd Avenue. Their concern is the striping in the neighborhood. Mr. Miller stated that he has done highway construction throughout the state and he personally finds the yellow lines and white lines confining. He works with guidelines. He referenced bicycle lanes and sidewalks in other municipalities. His question is 'why'? What was the decision behind it? He knows there are issues with speeding and now speeds have increased in the last week. He has grandchildren at the end of the block and, with no crosswalks, it is not safe any longer. Do they walk in the ditch? There is no allowance for pedestrian traffic. What about people who are handicapped?

Ms. Burkholder stated that she has worked in the insurance industry for the last 30 years in risk management. Her major concerns: it is a huge liability for the township. She put together some information. She has found it difficult to find the 'why'. She wasn't getting any feedback from anyone. Why? She continued and talked to people with some not knowing the why and others didn't really know why. She looked at the guidelines and found some problems and immediately saw liability. Who will pay for it? Separating the social issue – we look like a county road and not a residential plotted development. We service 58 homes between County Road 19 and 100th Street and County Road 38 to the north of us and County Road 28 to the south of us. She wondered why nobody was getting back to her and looked into possibly violating the Open Meeting Law and found that was not the case. She was not getting information, so she went through the authorities and looked at statute.

Swanson stated that the township understands where we came through with this. We know what the statutes are. Ms. Burkholder stated that this is the forum to get the information from. Swanson stated that we have followed the emails and for us to actually respond to them or any dialogue needs to be in a meeting. The Open Meeting Law does come into effect.

Ms. Burkholder stated that there are social issues which have been recognized by the federal government, then state and then MnDOT. The Federal Highway Administration has guidelines. The problem she perceives is our roadway is now assigned as a vehicle only roadway. Two feet have been taken up by lines. It is no longer a safe space for pedestrians. Swanson asked Nick Anderson, Baldwin Township engineer, if striping a road makes it a non-human road. Anderson replied that he has not seen that.

Rush stated that he has received compliments from others in developments. He disagrees with Ms. Burkholder. Ms. Burkholder state that MnDOT disagrees with you.

She has an Excel worksheet that gives statistics and shows that a striped roadway actually increases speed.

Lawrence stated that we defer from MnDOT standards. We are the road authority. The township went against what the county wanted for the County Road 38 project. We wanted lights there instead of just a stop sign. We made the investment on that. MnDOT has standards. We have to be responsible for township roads. Mr. Miller asked how would the township accommodate pedestrians then? Swanson stated that we feel we are well aware of what we can and can't do. If you want to lodge a complaint. The township stripped 283rd, 285th, 112th and 136th. Road striping is part of the improvements. We have walkers and pedestrians on those roads. Ms. Burkholder stated that there are statutes and she has talked to the sheriff. Swanson stated that the township made the roads safer. Ms. Burkholder stated that double yellow lines have meaning. Anderson stated that double yellow lines are by far the most common.

Swanson suggested that Ms. Burkholder ask what she came here to say as the Town Board can stop this right now. This is our meeting. We have made a decision as the road authority of Baldwin Township. Ms. Burkholder stated that we are opening ourselves to Tort claims. This is my industry. Rush stated that the board will take your concerns and talk to the township attorney. Ms. Burkholder stated that there is \$1.5 million liability sitting out there. Lawrence asked if Ms. Burkholder was saying that we were not liable before? Mr. Miller stated that the township changed the road.

Hudson stated that tone is not a friendly tone and he thinks he has heard enough. Rush stated that if they disagree with us that is your opinion. He voted for it for safety concerns. Ms. Burkholder stated that she was here to help and point out the concerns. She went face to face with a lot of the neighborhood. She feels property values have devalued. She read from a flyer from Nationwide Insurance. There was discussion regarding traffic citations and how the township should not be future revenue source with more policing with a double yellow line.

Ladawn Kok stated that her concerns were that they were never notified it was happening. What are the guidelines to put them in? Swanson stated that the township thought it was a safety issue. Mrs. Kok questioned why the township is spending her money putting them in if there have been no accidents. Swanson stated that the roads the township striped we knew weren't getting resurfaced, reclaims, overlaid or chip sealed. We were able to tag team with the county to get a good deal. We picked the areas. Discussion on if all roads were done with double lines and how speed limits on roads are state authority. Ladawn Kok stated that she would think we would have gotten a notice of the striping so residents could have voiced concerns before it was done. Ms. Burkholder stated that the stripes need to be removed.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Sending 2 Boss V Plows to Auction – Since the V-Plow blades have been replaced with straight blades, Maintenance is requesting direction on what to do with the old blades. Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to approve contacting K-Bid.

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Increasing Snowplow Operator Wages – Since it was determined that an increase in wages is not hinging on having snowplow drivers at this time, Handshoe/Swanson unanimous to table until the Baldwin Township regular meeting of October 7, 2019 in order for Supervisor Rush to check out further information regarding pay scale and to check the budget. He said he would work closely with the maintenance personnel.

Handshoe said the ditch mowing will be starting before the end of the month. Traffic signs have been installed on County Road 38.

Maintenance has contacted Dave Roedel with concerns of standing water in the ditches along County Road 38. A proposed solution for next spring is to install drain tiles.

Approval of Consent Agenda – Rush/Hudson unanimous to approve the Town Board meeting minutes of September 9, 2019; and to approve the renewal of the Minnesota Special Fuel Dealer License, \$25 renewal fee.

CONDITIONAL & INTERIM USE PERMITS: None.

PLATS: None.

VARIANCES: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

County Planning & Zoning Report – No report.

Park Committee Report – Rush reported that the next Park Committee meeting will be November 21st. The draft comprehensive plan will be reviewed. Rush said he would like to post the existing Baldwin Township parks on the website. He also would like to see new playground equipment, a tennis court and a small football field at Young Park; and canoeing at Goose Lake Park. The FunFest held at Young Park is Saturday, September 28th from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Review/Approve/Disapprove Quote for Young Park Parking Lot Sealcoating and Cracksealing – The Town Board reviewed a bid from Erickson Asphalt for \$3,422 to sealcoat the parking lot at Young Park. Since Erickson Asphalt is getting ready to close for the season, it was discussed to perhaps go out for quotes in the Spring.

Baldwin Volunteer Corps Update – The Baldwin Volunteer Corps met on September 16th to fine tune the events planned for the Baldwin FunFest for Saturday, September 28, 2019 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

City of Princeton Council Report – Handshoe reported that the city is looking at TIF financing for Anytime Fitness as they are building a new building towards the fire station.

Airport Advisory Board Report – Handshoe reported that the Airport Advisory Board met with MNDot on September 16 to discuss paving the runways in the spring. It's a \$1.5 million-dollar project with a lot of grant money involved.

Approve/Disapprove Check #23246, Payable to Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer in the Amount of \$538.32 for Ditch 25 Assessment – Swanson/Handshoe unanimous to table to the October 7, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township in order to obtain further clarification on why the town is asked to pay for a county ditch.

TABLED ITEMS:

Cell Phone Update – Hudson contacted both Verizon and AT&T. AT&T has not, as yet, returned the call. Hudson will do more research to have ready for the October 7, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township.

Approve/Disapprove Letter to Sherburne County Public Works Regarding County Road 38 Construction and Table Sherburne County 38 Right-of-Way Claim & Reconstruction Approval/Disapproval – Road signs have been installed and the township has received reimbursement for the trees that were cut down, but the drainage/water issue is still a big concern. Swanson read the letter to Sherburne County Public Works regarding the County Road 38 construction. Lawrence suggested adding the township's concerns regarding the drainage and water issue. Rush/Handshoe unanimous to approve the letter with revisions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss/Approve/Disapprove Purchasing Cemetery Software – Lester Kriesel who is Baldwin Township's cemetery coordinator asked for approval for a new cemetery program. All the information that is needed cannot be documented with the cemetery program that is being currently used. Kriesel provided a history of the cemetery, which was established in 1874, as well as the original map and original cemetery record book for the supervisors to look at. Cheryl Goetz Dobson reviewed different options available so far, but also conceded that more research needs to be done. Swanson/Hudson unanimous to table action until the December 2, 2019 regular meeting of Baldwin Township with Dobson moving forward with further research with Hudson's assistance. It was assured that the current cemetery files have been documented, and the records have been back upped with a flash drive.

Schedule Public Hearing to Certify Delinquent Community Sewer Treatment Fees and Review Budget – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to schedule public hearing to certify the delinquent community sewer treatment fees and to review the budget for November 18, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Review MATIT Insurance Renewal Documents and Determine If Any Change in Optional Changes (Bond Limits, Deductibles) – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to table action on the MATIT Insurance documents and to invite MATIT to come out and determine if we are adequately covered. The item will be added to the October 7, 2019 Baldwin Township regular meeting.

Announcements:

- FunFest, Saturday, September 28, Noon-4:00 p.m., Young Park
- MN Fall Maintenance Expo, Wednesday, October 2 & Thursday, October 3, St. Cloud

Any Other Business:

Road Right-of-Way Issue – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to table until the October 7th meeting. A letter will be written to a resident who has items in the road right-of-way and the board will review the letter at the October 7th meeting for approval/disapproval.

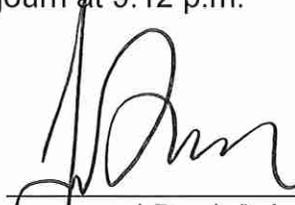
Road Striping – Hudson stated he was curious as to the cost of removing or painting stripes in the neighborhood of Winding Trails. Swanson stated that the removal process would be chip seal which was done last year. Hudson stated that it was his understanding that any intersection is a pedestrian right-of-way. That should possibly be added to the next newsletter and include the state statute.

Motion to Approve Bills for Payment – Hudson/Handshoe unanimous to approve for payment check numbers 23260 through 23299 and 4 EFT payments totaling \$42,931.73.

Adjourn – Lawrence/Hudson unanimous to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.



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



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

10-7-2019

Date

Attendees: Lester W. Kriesel, Regina Bundrock, Jeff Bundrock, Zac Good, Phil Fadden, Jeff Holm, Linda Burkholder, Fred Miller, Cheryl Goetz Dobson, Ladawn Kok, Douglas Kok