

Fish Lake Township
2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
December 13, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting

Township Officials Present: Chair Bob Carter
Supervisor Diane Larkin
Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk
Sharon McAndrew, Treasurer

Township Officials Absent: Supervisor Bob Cupit

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Approve Agenda

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to add discussion on developer's agreements, safety equipment, policies and procedures and to move the Cambridge Fire Department to the beginning of the meeting and approve agenda as presented. Motion passed.

The Cambridge Fire Department asked for time to speak with the Board about the new contract options they are now offering. Corey Bustrom, CFD Public Information Officer, explained the new contract models that were adopted. The new model bases cost on valuation, population and average call volume. This model was based off of information from the League of MN Cities and Minnesota Association of Townships. The new calculations will reduce the Townships share by a little over 1%. Caroline Moe, Cambridge City Finance Director was also present and explained the sample contracts to the Board. The CFD will offer a one year contract and a discounted three year contract. Current ISO ratings are: Cambridge -6; North Branch-7; Rush City-5. ISO ratings are used by insurance companies in the factoring of premiums for homeowners. Members from Rush City and North Branch also attended the meeting to answer any questions.

Appointments

Anne Tessneer will be renting the hall on January 14, 2011 for a retirement party for the Executive Directory of Family Pathways. She asked the Board to allow alcohol at the rental and to waive the policy to have a deputy present. The Board denied her request to waive the policy of a deputy present when serving alcohol. Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to waive the hall rental fee of \$75 for Family Pathways but require having a deputy on site if alcohol will be served. Motion passed.

Road Report

Gary Guse recommended that a motion light be installed on the salt shed and cold storage shed. Motion made by Carter and seconded by Larkin that lights be installed on both sheds at a cost of \$575. Motion Passed.

A "Welcome to Fish Lake Township" sign recently installed on the border of Fish Lake Township and North Branch Township on North Pine Lake Road was vandalized. Motion made by Carter and seconded by Larkin to replace the sign. Motion passed.

Fish Lake Township
2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
December 13, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting

Gary Guse recommended that the fluids be changed in the 1994 plow truck. Motion made by Carter and seconded by Larkin to spend \$366.50 to have the fluids changed in the 1994 plow truck. Motion passed.

Clerk Nekowitsch notified board that Gary Guse is scheduled for a 3% salary increase beginning January 1, 2011.

Treasurers Report

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report.

Blacktop Fund (Peoples)	\$93,993.10	Equipment Fund	\$5,491.41
Savings (Camb. State)	\$ 84,021.59	SSD/Debt. Service	\$43,044.32
Savings (Peoples)	\$39,037.50	Cemetery	\$7,003.06
		Checking	\$3,561.26

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to accept the Treasurer's Report, approve payment of check #10361 to #10378, for the amount of \$7,288.46, authorize up to \$4,000.00 in operating disbursements for the upcoming month, approve the claims list as presented and transfer \$7,800.00 from savings to checking. Motion passed.

Minutes

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to approve the November 2010 minutes as discussed. Motion passed.

Clerk Report

A copy service will be at the Township the week of December 20, 2010 to copy records requested by Plaintiff O'Keefe's attorney. The copy service does not cost the Township any money other than the time for the Township staff that needs to be present during the time the service is working on site.

Board Member Reports

Carter reported that 8 hours were spent cataloging signs, driveway and field entrances.

New Business

Carter stated that the Board should consider reviewing and possibly revising the developer's agreement that is currently being used by the Township.

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to reconvene on Monday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. with an alternate time of 9:00 a.m. that same day if Supervisor Cupit is unable to attend the evening meeting time. Motion Passed.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010.

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Supervisor Cupit was absent.

The Board discussed the scheduled salary increase for Gary Guse that is to go into effect on Jan. 1,

December 13, 2010 Regular Monthly Meeting

2011. Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to not increase Gary Guse's salary in 2011. Motion passed.

In lieu of a salary increase the Board discussed other options. Motion made by Carter and seconded by Larkin that the Township increase Gary Guse's monthly cell phone reimbursement from \$55/month to \$80/month due to his being on call 24/7. Motion passed.

Old Business

Wood policy. A draft policy for the wood that is left over from cut down trees will be presented at the January Board meeting.

A draft policy for campaigning candidates will be presented at the January Board meeting.

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to complete three ordinances and/or policies in the next six months. Motion passed.

New Business

Gravel Bids. Letters will be sent to the companies that bid on gravel in 2010 informing them that the Township will be seeking gravel bids earlier than in past years. Also, the Township will be asking for ways to lower the costs of the gravel bids.

Appoint Township Treasurer. The Board discussed the position of Treasurer. The Treasurer position is much more involved with today's technology and requires the knowledge of computers, bookkeeping programs, internet and online banking that not everyone voter is qualified for. Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to add the following question to the annual election ballot in March 2011. The question will read "Shall the position of Treasurer of Fish Lake Township be changed from an elected to an appointed position?" Motion passed. The current Treasurer, Sharon McAndrew, has indicated that she will accept the appointed position if the questions passes. She will also file for the elected 2 year term position that is on the ballot this year.

5 Person Township Board. Motion made by Carter and seconded by Larkin for discussion to put the question of a 5 person Board on the annual election ballot. The board discussed the pros and cons of a 5 person board including costs, finding dedicated individuals, having two board members at another public meeting would not be a quorum and being able to get different perspectives. Vote: Carter-Yes; Larkin-No. Motion failed.

Seal Coating. LTAP is offering a course in March 2011 on seal coating roads. The Township's blacktop roads will be in need of seal coating in the near future. Gary Guse and Board members may attend this session. There was also discussion on Gary attending more safety classes.

Citizen Comment

None.

Motion made by Larkin and seconded by Carter to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.