

**BEMIDJI TOWNSHIP TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jan Heuer, Pete Fredrickson, John Rowles, Lowell Vagle, Brian Merschman, Erin Stieg, Michelle Anderson, Andrew Mack

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Bemidji Township Town Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Jan Heuer and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA:** After review, "Clerk- Change of Schedule" was added under "Other Business". Brian Merschman made a motion, seconded by Pete Fredrickson to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** The meeting minutes for November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 were reviewed and "Email from Dave Hoefer" was omitted, because the discussion was not included in the meeting time. Lowell Vagle motioned to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Brian Merschman and carried unanimously.

**CONSTITUENTS (see attached attendance sheet):** Mr. Tom Bahr came later in the meeting to discuss township issues.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Roads:** There was some discussion about the snow plowing and making sure JD Hansen is aware of what roads to plow and what roads not to plow. It was suggested that a letter be written to outline exactly which roads should be plowed. Andrew Mack was asked to supply a current map that has Township, City, and County Roads separated. This item will be on the next meeting agenda for discussion. Brian Merschman motioned for the clerk to call JD Hansen in the meantime and let him know we are getting a map. Peter Fredrickson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Signs:** Michelle Anderson mentioned that there was a crooked sign on 1<sup>st</sup> street, but it was a "Watch for Children" sign, which is coming down anyway.

**Fire:** John Rowles will start getting email about the new fire committee. Pete Fredrickson brought up a question if all the new stations will be manned 24 hours a day, 7 days per week? He is concerned that if the district coverage area gets too large, there may not be enough people or funds to keep it staffed. There was continued discussion about governance and the breakdown of representation, which it was agreed still needs to be clarified. Pete motioned for John Rowles to be the representative to the Fire District Committee, with Brian Merschman being a back-up if John cannot attend a meeting. Lowell Vagle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Email from Dave Hoefer:** Jan Heuer spoke with Fire Chief Dave Hoefer regarding the establishment of a new fire district. Bemidji Township has concerns about the composition of representation and giving up taxing authority. Mr. Hoefer sent an email of the Bemidji Area Fire/Rescue Services Research Committee and a breakdown of the Recommendations, Governance, Funding, Current assets, and Proposed Timeline of the new Fire District. He also included the resolutions of support that have been received as of October 2012. It was suggested that the clerk extend an invitation for Dave Hoefer to attend the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Town Board meeting to discuss this item further.

**Weeds:** No report.

**BRACO:** Lowell will be able to attend the January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 meeting and the next meeting in April.

**BATO:** Lowell will not be able to attend the Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 meeting. Pete Fredrickson made a motion to have John Rowles go to the BATO meeting in Lowell's place, since he has gone in the past to fill in. Brian Merschman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Joint Governance:** A tentative date for the next LGU meeting was set for 4/16/13; however, Bemidji Township is not able to commit to that date because of their election and reorganization meetings in March, 2013. If the Town Board meeting dates are changed, this date will not work for them to host the Joint LGU meeting.

**Legal Issues:** No Report.

#### **JOINT PLANNING:**

**Comprehensive Plan- Subcommittees:** Andrew Mack passed out a breakdown of the subcommittees for the Comprehensive Plan of the JPB. He encouraged all of the Board members to sign up for a subcommittee. There was some discussion about the organization of the subcommittees and the existing comprehensive plan. Bemidji Township is concerned that the Joint Planning Office is outside of their authority to put these subcommittees and subsequent ideas and/or actions into place without prior approval of elected officials themselves, specifically Bemidji Township officials. Pete Fredrickson expressed that he would like to see a summary of each topic on the list and what is currently in place for each one and how the existing plan will be addressed. Jan Heuer suggested that in order for Bemidji Township to be represented appropriately that only elected officials be selected for these subcommittees. Pete Fredrickson made a motion that only elected officials may represent Bemidji Township on any subcommittee and that if individual residents choose to participate in the subcommittees, they will only be representing themselves as individuals, not the Township. John Rowles seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**JPC Representatives Attendance:** Joe McKinnon sent an email that he would not be able to attend tonight's meeting. This will be his 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive absence. George Stowe's absence has been ongoing, health being the assumptive factor. Michelle Anderson has been appointed as the third Bemidji Township representative for the JPC, and her duties will begin January 1, 2013.

**JPC Planning Case- Adam Smith:** Andrew Mack filled in the details for the Board members regarding this variance request to subdivide the parcel. It is concerning Johnson Court, a road that has not been accepted for maintenance by Bemidji Township. Mr. Mack stated that it is the position of the Joint Planning Office to support the variance.

**Ag Restoration:** Bemidji Township is continuing to perform research on this item.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Liquor License Renewal for Pete's Place:** The clerk needed help with the wording of the resolution to grant the renewal of the 3.2% liquor license for Pete's Place South. Jan Heuer gave suggestions for the wording and Erin will have a copy to sign at the next meeting.

**New Rug For Town Hall:** To avoid slips and messy floors, Pete Fredrickson moved for Lowell Vagle to get a rug for the front Town Hall doorway. Brian seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

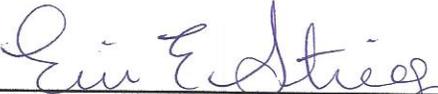
**Website Template Update:** TJ Design studio continues to work on getting the new website in place and it should be up shortly.

**Clerk- Change of Schedule:** Erin has added a second job and will need to change the Town Hall hours of operation for the month of December. She will be training for the next two weeks and will have a more concrete schedule at the next Town Board Meeting.

**ADJOURN:**

Jan Heuer made a motion, seconded by Brian Merschman, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

  
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Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

Approved 12/11/12 \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Jan Heuer, Chairperson