

**BEMIDJI TOWNSHIP TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jan Heuer, Pete Fredrickson, John Rowles, Lowell Vagle, Brian Merschman, Erin Stieg, Dave Hoefler

**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 and discussion, Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Brian Merschman to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** The meeting minutes for November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 were reviewed and Pete Fredrickson motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Lowell Vagle and carried unanimously.

**CONSTITUENTS (see attached attendance sheet):** No constituent issues.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Roads:** The clerk received road maps from the Joint planning office and will send them to JD Hansen & Sons to use as a reference for snow plowing.

**Signs:** No report.

**Fire:** Fire Chief Dave Hoefler was at the meeting to discuss the Rural Fire Association and the proposed Fire District for the Bemidji Region. He began with discussing the I.S.O. protective classes and a new evaluation that was done for improvements needed around the fire station. Pete Fredrickson brought up a question if all the new stations will be manned 24 hours a day, 7 days per week? Mr. Hoefler said only the main station will need to be staffed all the time. Any staffing changes will remain a local decision based on community needs. There was continued discussion about governance as well as the concerns about the composition of representation and giving up taxing authority. Mr. Hoefler explained that although from a historical perspective he is proud of the process, their long term financial and governance "hiccups" are something they still struggle with. The goal of the Fire Services Committee was to explore how to improve these specific areas and they are open to any suggestions Bemidji Township has to offer. Brian Merschman gave some suggestions as to changes that could be made to the makeup of the board. There was some discussion about assessed values and taxes as well as "building values" vs. "property values". Board members reiterated that they are in favor of what the district wants to accomplish, however, there are changes that need to be made in order to have their full support. Mr. Hoefler recommended a letter to be written to the research committee with the suggestions and changes Bemidji Township would like to see. Pete Fredrickson motioned for Jan to write a letter of set-up/ composition recommendations to the Fire Research Committee. Lowell Vagle seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Weeds:** No report.

**BATO/ BRACO:** Lowell will be able to attend the BRACO January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 meeting and the next meeting in April. However, he will not be able to attend the BATO Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 meeting.

In November, 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.

**Joint Governance:** There was continued discussion about the Adam Smith variance request. Board members agreed that their position was to grant the variance at the upcoming JPB meeting. Jan mentioned that she will not be able to attend the JPB meetings in January, February, or March of 2013. Instead, Brian Merschman will go in her place and she will resume meetings in May, 2013.

**Legal Issues:** Jan Heuer reported that the petition for detachment has been granted and the order for detachment has been written. This was reviewed by the Board.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tim Wang presented the treasurer's report as follows:

Beginning Balance 10/31/2012    \$601,920.85

Receipts

Money Market Interest	\$	107.76
Total	\$	107.76

Disbursements

General	\$	7,646.96
Road & Bridge	\$	11,768.38
Fire	\$	0.00
Total	\$	19,415.34

Ending Balance 11/30/2012    \$582,613.27

Lowell Vagle made a motion, seconded by Pete Fredrickson, to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed. The motion carried unanimously. This report was filed subject to audit.

**Bills:**

Lowell Vagle made a motion, seconded by Pete Fredrickson to approve the payment of checks 10064 to 10083 (see attached Claims List and Net Pay Distribution lists) and to approve the Beltrami Electric, First National Bank, Minnesota Energy, Otter Tail Power, and Paul Bunyan Communications automatic withdrawals. The motion passed unanimously.

Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Brian Merschman, to approve the sale of investments for \$38,500.00 from money market fund to checking. The motion passed unanimously.

**JOINT PLANNING:**

**Administrator's Report:** No report.

**JPC Representatives Attendance:** There were no members of the JPC present at the meeting, but attendance was not required at this meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Beltrami Co. Assessment Agreement-Tim:** Bemidji Township will hire Beltrami County to have its property assessed by the County Assessing Officer for the year 2013 for a fee of \$13,318.00. Pete Fredrickson made a motion to accept this proposal and it was seconded by Lowell Vagle. The motion passed unanimously.

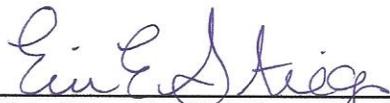
**Recommendation for Election Judge Appointment:** Lanee Paulson submitted a list of recommended Election Judges for appointment to serve on the Election Board and Absentee Ballot Board for the Annual Election of Officers for Bemidji Township to be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2013. This list includes Elaine Clark, Carol Oakes, Gloria Gregg, and Lanee Paulson. Pete Fredrickson motioned to accept these recommendations. The motion was seconded by Lowell Vagle. . Ayes: Jan, Pete, Lowell, John. Abstained: Brian.

**Letter from Beltrami Humane Society:** The Beltrami County Humane Society is accepting donations for the care of and shelter of various animals. Bemidji Township is unable to give money to the Humane Society because it has not gone through the legislative process to be approved as a non-profit entity.

**ADJOURN:**

Lowell Vagle made a motion, seconded by Brian Merschman, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

  
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Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

Approved 1/8/12

  
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Jan Heuer, Chairperson