

**BEMIDJI TOWNSHIP TOWN BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 23rd, 2013
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Jan Heuer, Pete Fredrickson, John Rowles, Brian Merschman, Erin Stieg,
and Lowell Vagle

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, the items "Fire" and "BATO/BRACO" were moved to the top of the agenda so they could be discussed before Lowell would have to leave for the BRACO annual meeting. Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Lowell Vagle to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: The meeting minutes for April 9th, 2013 were reviewed and it was mentioned that there was an error in the spelling of Ernie Beitel's name under "Donations". Brian Merschman motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded by Pete Fredrickson and carried unanimously.

CONSTITUENTS (see attached attendance sheet): Stella Wakonabo was present to ask for an update regarding legal issues, Jan Heuer mentioned that the item is placed on the agenda and will be addressed in that order. Ms. Wakonabo also mentioned that Enbridge has contacted her regarding a new pipeline to be built on her property and she wanted the Township to be aware. There was some discussion about whether the pipeline in question is going to be a new pipeline or is Enbridge wanting to do some work on an existing pipeline. Stella said that she would give the information to the clerk and Erin will follow up with Enbridge for clarification.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Roads: Tyler Ave. (status update): Pete has not followed up on this item yet and so will be moved to a future agenda.

BATO/ BRACO:

(Signs also): Lowell was asked to bring up an issue at the BATO meeting regarding Beltrami County's unwillingness to assist the Townships with replacement of stop signs, and to formally request assistance from the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation with replacement of these signs.

Fire: Donna Andersen and Russell Hiltz of the Rural Fire Association were present to explain the different formulas that may be used to determine their levy amounts. It was suggested that "per capita" charges be replaced with amounts based on "per building values" for each L.G.U. and that formula's based on the number of fire runs to each L.G.U. be removed completely.

Weeds: Beltrami County is requesting a representative's presence at the Weed Committee meeting on May 14th. It has been agreed that Lowell will take over as weed supervisor for 2013 and represent Bemidji Township at that meeting.

Joint Governance: There was some discussion on the Interim Use Permit for the Beck's road easement. Jan suggested that the JPC should wait until the road is vacated to avoid "clouded" title issues. South Shore /B&B Enterprises is requesting several variances which were deemed questionable by the Board, including street width issues and subdivision. Discussion continued about the Agriculture Ordinance being amended. Bemidji Township reiterated that the Agriculture Zone needs to be fully restored before making any changes to the Ordinance.

Joint L.G.U. meeting Date: It was determined that more discussion is needed on this item and will be continued at the next Board meeting.

Legal Issues: Jan Heuer reported that Bemidji Township is waiting on a date to be set for mediation with the City of Bemidji. David Meyers has been mutually selected as the mediator.

JOINT PLANNING:

Administrator's Report: None given.

JPC Representatives Attendance: Joseph McKinnon and Michelle Anderson were present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Beltrami County Tax letter:** A significant error was made in the amount that the City levied on the annexed town portion of property taxes from Bemidji Township. The initial notification was based on total collections in the annexed area instead of just the City portion. It was requested that the clerk follow up with Kay Murphy, the Bemidji City Clerk to verify where the numbers are coming from and that they are correct.
- **Paulbunyan.net Changes:** The Clerk informed the Town Board that voicemail has now been added to the phone service for Bemidji Township Town Hall and the cost is 2.95 per month, which was motioned for approval by Pete Fredrickson and seconded by Brian Merschman. The motion carried unanimously. Erin will notify the treasurer of the billing change.
- **Beltrami Electric Ballot for Director:** The Town Board collectively voted for the Beltrami Electric Director.

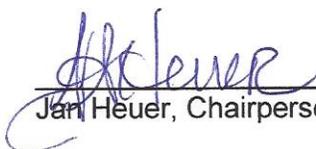
ADJOURN:

Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Brian Merschman, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk


Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

Approved 5/14/2013


Jan Heuer, Chairperson