

**BEMIDJI TOWNSHIP TOWN BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 13th, 2013
MINUTES**

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

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, it was suggested that the items "Junk Vehicle Storage" and "Little Norway Fire" be added under Other Business. Lowell Vagle made a motion, seconded by Brian Merschman to approve the agenda with the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: The meeting minutes for July 23rd, 2013 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): Dean Kvalevog asked about the number of responses Bemidji Township has received in favor of detachment from the City of Bemidji. Jan Heuer and Erin Stieg updated that most of the people on the list have responded and reminded everyone that the process is not complete yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Weeds: Lowell Vagle mentioned an article in the MAT newsletter regarding property owners being responsible for ditch mowing and maintenance. Lowell thought this may be a good way to make sure weeds are eradicated in the ditches at the same time. While Board members agreed that property owners being held responsible for weed control and eradication on the right of way might be a good idea, expecting them to mow may be asking too much. This issue will be put on the agenda for next year's annual meeting.

Roads: Pete Fredrickson asked Paul and Kirsten Fenner to come to the meeting to discuss their neighbor that had laid bituminous on their driveway the week before. The contractor piled the top soil from the project at the end of Johnson St. NW, where the Fenner's reside. They were contacted shortly thereafter if they would like to take the top soil and the issue was taken care of satisfactorily. However, the Fenner's still have an issue with the neighbors laying bituminous on a piece of land they believe is on their property. Bemidji Town Board members suggested they hire a surveyor to come out and mark the property line so there is no question of encroachment. If the bituminous is in fact on the Fenner's property, they may need to work out an agreement with their neighbors or put a fence up. Since there are other concerns surrounding this case, the Fenner's will let Bemidji Township know the results of the surveyor and the Town Board will decide further action at that time.

Signs: No Report

Fire: Brian Merschman gave a report of the latest Fire Committee meeting held on July 25th, 2013. He stated that there really is no need for a governing board if each L.G.U has representation. However, it was brought up that it would be easier to have a 5 person governing board making decisions than to try and get 18 different L.G.U.'s to agree on things. Bemidji Township believes that if a governing board makes decisions and the other LGU's just have to vote, they will almost always just go with whatever is being recommended instead of taking the best interest of their L.G.U. into account. Board members emphasized that they would like to see the new Fire District a mirror of what is in place currently, just expanded to include the other entities that want to take part. Brian stated that some major progress was made at the meeting as important changes to the governance proposal were made, but more work still needs to be done. Next, Brian handed out a spreadsheet that broke down the building values for each L.G.U. to be considered in the 2014 Rural Fire contributions. After review and discussion, Board Members agreed that the total taxable building values, including non-profits should be used in determining fees for each LGU.

BATO/ BRACO: Lowell Vagle said he couldn't make it to the BRACO meeting due to employment restrictions, however he did report that 2nd quarter has been more active- 8 impounds, compared to 6 in 1st quarter, plus more citations in Northern Township, more complaints of dogs running loose and cats in yards. However, there were no bites or citations in Bemidji Township for 2nd quarter.

Lowell gave a report of the BATO Meeting that was held on July 23rd. Dave Coffman from the MN Dept. of Health was there to discuss new regulations for businesses to serve food , now a permit is required. However, as long as there is no charge for the food, a license is not necessary. Mel Millender also gave a presentation on what's going on in MAT District 12. There will be an MAT meeting and Director Election held in Erskine, MN on Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00pm. It was agreed that Lowell Vagle and John Rowles would go to represent Bemidji Township and place their votes.

Legal Issues:

- Questions re: Snow Removal & Garbage (Kalee Ct): After review it was determined that Kalee Ct was adopted by Bemidji Township for maintenance before it was annexed into the City. If those properties returned to Bemidji Township Jurisdiction, the Contracted Snow removal for Bemidji Township would do removal for Kalee CT. However, since Bemidji Township doesn't have a contracted garbage pick-up company, Waste Management would take care of individual residents.
- Check from City for Annexations: The clerk will file this along with the check received last month. The checks will not be cashed until further review.
- Invoice from JPB: Bemidji Township has made clear that it will not participate in any Joint Planning Board events or activities nor will they pay any contribution fees to the Joint Planning Board. Brian Merschman motioned that Bemidji Township will not pay any invoice received from the Joint Planning office for contribution fees as per the terms of the mediated agreement dated 5/31/2013. Pete Fredrickson seconded and the motion was put to a vote:

Lowell Vagle	Yes
John Rowles	Yes
Jan Heuer	Yes
Pete Fredrickson	Yes
Brian Merschman	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

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

Beginning Balance 6/30/2013 \$970,929.53

Receipts

Money Market Interest	\$	160.18
Total	\$	160.18

Disbursements

General	\$	8,456.16
Road & Bridge	\$	1,411.13
Fire	\$	25,854.80
Total	\$	35,722.09

Ending Balance 7/31/2013 \$935,367.62

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

Bills:

Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Lowell Vagle to approve the payment of checks 10208 to 10222 (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 \$31,000.00 from money market fund to checking. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Carmen Huber came in to discuss re-paving the Pete's Place parking lot. Two years ago, Ms. Huber spoke with Joe McKinnon about filling a 60 X 40 hole in the back of their property and expanding their parking lot. Mr. McKinnon told Carmen that as long as there was no structure being built, she wouldn't need a permit for expanding her parking lot. However, Mayana Rice from the Joint Planning office told her that she would need an after-the-fact permit and since there is not enough green space on the property, Ms. Huber would need to cover the extension of the parking lot with grass. Now Ms. Huber would like to re-pave the existing parking lot, but the Joint Planning Office will not give her permission to do so because of the expansion issue. Jan Heuer told Carmen that Mayana Rice and the Joint Planning Board are no longer in charge of permitting for Bemidji Township and that the Town Board is in charge of allowing Ms. Huber to re-pave her parking lot. Jan explained that while the Board would like to see grass planted over the parking lot expansion, they have no problem with her wanting to re-pave the previously existing parking lot. Jan told Carmen to call the DNR to make sure that she stays within their restrictions, as well as the Bill Patnaude, the Environmental Services Director at the County. It was explained that the Joint Planning Board will probably threaten Ms. Huber with legal action. If that occurs, Ms. Huber is to document it and let Bemidji Township know about it as soon as possible. After this discussion, Pete Fredrickson made a motion for Bemidji Township to approve Carmen Huber's request to re-pave the existing parking lot at Pete's Place south as long as all DNR and County restrictions are adhered to and grass is planted over the recently added bituminous area,

as that is not intended for parking. Brian Merschman seconded and the motion was put to a vote:

Lowell Vagle Yes
John Rowles Yes
Jan Heuer Yes
Pete Fredrickson Yes
Brian Merschman Yes

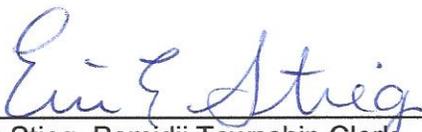
The motion passed unanimously.

- Nat. Resource Mgt: The clerk will invite Dave Hoefer to the next meeting to discuss the tax- forfeited parcels for future Fire Station locations.
- Christiansen Lot Division: The Clerk will invite Mr. Christiansen to the next meeting so the Board may ask questions before approving or denying the lot division application.
- Junk Vehicle Storage: John Rowles will get the information needed to the clerk and she will send the property owners a letter to take care of the abandoned vehicles on the property.
- Little Norway Fire: Jan and Pete have both driven by the burnt down trailer home and noted that they are making progress to clean up debris in the area.

ADJOURN:

Lowell Vagle made a motion, seconded by Peter Fredrickson, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk



Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

Approved 8/27/13



Jan Heuer, Chairperson