

**BEMIDJI TOWNSHIP TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Jan Heuer, Pete Fredrickson, John Rowles, Lowell Vagle, Brian Merschman, 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:** Lowell Vagle suggested adding the item "MAT District Meeting update" under Committee Reports. After review and discussion, Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Lowell Vagle to approve the agenda with the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:** The meeting minutes for August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were reviewed and Pete Fredrickson motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Brian Merschman and carried unanimously. Chairperson Jan Heuer asked if it would be possible to have the meeting minutes typed up and emailed for review by the end of the week after our meeting. That gives everyone ample time to add or change anything before the following meeting date.

**CONSTITUENTS (see attached attendance sheet):** There were no constituents present at tonight's meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Roads:** Pete Fredrickson spoke with J.D. Hansen & Sons regarding the complaint of wash boarding on Madison Ave SW. They will add 1-2 loads of gravel (class 1 modified) to that road as well as Fox Drive. Tyler Avenue will be prepped for partial construction and they will also be putting in a new culvert on Jackson Ave. JD Hansen also submitted a quote for road maintenance services. Pete motioned to accept the proposal for grading and mowing, adding that the prices may increase again before the contract expires in 2015 due to substantial increase in fuel prices. Brian Merschman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Pete also confirmed that Beltrami County will be mowing Bemidji Township ditches again before this winter.

**Weeds:** Lowell responded to a complaint of Canadian Thistle on property along Roosevelt Rd Se. The landowner has done some work in removing weeds, including the Tansy. However, the thistles remain a problem. Lowell will ask if they can get access to a brush mower to cut the thistles down.

**Signs:** The stop signs at Briar and Doral Ave have been removed.

**Fire:** After review and discussion of the current proposed Joint Powers Agreement presented by Brian Merschman, Board members agreed to give all the materials to Township Attorney John Steffenhagen for his recommendations before taking further action.

**BATO/ BRACO:** No Report

**MAT District Meeting update:** Lowell Vagle gave a report of the District Meeting and Election of MAT Director Mel Melander. He mentioned that a legislative guest also spoke about the Farm Bill, Rural Water, and Public Health. The Board had some discussion about Cities annexing farm land and DNR buying farm land to prevent development. Lowell went on to say that Joe McKinnon was also at the meeting to talk about MN Dot and Highway infrastructure, and Gene Dufalt spoke about the software upgrade being considered for the Association's accounting program.

**Legal Issues:** No Report.

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

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

**Receipts**

Bemidji Rural Fire Assoc.	\$	250.00
Beltrami County	\$	178.16
Animal Care Clinic	\$	65.00
Money Market Interest	\$	155.22
Total	\$	648.38

**Disbursements**

General	\$	27,967.21
Road & Bridge	\$	5,939.87
Fire	\$	-----
Total	\$	33,907.08

Ending Balance 8/31/2013    \$902,108.92

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:**

Pete Fredrickson made a motion, seconded by Lowell Vagle to approve the payment of checks 10223 to 10240 (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 \$12,000.00 from money market fund to checking. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim mentioned that a Bemidji Township had a Certificate of Deposit at Security Bank that is up for renewal on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. CD number 14972 will renew for \$ 104,911.55 at 0.5% interest. Lowell Vagle motioned to renew the CD, it was seconded by Brian Merschman and passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- After some discussion regarding Lowell's absence from October through December of this year, Pete Fredrickson motioned for the Clerk to purchase a speakerphone and cord

(priced within reason) to use at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the month so Lowell can be present by phone at the meeting during that time. Brian Merschman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- Pete Fredrickson motioned for the Clerk to send a reply to the email sent from the Joint Planning Office regarding the Conditional Use Permit application submitted by Ottertail Power Company for 115kv Line Upgrade. Brian Merschman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

Brian Merschman made a motion, seconded by Peter Fredrickson, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Prepared by Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

  
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Erin Stieg, Bemidji Township Clerk

Approved 9/24/13

  
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Jan Heuer, Chairperson