

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Present: Terry Hill, Tony Compo, Bill Gerard, Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, David Pritchett

Absent: Ruth Janke

Chairperson Hill called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall.

Members from one of the Esko Lego Robotics teams addressed the Board regarding the lack of recreational activities for kids their age. One of the Lego robotics competition requirements is to have a project that benefits their community. They'd like to propose a volleyball court, basketball court and/or a gaga ball court be built at Northridge Park. Several questions were asked including a timeline for construction and location within the park for these activities. Park liaison Gerard will work with the kids to determine if the project is feasible.

Mark Sakry from Northern GoundSource Inc. was present to discuss the ground source pump at the Town Hall. The original pump was installed in 2003 and was sound at the time. Currently one pump is circulating to all four units. It's using a lot of energy and could burn up soon. Discussion was held on converting to natural gas or propane as well as justifying the cost of a new pump system to the taxpayers. No action was taken.

The personnel committee is recommending the hiring of Shawn Swearingen and Joshua Ritchie to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to approve the hiring of both men. Motion carried.

At 7:02 a motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to recess the regular meeting and reconvene the improvement hearing for the paving of Hillside Road. Motion carried.

Letters were sent to all residents of Hillside Road with the updated estimated cost of the improvement and the estimated assessment amount which is \$ 9,378 per property owner. No correspondence was received other than an anonymous note that the amount is too high. Seven property owners were in attendance at the hearing or were at the previous hearing. All were in support of the project being done. After further discussion a motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to proceed with construction plans and advertising for bids. Motion carried.

Further discussion was held on a timeline, the Town's road crew doing part of the prep work and homeowners having driveways done by the same contractor. Plans should be ready for bidding after the new year. Work done by the Town road crew will depend on weather. Residents should be able to contact the contractor who is awarded the project for work on private driveways.

At 7:13 p.m. a motion was made by Gerard with a second by Compo to close the improvement hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. Motion carried.

Peter Alexander from 2020 Census was present to speak to the Board about the upcoming 2020 census, the importance of it, and preparations being made.

Gerard made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Hill. Motion carried.

Gerard made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 83,010.09 (Check #'s 44636 – 44701) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 13,706.63. Second by Paulson. Motion carried.

A letter was received from Esko Girl Scout Troop 4079 regarding their concerns for pedestrian crossings at E. Highway 61 and Juntunen Road and also Canosia Road and Ridge Road. Since both are located on county roads the letter was also forwarded to the Carlton County Engineer, JinYeene Neumann. Gerard will also follow up with the troop members that the Board also has concerns with these and other locations.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson presented names of three potential new members on the fire department. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to approve Philip Rogers, Krista Leach and Chase Bergstedt for membership. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 19-06 which designates the Thomson Town Hall, 25 E. Harney Road, Esko, MN as the designated polling place for all elections in 2020 was presented for approval. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to approve the resolution. Motion carried.

An agreement to provide snow removal on W. Marigold Lane was received from Midway Township. After review by Pritchett, an amended agreement was reviewed. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Paulson to approve the amended agreement. Motion carried.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle gave his monthly report. Approval has been given for construction of two new homes on Torma Road as well as a four-plex on Evelyn St. Work on the comprehensive plan continues.

Discussion was held on the need for a liability waiver for plowing private driveways by the Town's road crew. Pritchett presented a draft of the agreement for review before the next regular meeting.

Gustafson informed the Board of an ISO audit on November 20. He also continues to work on fire prevention presentations.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:42 pm by Compo with a second by Gerard. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson