

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MAY 7, 2020

Present: Terry Hill, Ruth Janke, Bill Gerard, Tony Compo, Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, Leah Pykkonen, David Pritchett

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

Gerard made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with one correction. Second by Janke. Motion carried.

Paulson made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$101,325.86 (Check #'s 45212-45269) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$23,172.73. Second by Gerard. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the County paving projects being done in the township this year. In the past the Town has requested that 100' of abutting township roads also be paved at the Town's expense. Road Supervisor Logan Saline is inquiring if that's what the Board would like done this year. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Gerard to request the County include extending the paving on adjacent Town roads to 100'. Motion carried. This will include Town roads adjacent to the south 2 miles of Erickson Road, St. Louis River Road W., and Jay Cooke Road.

Discussion was held on safety precautions that should be taken when the Town Office is again open to the public. Peleski will check into having a plexiglass barrier installed at the front counter.

Discussion was held on rentals scheduled for the community room. Most groups have cancelled but a few remain on the schedule. Staff is wondering if the remaining rentals should be cancelled since there is no way to thoroughly sanitize the building after the groups have left. No decision will be made until the May 21st Board meeting. Pykkonen will contact the renters to notify them of the possibility of cancellation.

Saline received three quotes for class-5 gravel for the year. A motion was made by Compo with a second by Janke to purchase gravel from the low quote submitter, Omar's Sand and Gravel. A copy of the material test report will also be requested. Motion carried.

The application for renewal of the Esko Liquor Store liquor license was reviewed. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to approve the renewal of the liquor license by Carlton County. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2020-05, which would authorize the submittal of a proposal to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for possible funding of the purchase of a John Deere 672GP grader, was presented by Paulson with support from Compo. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Peleski provided the total costs associated with a sewer lateral break at 47 Canosia Road that happened on March 27. This included costs for pumping the lift station down, emergency assistance from Minnesota Pump Works personnel, costs for a plumber to repair the broken clean-out, and overtime wages for Town personnel. Discussion was held on what other municipalities do in situations like this, what costs should be billed, and the possibility of WLSSD fining the Town for the exceedance. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Gerard to bill the homeowner in the amount of \$ 3,568.75 for the costs incurred by the Town. Motion carried with 4 yeas and Compo voting nay.

Discussion was held on the upcoming reconvened Board of Review. It was held on April 13 but was recessed to May 18 at 10:00. The County Assessor is wondering if it is still the Board's intent to hold the meeting on that day. It can be held as a teleconference or recessed to a later date in May if the Board desires. The decision was made to continue with an in-person meeting with precautions being taken regarding public attendance.

Saline presented an additional quote for replacing the pumps at lift station # 1. A motion was made by Janke with a second by Paulson to approve the low quote of \$ 21,068.08 from Minnesota Pump Works for replacing both pumps. Motion carried. The pumps will be upgraded from 10 hp to 12 hp.

Town Engineer Joe Jurewicz updated the Board on projects he's been working on. A construction meeting for the Hillside Road paving project has been scheduled. The feasibility study for paving E. Riverside Road and Serenity Way is complete. This most likely will be a project for 2021. The MNDNR STAR grant that was applied for was denied.

Fire Chief Kyle Gustafson gave his report. The fire department will now return to in-person training although meetings are still not allowed. They will be participating in the kindergarten and high graduation parades.

Saline provided a Road and Bridge report. He informed the Board that a new blade system will be used on the graders this year. It should cut down on the time and fuel used for grading roads. He'll also have a third quote for calcium chloride for the next meeting. He has submitted the application to the MPCA for funding for the grader purchase. He is putting together a list of road signs that are needed in the township for Carlton County Transportation.

Congratulation and a thank you were given to Road and Bridge employee Stuart Bottila. Bottila retired after 38 + years with the township. His work and dedication to the residents of Thomson Township have been appreciated. Unfortunately, with the current restrictions, no public recognition will be held.

A brief discussion was held on providing plowing and grading services to residents.

Deputy Rob Lucas was present with his report. He has had juvenile and domestic incidents in the last month, along with property recovery and overdoses.

Peleski questioned whether the Board intends to close Northridge Park to the public or leave the playground equipment open and post it with signs stating that no sanitizing is being done. The decision was made to remain open and post the signs.

Board members thanked staff for the work done to prepare the Board Room for tonight's meeting.

Compo informed the Board that a fire truck will be stationed at the Town Garage while the Canosia Road bridge is being replaced over the summer.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:24 p.m. by Gerard with a second by Janke. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer

Terry Hill, Chairperson