

MINUTES
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MAY 21, 2020

Present: Terry Hill, Bill Gerard, Ruth Janke, Tony Compo, Jason Paulson, Rhonda Peleski, 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 approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting. Second by Paulson. Motion carried.

Paulson made a motion to approve the current vouchers in the amount of \$ 41,851.17 (Check #'s 45271 – 45301, Void 45270, 45279) to pay payroll and due bills and electronic payments in the amount of \$ 7,550.75. Second by Janke. Motion carried.

April receipts in the amount of \$ 38,376.27 and April fund balances were reviewed.

A thank you was received from North Country RIDE for the Town's contribution to their program.

A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Janke to approve the reimbursements for two residents on Hillside Road for mailbox damage. Motion carried.

The July 2, 2020 meeting time will be changed to 11:00 AM on that same day.

Steve McConnell was present via telephone to address the Board about the youth soccer program this year and their lack of space to practice. He was hoping the Board could suggest some options. He also inquired if there were lots in the business park that could be used. There are over 400 kids in the soccer program. They would only be used for small practices. The consensus of the Board was the business park would not be a good location for practices. It was suggested that possibly the eastside of the Town Hall space could be used. Also, once the new entrance to Northridge Park is finished, the park could be used with kids being dropped off and picked up after practice. McConnell will look at the Town Hall site and work with Gerard on the Northridge Park site.

Three quotes were received for this year's dust control. Discussion was held on the substantial price increase over last year, the amount that was budgeted, and how heavy it should be applied. A motion was made by Paulson with a second by Compo to approve the low quote from Knife River Corp. at \$ 1.04/gallon for calcium chloride. Motion carried.

An update was given on the Northridge Park parking lot improvements. The road crew will be able to do the gravel work and put in the new entrance off of Ridge Road and Belmar Lane. That work will be done this summer with the paving done in 2021. Town engineer Joe Jurewicz will arrange for a survey and will provide an updated estimate with the prep work being done by Town staff.

Paulson clarified information he gave at a previous meeting. The Town has the legal authority but not a legal obligation to provide driveway maintenance to residents. The new driveway plowing/blading policy will be implemented over the summer with contracts being sent to residents that use the service.

Discussion was held on reopening of the Town Office and Hall. The office will remain closed until the glass barrier can be installed at the service counter. The hall will remain closed to groups for use.

Gerard questioned the W. Highway 61 radar sign and whether it had been fixed. It still seems to work intermittently. Hill will contact the County Engineer who previously offered to find someone familiar with that type of sign.

Discussion was held on the drainage at the new school bus garage being built. Concerns were raised that water will drain down the hill into the business park.

Zoning Official Dan Stangle was present via telephone with his report. He continues to review site plans for new construction as well as following up on junk complaints and property splits. Work on the Comprehensive Plan will continue once we can have in person meetings again.

Road Supervisor Logan Saline updated the Board on road projects. The Hillside Road paving project will begin next week. The crew has been busy trimming and removing trees from the rights-of-way. The MPCA has approved the application for financing of the road grader in the amount of \$ 165,000. This will be a zero-interest loan. The grader will be delayed because of an employee furlough at John Deere.

Jurewicz gave his report on projects MSA is working on. The stormwater pond repair on Keanu Lane will be done the first week of June. He's getting quotes for cleaning and televising sewer lines.

Paulson reported that the fire district is continuing its search for a new fire chief.

Compo reported that the fire department has been extremely busy in May.

A Korby Road resident was present to discuss with the Board problems she's having with traffic and loud vehicles at all times of the day and night. It was suggested that she install trail cameras so license plates can be reported. She should also continue to work with law enforcement.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:53 pm by Gerard with a second by Compo. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda Peleski, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Thomson

Terry Hill, Chairperson