

BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
June 11th, 2019
MINUTES

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for June was held on June 11th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Satellite Offices, 2070 Howard Drive in North Mankato, MN. Chairperson Mary Milbrath, Supervisor Tim Lorentz, Supervisor Cheryl Michels, Supervisor Tom Langdon, Treasurer Konnie Pierson and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as employee Harlan Olson, vendor Paul Sekora (Crystal Construction) and vendor Scott Bailey (Roadside Vegetation) and township residents John Speckel and Tyler Scholl.

Mary reminded everyone of Board Meeting Etiquette.

Tom made a motion to approve the agenda. Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom made a motion to approve May 14th Meeting Minutes. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cheryl made a motion to approve the May Claims and Payroll. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0-1.

Tom abstained because he had a claim for payment included.

Konnie gave the Treasurer's Report for May. There was \$7,288.67 in Simple Checking and \$10,117.98 in the Platinum account as of May 31st, 2019. There was \$318,325.66 in the ICS account as of May 31st, 2019. Interest for the month of May for the Platinum Account was \$ 1.11. Interest for the month of May in the ICS Account was \$696.68. Tim made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Roads: Bargaen; Resident concern regarding Timber Lane; Road Tour – black top (*golf course declined contributing toward blacktop on their road, so township will allow it to revert back to gravel*); spillway; gravel in ditches; 490th ditch; Dust Control; Old River Bluff Road; 526th

Culverts & Ditches: Hwy 169/Timber Lane & MNDOT; Gabion Baskets

Employees: Resolution/Motion to pay employees every two weeks – Lori; Minimum/Maximum hours

Equipment: Dodge replacement?; Repairing equipment – employee / mechanic

Tabled Items: Quotes from Paul Sekora on Old River Bluff and 526th; Greg Depute's field berm

Other: Fire Report; Old FEMA/New FEMA; Supervisor/PT employee Resolution; Craig's cell phone; Board of Equalization Meeting; Honey Suckle Lane water issue update; A-Z sign rental

Tom made a motion to move on from old business. Tim seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Culverts & Ditches

Dave Chambers is still planning to clean culverts on 409th Av & 526th according to Harlan's understanding.

Consolidated said they were going to take care of their cable that's in the ditch and culvert by this Friday per a phone conversation with Mary.

Tim said Jetter Clean charges \$250/hour to clean out culverts. They may be able to give us better pricing if we can give them a quantity of culverts that need work.

Paul Sekora submitted a quote in April to clean ditches and replace culverts. Mary made a motion to have Paul clean out the ditches and replace culverts that need replacing as proposed in his quote; as many as he's able to get to. Tom seconded. Motion carried.

On 405th Av the culvert is separating, and Harlan thought maybe the band is broken. Harlan suggested Dave Chambers would be a good resource to call for repairing it since he is already working in the area and his equipment would be at that location (saving money on equipment hauling charges). Tom made a motion for Dave Chambers to repair or replace the culvert. Craig seconded. Motion passed.

Harlan met Scott Bailey from Roadside Vegetation Management. Scott said they charge \$65/mile to spray ditch weeds and then asks for chemical reimbursement. Scott said on average it typically runs about \$100-\$120 dollars per mile with everything. Mary asked what the time frame would be for him to begin spraying. Scott said he can get it done before the weeds go to seed. Maybe next week. It's mainly spot spraying that he does. He is licensed and bonded. Craig made a motion to hire Scott Bailey to do our weed spraying. Tom seconded. Motion passed.

Tom asked if mowing could begin on the shoulders of the township roads even if weed spraying was going on. Scott said that would be fine.

Mary asked for clarification on the Culvert Policy. She spoke with Nicollet County about their policy. She would like to see it more specific for the township residents. She suggested amending the policy to include things like who pays for it; type of material (steel & double wall plastic [if properly installed] and size; policy form to be signed by resident prior to installation; final inspection/sign off and anything else the board thinks would be helpful. Tom made a motion to amend the current culvert policy; to be drafted by the clerk. Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Employees

Harlan has LTAP training in July. It's a more advanced training for Motor Grader operators. Harlan would like to attend the training offered in Wabasha County on August 12 & 13. Their terrain is more like ours and might involve some work on hills. Mary made a motion to send Harlan to the training. Craig seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Summer training for the board is on June 19th in Mankato.

Equipment

Craig said the Dodge truck has a lot of repairs that need to be done amounting to roughly \$3,000-\$4,000. He said we have probably spent around \$20,000 in repairs over the last two years and it is beat up. A new truck is \$80,000 to \$100,000. Craig suggested an F450 or F550. He believes we should get a good trade in value. Craig suggested to begin the process by picking out a truck and then work on pricing. He thinks Wolff Motors in Jordan should be considered. Tim said Tom or another supervisor should begin looking because Harlan has enough to do without running to look at trucks. Cheryl made a motion to start looking for a truck. Craig seconded. Motion passed.

FEMA – No report

Fire Report

The Nicollet Fire Dept is in the process of purchasing \$30,000 of OSHA updated fire suits. They are using money they received from the selling of 2 trucks and the balance will come from their account to pay for the suits. There was talk of wanting to purchase some more new trucks in the future.

Roads

Dust control for residents should get done tomorrow. Hills will be done as soon as the Freightliner is out of the shop so they can finish rocking the hills first.

The Minimum Maintenance road with a spillway has some issues. MAT said it cannot be called a minimum maintenance road when it is gated 100% of the time. Craig said that the property owners all have keys to get through. He added that the township has a responsibility to the 8 residents that own property around it to maintain it. We need to make a resolution saying it can be gated for 8 months. There was a debate on the depth of the standing water there. John Speckel requested the gate be removed immediately since it is a public road. Craig said he will open it tonight. Mary expressed concern over liability if the gate is opened tonight, however on the minimum maintenance road sign it says *travel at your own risk*. That relieves the responsibility of the township. The township will place road signs by the spillway to deter driving on it while it is still muddy and wet.

Tom asked if we should put another speed limit sign on Deerwood by the cemetery. After a brief discussion it was decided the existing sign is ineffective. Mary made a motion to remove the existing speed limit sign. Tim seconded. Motion passed.

Other

Craig brought up the issue about residents blading the hills on their own from the last month's meeting. Mary said the issue has already been addressed.

Craig feels that some people who build or buy homes in the township sometimes expect the township roads should look like city streets and end up being chronic complainers.

Craig said the length of meetings is too long. Mary disagreed.

We have expenses that are coming up and we are spending money on putting flags up in ditches. Road right-of-way was discussed at the request of some residents. Some farmers fields are encroaching significantly on the township's right-of-way. The board discussed this at length. Tom said he noticed the area of greatest concern and agreed that the farmer was far past the township right of way. It was a consensus that farmers should stay out of the right-of-way. Tom inquired if anyone knew who farms that piece of land. Mary said it was Craig. Craig said his son planted the field. Tom felt we should let them harvest their crop and then reclaim it. Tim disagreed. Resident John Speckel said past township newsletters warned that farmers are responsible for knowing where the right-of-way is and that anyone who goes beyond it will have their crop mowed off by the township and put back the way it is supposed to be. He said that very thing happened to Greg Depute. He said all residents should be treated the same. Mary said we do not have to have a surveyor come to mark the right of way. Mary and Tim contacted MAT attorney which said it does not need to be surveyed.

Township roads are 4 rods. It is a misdemeanor to remove the flags placed by the township. Tim made a motion for the township to reclaim the right-of-way now. Mary seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken. Mary – Y, Tim – Y, Cheryl – N, Tom – N, Craig – N. Motion failed. Tom suggested reclaiming it after harvest. No additional motion was made.

There was vandalism in the rock shed roof. There is an arrow sticking through it that was shot from within the yard.

Resident Concerns

Todd Scholl, from 38447 Timber Trail, said it looks like there is standing water in the ditch on both sides of his culverts. He added that it seems his water is unable to flow to his neighbor's ditch. Harlan said the whole length, starting at Todd's driveway, needs to be cleaned out. Harlan said the culvert is partially open. Harlan thinks it will be a big job. Tim said we are already stretched for ditch and culvert cleaning. The issue will be tabled until winter when Todd comes to readdress the board next spring. Tom suggested getting an idea how much it would cost to remedy the issue. Paul Sekora is going to give us a price on it.

Tabled Items

Further discussion on the spillway was tabled.

Greg Depute's field berm

ADJOURN

Craig made a motion to adjourn. Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Mary Milbrath, Chair

Date

Lori Cullen, Clerk