

BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
August 18th, 2020
MINUTES

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for August was held on August 18th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nicollet County Satellite Offices, 2070 Howard Drive in North Mankato, MN. Chairperson Mary Milbrath, Supervisor Craig Smith, Supervisor Cheryl Michels, Supervisor Andy Goettlicher, Supervisor Tom Langdon, Treasurer Konnie Pierson and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Harlan Olson, Edward Olson, Virginia LaFrance and Pat Chambers (Vendor, Chambers Excavating & Trucking).

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm by Mary Milbrath.

Tom made a motion to approve the agenda. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Cheryl made a motion to approve July 14th Meeting Minutes. Craig seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Craig made a motion to approve the July Claims. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0.

Craig made a motion to approve the July Payroll. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4-0. Tom abstained because had a claim for payment included.

Konnie gave the Treasurer's Report for July. There was \$7,601.20 in Simple Checking and \$18,146.88 in the Platinum account as of July 31st, 2020. There was \$232,807.39 in the ICS account as of July 31st, 2020. Interest for the month of July for the Platinum Account was \$.82 Interest for the month of July in the ICS Account was \$48.59. Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Craig seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mary reminded everyone of Board Meeting Etiquette. The meeting is being recorded only to assist in preparing minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no additions or corrections to the following Old Business:

Culverts & Ditches - Kern's Culvert; Mowing; Spraying ditches; Benco; Right of Way

Employees - PT Employee handbook; Unemployment filing by Tom

Equipment - Tires for Kubota

FEMA 2 - June Storms; Old River Bluff Road; Timber Lane; 526th; 496th; County Line road – call from resident that road was flooded (no signage)

Fire Report - Craig

Roads - MNDOT

Tabled Items - Timber Trail ditches

Other - COVID 19/CARES

NEW BUSINESS

Culverts & Ditches

Ditch mowing will begin in mid-September.

Employees

The board discussed the changes to the Part-Time handbook. Lori read the main changes and the page requiring a signature form the employee. Craig made a motion to approve the revisions to the Part Time Employee Handbook. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0.

Lori gave Craig UIMN papers regarding Tom's unemployment benefits. She was inquiring whether the state was expecting payment. Craig said it looked like they expect payment by August 31st, 2020.

Equipment

New Tires will be put on the Kubota next Tuesday so it will be ready for ditch mowing.

FEMA

FEMA 2 (2019) Chris Nordeng met Mary at the shop. They stopped and looked at two of the culverts on Old River Bluff Road. Then they viewed the other sights before proceeding to Timber Lane, where they met up with Andy and Harlan mid-hill. He complimented the board and road crew on the roads. All the documents are submitted. We are just waiting on the money. He also gave feedback on the repair he would like to see done on Timber Lane.

They did declare the event that occurred the end of June a disaster. This means the township can request reimbursement for the projects caused by the event. The sites are on Old River Bluff Road and the top and bottom of Timber Lane. The dates are from 6/29/2020 - 7/23/2020. This event will be referred to as FEMA #3.

Fire Report

Andy will be going to the Fire Department meeting next Monday instead of Craig.

Roads

Two residents called Mary, as well as excel energy, to give compliments about our township roads.

Timber Lane Hill – Pat Chambers (vendor) came to the meeting to answer questions regarding a pipe that is draining water from Virginia Lafrance’s property and contributing to the severe washouts on Timber Lane Hill. Pat said the hillside could probably take just normal rain, but with the addition of the gallons of water coming out of the pipe it causes washouts. He suggested a couple of options. The proposition the board liked was placing an elbow on the existing pipe, that would connect to a solid tile pipe that would run down the side of the hill and drain into the riprap. Andy suggested this would be a good test to see if it is an effective solution. Pat said he would do the project without charging the township. Virginia said the previous owner put the drainage pipe in and explained that the land there has gotten more saturated since she moved in. Virginia was agreeable to that plan and hopes it will help. Harlan asked about fixing the ditch first. The board instructed Harlan to wait on that. Mary made a motion for Chambers Excavating & Trucking to place the extended pipe on and have it drain into the rip rap. Andy seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-0.

Excel Energy power line traffic is causing excessive, even extreme wear on the roads they are using. We are having to put on extra loads of gravel to try to keep up. Andy reminded everyone that this is why we put the bond in place; to protect our township. Things can change in a second, so we need to have these things in place. Mary will ask if they will reimburse monthly instead of waiting until the entire project is done. Mary inquired about having them pay for dust control on the roads they are using. They do not want to apply dust control on the roads.

Harlan said using two applications of dust control on the hills holds the roads better. This year we only had one application and he can see the difference.

Lexi & Bob Woods, on Deerwood Trail, expressed concerns about ravine eating into their driveway. Mary said that part of it is on the township. They called out someone from Soil & Water. He recommended that the township dump a load of rip rap. Some of the problem area is on Marilyn Budde’s property. No motion was made since it is considered road maintenance. The township will just dump a load of riprap. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to place it.

Other

The town shop yard will be mowed at the same time the ditches are mowed.

The Annual MAT Meeting was last Wednesday via teleconference. Mary and Lori participated. Mary brought up ten-ton roads. She suggested perhaps partnering with the ag industry (hog farmers) to help with funding since their heavy trucks and equipment contribute to a lot of breakdown if township gravel roads.

General FYI:

Lori shared with the board a letter she received from the state regarding the COVID 19 CARES Relief assistance for township. Our township is the only one in Nicollet County who has applied for the funding. Mary submitted the request on the township’s behalf in a very timely manner.

Harlan share that there is a yellow and a blue ATV that have been running up and down the roads tearing them up. He saw them come in and out of 498th street. Tom suggested possibly sending a letter to them if we can identify who it is.

Mary spoke about perhaps planting butterfly & hummingbird attracters along the area on Old River Bluff where a resident had concerns regarding ditch spraying.

Tabled Items

Timber Trail discussion for spring of 2021. Andy took pictures and documented the flow of water there following a heavy rainfall. There was an area from the first corner (on the west) that was sitting. The area is swampy, but the water does flow.

Adjourn

Craig made a motion to adjourn. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Mary Milbrath, Chair

Date

Lori Cullen, Clerk

Date