

WOODROW TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

August 8, 2024

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gordy Reher at 7:00 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Present are Supervisor Colter Peterson, Supervisor Scott Wold, Treasurer Tim Mueller and Clerk Cathy Dietrich. To see sign in sheet for citizens present, request from Clerk.

M/S/P Reher/Wold approve Agenda for Regular Monthly Meeting as amended.

M/S/P Wold/Peterson approve August 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

M/S/P Peterson/Wold approve July 2024 Treasurer Report, subject to audit as presented by Treasurer Tim Mueller.

M/S/P Wold/Peterson approve claims as submitted by Clerk Cathy Dietrich.

M/S/P Wold/Peterson approve payroll as submitted by Clerk Cathy Dietrich.

Clerk's Report –

- Law Office of Couri and Ruppe - Township Legal Seminar flyer provided to Supervisors.
- The Association of Townships District meeting flyer provided to Supervisors.
- There have been complaints from renters of the town hall concerning a truck parked overnight behind the hall. Clerk made Supervisors aware, and they have come to a consensus the parking lot is Public Property and there are no signs stating no overnight parking, camping, etc. So there really isn't anything that can be done at this time. However, if there are complaints of safety threat, nuisance or break-ins to locked buildings, then that will be an issue we will deal with at that time.

OPEN FORUM (FKA PUBLIC INPUT) – No public input

OLD BUSINESS

1. Signs – Chair Reher explains, the thing about the signs, are the white with green lettering signs for the lake associations. And the question was, do those signs belong where they are, and what does it take to make them be there properly, and what about all the other signs that then crop up? When I was looking at the county mapping, most of these signs appear to be placed in what would be the right-of-way of Township Roads. And the question then becomes, since they're placed there and they're in a right-of-way, what happens? Because there's several different statutes in the road statutes that talk about putting things in the right-of-way. The question that gets posed to each of

the lake associations to see how much of an influence, how many signs, where would they like to be placed and do we have anything to say about it since it's in the right of way? Supervisor Wold responded, it would be good to address because signs tend to just get more out of control. The corners are independent of vehicle or people moving. There's a reason for a setback for the road, for sight lines and just general clutter. One thing we need to be cautious about is freedom of speech and so when we regulate signs you need to look and read the content of that sign to figure out if it fits your ordinance or not. So, whatever our regulation is, if we're going to treat, for example, reality signs different than name signs, address signs, there's got to be some consistency in how they're dealt with. And maybe some of those name signs just move outside of the right-of-way, just a little further back, so we have a consistent regulation. Maybe we can just talk to the Lake Associations. Supervisor Peterson agrees and comments, if it is moved back a little farther then this could be on private property and then an easement for the signs would be needed. The Township wouldn't be involved in easement if that were to happen, it would only involve the Lake Association and Property Owner. All Supervisors agree to table until September meeting to address setbacks and discuss more.

2. Zoom meetings, Supervisor Wold states, a number of questions were left on this and one of the things that showed up in emails was that we didn't even take a look at what the cost would be for doing the required storage. What I would like to lay out is that when this was discussed, I didn't even want to look at what it would cost. There's nothing in the budget this year or next year, and it would have to be after that. So what we're looking at is for us to have all of these meetings like this on Zoom, the rules for government are different. It includes a requirement for storage and becomes more complicated. Perhaps we need to make a resolution that says we're not going to do anything. However, if a particular topic presented itself that seemed to make a lot of sense, we could investigate it at that time. Such as, if we have anything like COVID again, we have a tool for being able to address it, but it wouldn't have to be used. Since there's no money to address it anyway, to just come up with the language in a resolution and make it part of normal business. This topic then will be finished. Chair Reher and Supervisor Peterson agree all will come up with some language in a resolution, and we'll discuss at next meeting.

Citizen Larson questioned, How much are you talking for a storage? Supervisor Wold responded, there's a requirement that after a certain period of time, it has to go to the historical society. We haven't looked at cost. Just thinking about this being progressive over 'forever' as video is recorded. It takes the Clerk more time and when there's recordings like this, people will request it, then that's even more time. It takes some money for our clerk then to process all those claims. And we're not required to do it. And like I've stated before, if you really have a need to address something or if you really want to be a part of our meeting, come. Be a part of our meeting. It's an open meeting.

Citizen Mertz questioned, So the emails that you got, did you respond to all the emails that you received? Supervisor Wold responded, for the most part all emails have been addressed, but if one was missed please follow up and let us know. Most of the emails received states the same thing over again. No one is trying to ignore anyone. Clerk Dietrich asked Citizen Mertz if they were using their phone to record the meeting. Citizen Mertz responded, yes. Clerk Dietrich responded, it's okay if you are, just let us know when you do that. Because then you're hiding something when you don't tell us. Citizen Mertz responded, Yeah, I'm recording this discussion because there are a number of people that, as you said, would like to be here and would like to be in person, but many of the property owners do not live within a short vicinity of here or live And so there's a lot of interest in Zoom meetings. I do know that there is a state office, and I will reach out to them regarding open meeting law that helps a lot of townships with such issues. So I'll see if they have any resources in terms of helping to identify the costs and bring the costs down. Supervisor Wold responded, you're more than welcome to do that. We've looked into it. I don't think it's necessary. I don't think it's going to add to this conversation at this time. I think our opinion is what it is.

3. Response regarding update on Timber Drive email received. Chair Reher states, the most recent was an email from Roz Barrick about Timber Drive, and that was answered yesterday. There is no project now or in the immediate plans, not saying one won't come up at some point, but that's a whole other notification period. Added response in Appendix A. The maintenance was not part of the paving project. It would have been done at the same time in order to save money. We now see the maintenance is nearly finished. Most visible is cutting back embankments in several locations to provide a space for us to push snow so the road would not be narrowed after a heavy snow fall. This was a historic problem. It's a safety item which the township is responsible for resolving. Culverts are also being replaced or added so that water does not sit or run across the road. Culverts are also considered normal road maintenance. Future township plans include installing Geotech fabric in certain areas on timber that gets buried so that it stays gravel. There will be an installation of at least two culverts when we know where they're going to be. It is planned that the road remain gravel.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Speed limit on County 5 is of concern for many folks. Supervisor Wold explains, a couple weeks ago I spoke with Eric Anderson, he's the county highway engineer. As we talked about at the last meeting, I was expressing some of my thoughts about our limited ability to basically change the speed limit on County 5 and the tools that we have available to us, was the laws that are in place. I talked to Derek to see if there wasn't anything we were missing or what we could do. He expressed a few things to me, and the following are not quotes from him but just my understanding of the conversation:
 - Counties have zero authority to set speed limits - unlike townships and city's which do have the ability to set.

- the County can request a speed study which normally results in a higher speed.
- Counties do not have the ability to designate a stretch "rural residential district" like we do as a township.
- Speed limits are set by the state in accordance with statute. One of the factors in setting the speed is a speed study and they aim for the 85th percentile of actual speed travelled by individuals.
- Only resolution for residents is to call their legislator - not county commissioner.
- The resort over by Park Rapids where it slows down to 30 mph - unknown how that happened, but it is much more dense, with more cabins and a public landing located close to the road and the cabins are all on the opposite side of the road. It is also possible someone in Hubbard just put up different signs, does not mean it is legal.
- I also asked about what it would take to put up a flashing pedestrian crossing sign in front of woman lake lodge. Approximate cost of this is 10-15K. Ongoing Maintenance costs depend on if it's hardwired or solar panel/battery.

Further discussion regarding a crosswalk in front of Woman Lake Lodge and cost share for flashing pedestrian crossing sign. And maybe pursue Source well which provides money for different projects and matching funds. Citizen Scheibel requested special attention to look at Harrier Trail because both ends of the horseshoe have curves. Blind curves. And they're coming 55 miles an hour and you can't see them. I've been hit almost half a dozen times since they've done that. Supervisor Wold explains to contact their state legislators. Ron, I understand your concern where you're at and how you're there. But my personal opinion for our immediate concern, is that we should focus on the pedestrian crossing right by the lodge as the first step, not the only step. We have a road budget to keep, and 2025 is already set so we'd be looking at the next year. If we start to branch out much wider than that, you know how things go. I don't want to discount that and I think we need to keep that in mind, the broader aspect, but I'd like to focus right now directly on the lodge section of road. Citizen Scheibel requests, can you put signs on the two ends? That's a blind corner, blind driveway, whatever. Supervisor Wold states, that would be a county thing, and I can reach out.

2. Tom Larson provides an update on WTEMO. The 1-2-3 survey that we have on our phones, back in April I told you about an update that was coming out. It's supposed to be on the phones by October 1st. The problem is that as of January 1st there's another new version. At this point just leave the old version on the phone and after January an update can be provided. The fire extinguishers in the hall have all been checked and are good. For the AED, we have a new battery unit that's good for another two years. We have one set of adult pads in it, ready to go, we have a backup set off to the right, a set of pediatric pads, which are now required for insurance. There is a supplemental service kit that did not show up with it, it's back ordered.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Reher –

- After speaking with source well there were few items;
 - First is boosting funds and that is \$2,000 per year that the Township can come up with a project for that amount.
 - Second, there's matching funds, and regarding Mark Poppendeck and the dry hydrant. So matching funds applicant, that's us, may request up to \$50,000 per fiscal year with a 25% match of the source well amount. So that would mean if they gave us \$50,000 we'd have to chip in \$12,500.
 - Third, is third-party services reimbursement. An example is suppose that you wanted to do a capital improvement plan and you wanted to contract with an engineer. reimburse 100% of cost up to \$20,000 per fiscal year.
 - More information can be found on sourcewell.gov. Source well is a service cooperative established by statute, local unit of government. It's authorized to provide a co-op purchasing program by statute. Master agreements are offered, has a board of directors, and it's open to eligible participating entities, and it gives a list of entities that are approved. Townships are one. It's for the purpose of allowing access to source well Cooperative Purchasing Program Master Agreements.
- I also came up with something through State of Minnesota. Minnesota's Cooperative Purchasing Venture Program. purchasing venture program. They do the same kind of thing but for other stuff. One of the things, bituminous materials aggregate ready mix and sand policy and it allows the township to purchase that kind of stuff and we pick it up or have Lott Excavating pick it up.
- An email from TDS for installing fiber optic cable. The response to the email was there is a blanket policy allowing TDS to install cable and that kind of thing in the rights of way of town roads. And the only thing I asked them was to keep us informed so that we can answer questions of local residents.
- Broadband extension, infrastructure, and money available for it. Provided information on this to other Supervisors.

Supervisor Peterson –

- There have been issues with the front doorknob with key getting stuck. The handle has been replaced and new keys made.

Supervisor Wold –

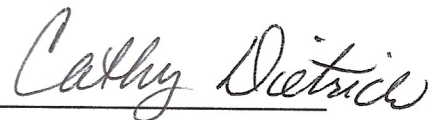
- Went with Chair Reher to FEMA applicant briefing and training a few weeks ago. Right now, I believe the estimate is approximately \$10K.
- Weed spraying will be done within the next few weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS – no other business

MEETING ADJOURNED M/S/P Wold/Peterson @ 8:30 p.m.



Chair, Gordy Reher



Clerk, Cathy Dietrich

Appendix A

On September 5, 2023, the project to improve Timber Drive by paving was terminated. The engineering company received the bids; the Board reviewed them with the engineering company; they were rejected due to higher than anticipated construction costs.

Since the Board was working with the original petition, the next step would have been to have public meetings to commit to the financing. The project never progressed to the stage of financing. As I said at that time, what was lost was the opportunity to significantly reduce the cost because of pairing it with the repaving of County 5.

The Timber project began as discussion with the DNR about sharing the cost of paving or perhaps bearing the entire cost of paving up to Barred Owl because of the public access. What you do not know is that public money for this type of project comes with significant 'strings attached,' building the road to 'park standards.' Some examples of these are requirements for road width, curve radius, visibility, and grade/slope. Each of these 'strings' results in a worsening of the concerns expressed by Timber residents about wider roads and increased speed, etc. They are also part of what the Board was weighing in its considerations, for the same reasons, wider roads and increased speed, etc.

Again, the paving project was terminated last September. Since that time, the Township has continued with planned maintenance, maintenance that had been deferred to be done together with the paving project. That maintenance was not part of the paving project; it would just have been done at the same time in order to save money. We now see those things as nearly finished; most visible was cutting back embankments in several locations to provide a space for us to push snow so the road does not become narrowed with heavy snow. This is a safety item for which the Township is responsible.

You will also see culverts for drainage being replaced or added so water does not sit on or run across the road. Culverts also are considered normal road maintenance.

Again, the Timber paving project was terminated last September. If paving were to be considered again, the project would need to start from the beginning, with new petitions, new meetings, etc. as everything from the original project has been terminated.

We will not address this again.