

**Girard Township Minutes**  
**November 19, 2022 – Regular Monthly Meeting**

Chairman Pedersen opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

Present: Chairman Pedersen, Supervisors J. Trites (by phone) and Estes, K. Trites, Irmen

Vistors: No visitors were present

Trites moved to approve the agenda for the Nov. 19, 2022, monthly meeting with two additions to new business. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Trites moved to approve both the regular meeting minutes from Oct. 15, 2022, and the minutes from the Second Hearing on the Liberty Lane Improvement Project held Sept. 17, 2022. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: There is a balance of \$521,955.26 in the Money Market account at First National Bank; and a balance of \$180,046.34 in the NOW account at the same bank.

Estes moved to approve the monthly claims of \$20,078.30 as presented, and payroll, as well as any other claims as presented at this meeting. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports:**

Luhning was plowing snow so wasn't present at the meeting to give the road report. Questions were raised regarding if the Hallberg Turnaround had been cleaned off and if the Chippewa culvert was clear. It will be looked into further.

Clerk Irmen reported that the election was busy, but successful, with 393 registered voters casting ballots in the General Election for an approximate 65% voter turnout. She also noted that people seemed appreciative of the volunteers' work and the process in general. There was no response to an ad placed in the Citizen's Advocate and the Battle Lake Review for the wood stove. Estes reported he had talked with someone who is interested. 150 Cubic Yards of Salt/Sand was ordered based off last year's order.

Chairman Pedersen attended two BL Fire and Rescue meetings: Of note at the Oct. 20 meeting was an update of the fire contract with the city of Clitherall.

**New Business items**

Following a brief discussion, Trites motioned that any unpaid Liberty Lane Improvement Project Special Assessments be extended for one year, with full payment expected by Dec. 31, 2023, at 7% interest. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Trites also moved that the clerk turn over to the Otter Tail County Auditor any unpaid Liberty Lane Improvement Project special assessments, to be included for collection with 2023 tax statements. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk was asked to send a letter regarding a dock left in the road right-of-way at 41853 Ukkelberg Dr. and in violation of state statutes.

#### Old Business

Town Hall Building Project – The project is nearing completion, with the walls up, taped, and painted. The trim work is yet to be completed and all bathroom fixtures still need to be installed. There was brief discussion about painting the paneled walls which look dingy next to the fresh new wall of the addition. Trites expressed his approval of painting all the walls. Pedersen also suggested spray foam to insulate the ceiling. Further discussion is planned at the December meeting after additional research. The clerk indicated that she hasn't received Certificates of Insurance from the vendors working on the project, which is required by law. Pedersen said he'd make another contact with the vendors, with payment withheld until certificates are sent to the clerk.

Town Hall Expenditures – Trites motioned to approve two expenditures earmarked for ARPA funds: four election booths (\$543.23) and installation of a holding tank, inspection fees and boring of a water line (\$8,268.50) as part of the Town Hall Building Project. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Seal Coat and Traffic Marking Projects – No projects were identified for the 2023 year.

Signs and Posts – No replacement signs or posts were identified for the 2023 year.

Gravel Changes – Tabled until the December meeting.

Wood Stove – Tabled until the December meeting.

Officer resignation -- Trites announced he would resign as a Girard Township Supervisor effective Jan. 1, 2023. Pedersen made a motion to appoint Brad Grewe to fill the balance of the term until the Township Election in March 2023. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously. He will send a letter of resignation before the December meeting.

Meeting date changes -- Following discussion, it was agreed a change in meeting dates was in order to accommodate snowplowing duties by supervisors and Luhnig as they often occur on the Township's Saturday meeting time, so attendance is impossible. Generally, snowplowing stops around 5 p.m. on weekdays, making it easier for board members who also do snowplowing to make the meetings. Trites motioned to change the meeting date to the third Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall beginning in December, and to continue until April 2023. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The clerk will post the meeting changes at the Town Hall and publish it in the Battle Lake Review and Citizen's Advocate prior to the meeting.

Luhnig time off: Luhnig requested that the remaining one week of vacation he earned in 2022 be carried over to January 2023 when his baby is due. Estes motioned to allow the week

to be carried over to January 2023. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Trites will contact Christianson's to cover any snow plowing needs during the week Luhning will be off.

Purchase of a CD – Trites brought up for discussion the purchase of a CD considering the large Money Market balance. Trites moved that Girard Township open a 9 month CD for \$150,000. Pedersen seconded. Following discussion, Estes amended to the motion to increase the CD amount to \$200,000. The motion and amendment were approved unanimously. Trites will make initial contact with the Township bank.

The next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 6 p.m., at the Girard Town Hall.

Estes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Trites seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

---

Chairman

Approval date:

---

Clerk