

Girard Township
Regular Monthly Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday , January 16, 2024 – 6 p.m.
Website: (www.girardtownship.us)

Chairman Al Pedersen opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag at 6 p.m.

Present: Chairman Al Pedersen, supervisors-Brad Grewe and Larry Estes, treasurer Kathy Trites, and clerk Debbie Irmén

Absent: Luhning (vacation time off)

Visitors: No visitors attended the meeting.

Grewe moved to approve the agenda for the Jan. 16, 2024, regular meeting. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Grewe moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, regular meeting as presented Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Trites presented the December financial report showing a beginning balance of \$841,980.52, with receipts totaling \$5,159.97, and disbursements totaling \$14,266.65, for an ending balance of \$832,873.84. Fund balances were as follows: General: \$106,724.73; R&B: \$463,708.48; Spec. Rev.: \$27,176.15; Fire: \$124,787.00; Ambulance: 42,793.65; Spec. Assess: \$23,784.21.

Estes moved to accept the claims as presented/audited, totaling \$10,764.57, any additional bills that might be presented at the meeting; and payroll (Estes, Grewe, Irmén, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites). Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mail—Estes and Grewe will attend the Fire mtg. Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

5. Reports/Information

Roads and Equipment – Luhning absent, but he sent a report to the clerk: Roads are good, and equipment is running well. He requested the board consider purchase of new bucket for the tractor as the current one is getting rusted out.

The Clerk reported that last month's claims amount was off because she had a claim entered twice. The correct amount should have been \$6,605.58 which was approved with the December minutes. However, a new claims report for the corrected amount must be signed. Filings closed today, at 5 p.m., with Larry Estes and Debbie Irmén the only candidates to file for their respective positions. The Otter Tail County Assessor's office has set the Girard Township Board of Review and Equalization meeting for 9 a.m. Friday, April 26, at the Town Hall. A quorum is required, along with one member who has attended training. There is an option for online training that Grewe may take. The policy manual and job description has been sent off to

the attorney for review. A boat located at 40270 Girard Beach Road has been moved off the roadway.

Pedersen reported that BL Fire and Rescue discussed charging for false alarms; a grant for \$65,000 was written to cover some of the expense of turnout gear; and a grant was written for a new fire truck and tanker, which if received, would leave Girard with approximately \$10,000 for its share of the cost for the new vehicles.

6. New Business/Additions to Agenda

The clerk reported on the status of election judges, noting that Carol Jacobson and Donna Smith had retired from service, leaving a shortage of two judges. She asked for names of people interested in serving be sent to her. Pedersen moved to approve the following election judges: Cathie Prescott-Adamietz, Debbie Irmien and Kathy Trites as head judges, Debby Heidenson, Harriet Christianson, Jane Dixon, Jeanne Patterson, Mary Olinger, and Sandra and David Gregg. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Estes moved to approve the standard mileage rate at .67 (cents) a mile, based on the IRS rate. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the annual weed report. Pedersen filled out the pertinent information, with a request that the clerk determine the 2023 expenses to complete the report and mail it in.

Grewe moved to set up a fuel account at the new gas station in Henning. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen reported that he had not heard back yet from Nathan regarding a replacement tarp, originally estimated at \$5,000.

8. Dates to remember

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 – Township election filing period opens

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 -- Regular monthly meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 -- Township election filing period closes today

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024 -- Regular monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024 – Board of Audit meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Monday, Feb. 26, 2024 – Henning Fire Dept. Annual Meeting, Ambulance mtg. at 7 p.m.; Fire mtg. at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 4, 2024 – EOT Spring Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Thumper Pond (Location TBD)

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – Presidential Primary Election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. polls open at Girard Town Hall

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – Girard Township Annual Meeting, beginning at 2:30 and not to go past 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 – Girard Township Election, 5 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 -- Regular monthly meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – Organizational meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Friday, April 26, 2024 – Board of Equalization and Review, 9 a.m., Town Hall

Estes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.