

Girard Township
Regular Monthly Meeting
and Organizational Meeting AGENDA
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 6 p.m.
Website: (www.girardtownship.us)

Chairman Al Pedersen opened meeting at 6 p.m. with the pledge to the flag.
Present: Supervisors Pedersen, Grewe, Estes, Treasurer Trites, Clerk Irmen, and road worker, W. Luhning.
Visitors: No visitors

There were two changes to the agenda: the deletion of Blackjack Drive dust control discussion which will be addressed at the April meeting; and the addition of the Mid-Central Equipment quote for a bucket on the tractor. Estes moved to approve the agenda with the mentioned changes. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Organizational Meeting Items of Business

A nomination was made for Al Pedersen to continue as board chairman. Upon hearing no other nominations, Estes moved to approve Pedersen as board chairman. Grewe seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to accept the following appointment of committee jobs:

Supervision of Roads – Estes, Pedersen, Grewe

Weed Inspection — Estes, Pedersen, Grewe

Fire Department Representative – Pedersen-primary, Estes, Grewe (BL; attend Henning and Vining as needed)

Building and Approach Permits/Inspections – Estes, Pedersen, Grewe

Safety Director -- Grewe

Additional Tasks (All): Regulate Heat, windows, check humidifier in basement, turn water on/off, lock doors, election cleaning.

Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Estes moved to make no changes to wages or hourly rates; and that the road maintenance worker position will be reviewed in May. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

No changes will be made to the Shared Road Maintenance rates, which are in line with what the Battle Lake Motor Patrol charges: \$200/100 per hour/.5 per hour for snow plowing; \$165/hr., \$82.50/.5 hr. for blading). The clerk reported that the quarterly billing was well-received in 2023.

Pedersen moved to designate The Battle Lake Review, Citizen's Advocate (Henning), and The Daily Journal as needed as the Official Newspapers for publishing Girard Township notices, etc.; to retain First National Bank-Henning as the official depository; and Girard Townhall as the official posting site for notices and announcements. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Grewe moved to accept the Federal mileage rate of .67 per mile for 2024, and to follow the federal mileage rate for each year in the future, without having to approve the increase each year. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

With no additional business deemed necessary, Estes moved to adjourn the organizational meeting. Pedersen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting transitioned to the regular monthly meeting with a second by Estes to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held **Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024**, at the Town Hall. Pederson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report – February –Treasurer Trites presented the February Financial report showing a beginning balance of \$821,628.98, with receipts totaling \$31,543.35, and disbursements totaling \$10,873.48, for an ending balance of \$842,298.95. Fund balances were as follows: General Fund: \$108,843.60; R&B: \$449,433.05; Spec. Rev.: \$27,176.15; Fire: - \$124,136.03; Ambulance: \$42,858.92; Spec. Assess: \$23,784.21. Capital Projects: \$92,868.80; and Equipment Fund: \$200,800.28 for a total ending balance of \$821,628.98. Estes moved to approve the February Financials. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kathy (.10 off to correct error from January – all should look normal on March financial report.)

Estes moved to approve the claims as presented/audited, totaling \$59,428.53 (which includes the Battle Lake Fire and Rescue Agreement fee of \$38,000.00, Vining Fire Protection fee of \$1,127.00, and the Henning Fire Protection fee of \$12,815.96); payroll for (Estes, Grewe, Irmen, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites), Election Judges pay at \$1624.50, Moderator fee of \$100; and any additional claims that may be presented at this meeting. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mail—The clerk highlighted or read mail from the following: Pro-Ag annual meeting March 14; Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union request for future RFPs for management of funds; Carr's Tree Service; Henning Fire and Ambulance Annual Meeting Minutes; and Emergency Management Summit Invite; Representative Tom Murphy letter.

Reports/Information

Roads and Equipment – Road Maintenance worker Will Luhning reported that TNT had worked on the grader when the starter failed after they had previously repaired it. He indicated that Chippewa heading north is in need of road repair. He requested the clerk call the new fuel station in Henning to open an account. After a brief discussion, Grewe moved to get new bristles and tires for the sweeper at a cost of approximately \$1200. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk gave a brief summary of the EOT Township Assoc. meeting, including the Ambulance Service Crisis; requested a registration check for those attending the Short Course Training (\$75/person) (Kathy and Debbie are planning to attend the training in Alexandria on March 29. Cost per person is \$75.00); She reported that she had received an updated Certificate of Insurance from Lakes Area Tree Service and Ottertail Aggregate; She read a letter from Dr. Robert Pollock requesting no Dust Control be applied in front of his house on Blackjack Drive; Presented emails from United Township Officers requesting a no vote on bylaws changes; Township Day at the Capitol is planned for April 8 and 9—Al said he might be able to attend; Asked about who would be attending the EOT Weed Meeting so she could RSVP to Pete Guck. Al and Larry said they would be attending.

The supervisors asked that weed spraying and stump grinding be added to the April Agenda. Fire meeting – Pedersen – there was little new to report from the fire meeting.

New Business/Additions to Agenda

Estes moved to approve both the Greenwaldt Building Permit to build a stick frame 24x40 garage (no septic or well required) on slab at 27767 Co. Hwy. 55, Henning for Todd Krueger (Lost Paradise LLC). Estimated construction cost is \$100,000 with an anticipated start of 04/15 and completion expected by 06/15; and the Miller Building Permit to build a 12x34 porch on a 1,600 sq-ft existing house at 45175 275th St., Henning for Gourd Lake Miller Properties. Estimated construction cost is \$5,000 with an anticipated start date of 04/22 and completion expected by Oct. 30, 2024. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Estes moved to approve the fire protection agreements with the cities of Vining and Henning and the Battle Lake Area Fire and Rescue Membership. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

With the approval of the claims, the supervisors accepted the Election Judge payment for the primary election, the township election (03/05 and 03/12) and election judge training for the following judges: Jeanne Patterson (1), Mary Olinger (1), Laurie Torgerson (2), Sandy Gregg (2), Harriet Christianson (2), Jane Dixon (2), Laurie Behr (1), Kathy Trites (1) at a total cost of \$1624.50.

A quote for \$2200 from Mid-Central Equipment for a utility bucket was reviewed. There were questions about the cost of new vs. repairing the present one, so the supervisors requested further research be done and the topic added to the April agenda.

Dates to remember

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

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

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 -- Noxious Weed meeting 8:30 a.m. at EOT SWCD, 801 Jenny Ave. SW, Perham

Friday, March 29, 2024 -- Short Course Training, Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, registration begins at 8 a.m., meetings begin at 9 a.m.?

Thursday, March 28, 2024 -- Battle Lake Area Fire and Rescue Association Annual Mtg., 7 p.m. at the Battle Lake Fire Hall

Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9, 2024 -- Township Day at the Capitol, St. Paul

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

Thursday, April 18, 2024 -- Operation Rubble Rendezvous, (10th annual Emergency Management Summit) 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Perham Area Community Center

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 -- Regular monthly meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 -- Road Check drive and meeting

After reviewing the upcoming dates, Grewe made a motion to change the Road Check drive and meeting to Friday, April 26, 2024, immediately following the Board of Equalization meeting. Pedersen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Grewe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.