

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

Supervisor Grewe opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

Present: Supervisors Pedersen, Grewe and Estes, Treasure Trites, Clerk Irmen

Absent: Road worker Luhning

Visitor: Engineer Stabnow

- Visitors may address a topic for up to five minutes when the topic is brought up for discussion on the agenda.

Estes moved to approve the July 16, 2024, regular meeting agenda with no additions or deletions). Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Estes moved to approve the Minutes of the regular monthly meeting held **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, at the Town Hall. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Estes moved to approve the minutes from the closed meeting for staff evaluation held **Tuesday, June 18, 2024**, at the Town Hall. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report – May/June – Treasurer reported the clerk is sorting out the financials from when the CD was properly entered into CTAS, but that the numbers matched up with the bank balance.

Estes moved to approve the July claims totaling \$43,866.66, which includes a late arriving invoice from the Otter Tail County Highway Dept. for signage, and an invoice from Matt Jensen for two beaver; payroll for Estes, Grewe, Irmen, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk noted highlights from the MAT Newsletter.

Reports/Information

Roads and Equipment – Luhning noted that all equipment was in good working order. The sheriff was called to have a deputy visit with a person who was illegally dumping sewage in the road right-of-way. Luhning also reported storm damage from 07/13, which included trees/branches down on 275th St., El Will Road, and Blackjack Drive. Larry will call to have the trees cleaned up.

The clerk reported that a noxious weed letter was sent to Linda Heifort indicting that the weeds must be sprayed or mowed. She noted that a similar letter was sent to this property owner a couple years ago. She also presented information regarding a company which provides Automated Texting to Township residents – an estimated cost could be about \$1,000/mo. The

supervisors felt township residents receive any emergency notification through the Otter Tail County's texting service. PERA notified the township of upcoming changes, which essentially provides for specific times for open enrollment, except in the case of life/work changes or within 30 days of hire or an election.

Fire meeting – Supervisor Grewe indicated he would be attending the fire meeting in the absence of Pedersen, who usually attends the meetings.

New Business/Additions to Agenda

FYI – Clarification of ditch mowing and noxious weed control letter from Darren Newville, EOT SWCD regarding first cuttings. Full ditch cutting is prohibited until Aug. 1 for conservation.

County townships received a letter encouraging reporting storm damage to include photos and other documentation requirements should emergency federal funding be available. Collectively, the reports may help the county receive money to cover cleanup expenses.

Aaron Kugler requested a building permit to build a storage building at 23737 Co Hwy 5, Henning; An approach permit was requested by Valley Ridge Grains to build an approach, and to widen an existing approach to allow easier access by farm equipment. Estes moved to approve all requests. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

FYI – The fuel barrel tank approved last month, was installed and filled by Gappa. The invoice is among those approved for this month.

Girard Employee Handbook – Final printing with change from Chairman to Supervisor throughout.

Dates to remember

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024 – Primary Election

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024 – Continuation of Annual Meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall

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

Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024 – District 9 Meeting, Time TBD, Thumper Pond, Ottertail

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 13-14 – MAT Annual Conference – River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

Monday, January 27, 2025 – Township Day at the Capitol, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Paul

With no further business to discuss, Estes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.