

Girard Township

Regular Monthly Meeting -- MINUTES

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

Website: (www.girardtownship.us)

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

Present: Supervisors Al Pedersen, Brad Grewe, and Larry Estes, Treasurer Kathy Trites, Road Maintenance Worker Will Luhning, and Clerk Debbie Irmen

Visitors: Tricia O'Meara, Marlin Irons, and Jeff Stabnow

Public Comment Period

Visitors may address a topic for up to five minutes during this period.

Resident Marlin Irons presented a complaint regarding parking at the Sip House on Four Squares Road, saying Sip House guest vehicles outnumber the allotted number of parking spaces and homeowners' driveways are being blocked. Chairman Pedersen suggested installing no parking signs on one side of the road to ensure no resident driveways are blocked and to allow business access in case of an emergency. The resident was also advised to take his complaint to the Otter Tail County Commissioners as they granted the permit.

Grewe moved to approve agenda for the November 19, 2024, regular meeting with two additions under new business: F. A request by Jay Christianson to build a mini golf course at Big Fish on Highway 78; and G. Sip House Parking. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held **Tuesday, October 15, 2024**, at the Town Hall. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Trites presented the November financial report showing a beginning balance of \$860,112.12, with receipts totaling \$179,889.88 and disbursements totaling \$9403.59, for an ending balance of \$1,030,598.41. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Grewe moved to approve the claims as presented totaling \$7,543.07; including payroll for Estes, Grewe, Irmen, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites, Election Judges totaling \$1,140.00; and any additional claims that may be presented at this meeting. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Information

Roads and Equipment – Luhning – Trees were cleared from the Mason Lake Road ROW. No bids have been received for the shop drain project. Pedersen suggested perhaps a sump pump would be sufficient to keep water out of the shop area. The plow truck is ready and the wing will be put on the grader soon in preparation for snow removal work. A snow fence will be put up soon on Chippewa road.

Clerk Irmen reported Election results as follows: Polls were open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and saw 426 voters. There were 11 new registrants who registered on the Poll Pad. There were a total of 7 election judges, plus Irmen and Trites as Head Judges. Payroll for the election

judges totaled \$1,140.00 in stipends (excludes the head judges election expenses); The clerk also reported that she registered Chairman Pedersen and herself for the MAT Annual Conference. The clerk attended Year-end Reporting training in St. Michael Nov. 14; She also noted that she moved to paperless billing for Arvig, saving \$3.22 per month or \$38.64 annually; Township election positions open for election include Al Pedersen (supervisor) and Kathy Trites (treasurer). The filing period is open from Dec. 31, 2024, through Jan. 14, 2025. There was a change in leadership following MAT President of the Board Gary Burdoff's retirement. Jill Hall was named new president. No one attended the variance hearing for impervious surface covering on Thursday, Nov. 14. The supervisors saw no need for anyone to attend Otter Tail County-sponsored Plow Training in Battle Lake Dec. 5-6. Current laminated labor posters were given to Will to post in the shop.

C. Fire meeting – Pedersen noted that BL didn't receive the turnout gear grant and is considering how to pay for the approximately \$32,750 gear. The grant for thermal imaging equipment was received and training on the equipment is planned. Pedersen is also on the team who will interview 2 to 4 candidates for open positions. Personnel policy updates are still in the works.

New Business/Additions to Agenda

Action on OTC Cannabis Resolution – This can wait until the county and/or state determines its requirements. Action on this ordinance was tabled until a future meeting on the advice of OTC Administrator Nicole Hansen.

The purchase of another CD was discussed. The treasurer noted that the previous CD purchased by the township expires in January and that it could be renewed for an additional two years, while the new CD should be for a term of one year. Following the discussion, Estes moved that the treasurer purchase a \$300,000 CD, drawn from the Township's NOW account at First National Bank for a term of 1 year at 3.89% interest and that she renew the original CD at 3.32% when it comes up for renewal in January. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

With a motion from Grewe, the supervisors designated that interest off the two CDs be directed to the Fire Fund to reduce the negative fund balance in that fund. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Following discussion about following state statutes 177.253 and 177.254 regarding mandatory work and meal breaks, Pedersen moved that the Township employee must clock out daily for a 20-minute work break within each four-hour set of consecutive hours of work, and also clock out daily for a 30-minute meal break and clock in when he returns to work. All breaks are unpaid. The exception to clocking out for work and meal breaks is when the employee is snow plowing. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Following a brief discussion on upgrading the township laptop and purchasing a printer for the Town hall at an approximate cost of \$1,299.00 for the laptop and approximately \$300 for a printer, Pedersen made a motion to allow the purchases. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The clerk will place the order.

Acting on a request from Jay Christianson to build a mini golf course, Grewe moved to accept the project. Pedersen seconded. Discussion: As there are no permits that apply to such a project, the motion was simply a formal way to accept the course, which will be constructed at Big Fish. Motion carried unanimously.

Following additional discussion on the parking complaint at the Sip House, Pedersen moved to install two to three No Parking on this Side of the Street signs along the driveway side of Four Square Road near the Sip House. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Following discussion, the supervisors determined that a Commercial-Duty Sweeper-Vac would not meet the needs of keeping the shop free of vehicle drip-off. Another solution will be researched.

Following discussion about traffic marking projects available through Otter Tail County, Pedersen moved to adopt a resolution to restripe a section of road with a center line only beginning on 230th Street at County Road 5 and continuing to 440th Ave. to Liberty Drive to County Highway 16, which is about a 4-mile stretch of road. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Following discussion about township seal coating projects, Pedersen moved to adopt a resolution to seal coat the road beginning at the End of Evert Townline Road and Girard Beach Rd and Garland Lane. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dates to remember

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 – Cannabis Regulations Public Hearing, 6 p.m. Commissioner's Room, OTC Government Services Center.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024 – Regular Township Meeting, 6 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

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

Grewe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Pedersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Chairman

Clerk

Approval date: