

Girard Township

Regular Monthly Meeting -- MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 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, and Clerk Debbie Irmen

Absent: Road Maintenance Worker Will Luhning

Visitors: Jeff Stabnow, township road engineer; Jeff and Karen Lees, Jerry and Sandy Emmerich, Pam Beyer, Peter Christianson, Kim and Bill Hatling, Kathy Love and Brad Latzke, Brooke Olson, Brian and Jean Davis, and Ron and Cheryl Hardyman.

Public Comment Period

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

Grewe moved to approve agenda for the December 17, 2024, regular meeting. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**, at the Town Hall. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Trites presented the November financial report showing a beginning balance of \$1,030,598.41, with receipts totaling \$2,507.54 and disbursements totaling \$16,114.83, for an ending balance of \$1,016,991.12. The treasure also reported that she had purchased a CD in the amount of \$300,000 with funds from the NOW account, set to mature in one year, per the supervisors' approval in November. As approved in November, interest from the account will be directed to the Fire Fund. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

Grewe moved to approve the claims as presented totaling \$1,780.01; including payroll for Estes, Grewe, Irmen, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites, and any additional claims that may be presented at this meeting. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk read a holiday greeting from Glendalough Park Partners which included dates for a Park Walk and Grand Opening of the new Trail Center.

Reports/Information

Roads and Equipment – Luhning – No report was available.

Clerk Irmen reported she had purchased a laptop and printer for use in township business at a total cost of just over \$1,500; the Affidavit of candidacy applications were updated by the Minnesota Secretary of State's office and that they would need to be submitted during the filing period which opens Dec. 31, 2024, and closes Jan. 14, 2025. A call was received from resident Jeff Shirkey on El Will Road asking about snowplowing on his gravel road following a light snowfall. With the road not yet frozen, plowing would have caused damage

to the gravel surface. The clerk has gotten the minutes of the previous 10 years or so updated on the website along with a few other updates and will continue to make updates as time goes on. She asked about using a different method of preparing the supervisor's report and was granted permission to proceed with the new process.

Fire meeting – No report was provided. The next fire meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, which Pedersen will attend.

New Business/Additions to Agenda

Pedersen moved to approve the Board of Review and Equalization date for Friday, April 25, 2025, as set by the OTC Assessor's Office. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen also approved the 2025 January through December meeting dates, which include all the additional annual meetings for the year. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting dates included in the meeting packets will be posted online and at the town hall and will also be available during regular business meetings.

Old Business

The clerk read an email correspondence from the Ottertail Fire Dept. Fire Chief Joe Ahlfs (full text on file) which indicated that as long as the road has a drivable lane open for emergency vehicles to get through, parking along the road isn't a problem. He also noted that as an attendee of several large events held at the Sip House, parking is diligently addressed with staff directing traffic to ensure an open lane down the road. The email also discussed mutual aid agreements. A large group of Township residents attended the meeting to speak on behalf of the Sip House on Four Square Road, saying parking issues were always addressed immediately by the owners. Chairman Pedersen, acting on an approved motion from November, was planning to install no parking signs on the driveway side of the road, however, homeowners indicated they didn't want the signs on their property. Sip House Owner Jeff Lees spoke saying the business is open 22 hours per week and that the sheriff had felt there was no problem with how parking was managed. Lees noted that there are six times a year when there are a lot of vehicles, and he would put out orange cones with No Parking signs during those events if the board wanted. A property owner who lives next door to the business said the owners are very diligent about addressing parking concerns and that if his driveway is blocked by a vehicle the owners make sure to correct the issue immediately. Pedersen moved to place a sign between the driveway of the complainant and the corner, which would allow law enforcement to enforce parking complaints as a reasonable solution. Grewe seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The large group of residents left the meeting.

Additional projects were approved to spend the remaining approximately \$14,705 of the ARPA grant to include spray foam insulation and replacement of ceiling tiles at the town hall, and/or partially pay for a shop drainage system. Grewe moved to approve the projects; Estes approved. Motion carried unanimously. Pallet racking was purchased per November's approval and the expenditure of the purchase was approved as a reimbursement to Pedersen.

It was noted that a business sign on Four Square Road was placed on the township right-of-way. Supervisors will address any issues with the placement of the sign as they arise.

Dates to remember

Dec. 31, 2024, thru January 14, 2025 – Filing period open for township seats (Supervisor and Treasurer)

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 – 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

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Board of Audit, 5:30 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting, 6 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – Annual Township Meeting, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., at Girard Town Hall

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – Township Election 5 to 8 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – Organizational Meeting 6 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – Regular Township Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Friday, April 25, 2025 – Board of Equalization Meeting, 9:30 p.m. at Girard Town Hall

Friday, April 25, 2025 – Road Check meeting, approximately 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 26, 2025 – Walk for Glendalough

Saturday, June 14, 2025 – Glendalough Trail Center Grand Opening

With no further business to conduct, Grewe moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman

Clerk

Approval date: