

Girard Township minutes
Tuesday, August 15, 2023
Regular Monthly Meeting

Following the Continuation
of Annual Meeting at approximately 7 p.m.

Chairman Pedersen opened the regular meeting.

Present: Pedersen, Grewe, Estes, K. Trites, Luhning, and Irmen

Visitors: Jeff Stabnow, Jim Trites, Dan Christensen; Blackjack Drive property owners Barb and Mark Irons, and Anne and Greg LaPlante.

Grewe moved to approve the agenda with an update to the claims total to \$26,363.77, and an addition to the Dates to Remember to include the Annual Conference dates. Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Grewe moved to approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting held Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at the Townhall. Estes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer presented the financial report showing a beginning July balance of \$801,542.97, with receipts totaling \$8,376.86, and disbursements totaling \$40,932.55, for an ending balance of \$768,987.28. She also reported that the interest on the CD was assessed in July in the amount of \$3,967.12. Estes moved to approve the financial report as presented, with Grewe providing a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Grewe moved to approve the claims as presented, totaling \$26,363.77, along with any additional claims that might be presented at this meeting, and payroll for Estes, Grewe, Irmen, Jacobson, Luhning (2), Pedersen, and K. Trites) Estes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The clerk noted a couple of mail items: 1) Upcoming Regional Digital Equity meetings; and a note of appreciation on how a township road is well maintained, sent by property owners. Additional mail was available for the supervisors to look over as well.

Road Report: Luhning reported that some patching had been completed on Chippewa, Girard Road, and Grace Etta in the past month. It was determined that Al would talk to Henning Township regarding repairing a hole in the road right-of-way. Leafy spurge weed control: weeds will be mowed as opposed to sprayed. Luhning requested vacation time from Sept. 11-15, which the supervisors agreed to by consensus.

Clerk's Report: With the addition of Internet service, the clerk shared necessary Wi-Fi credentials (visitors reported getting a strong signal) and provided an update on updating the Website with a demonstration. The Website address is: www.girardtownship.us. She indicated that she had added permit information to the site so property owners wishing to obtain a building permit or approach permit could now get

them online from the Girard Website. She also added the permit fee schedule and approach standards. She worked with a property owner who was seeking an approach permit and they both thought the system worked well. Over the coming weeks and months, she will be adding previous years' minutes and other information and updating the photos in the photo slide.

District 9 meeting recap: The District 9 meeting was held Monday, August 14, 2023, in Dilworth. The following highlights were noted: The State Auditor said that a new version of CTAS will be rolled out soon. Legislators said the gas tax was increasing but that as electric vehicles become more prevalent, townships were likely to see a loss of revenue. They also said that townships are experiencing excessive weed issues due to the state's poor weed management of its owned land. Another items townships will need to address is funding paid family leave in the upcoming years. Townships were cautioned to stay out of the cannabis business as it opens a difficult can of worms.

New business

Pedersen moved to approve a claim from July that came in the day after the meeting for the township's portion of dust control on Blackjack Drive in the amount of \$1,594.56. (Supervisors had approved the agreement to pay 60% of the total cost at a previous meeting, however, the total amount wasn't known at that meeting. The clerk paid the bill on that approval, but the final cost needed to be approved.) Grewe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Residents of Blackjack Drive expressed their appreciation to the supervisors of how well their road has been maintained. They introduced the topic of the township taking over the entire cost of the dust control application as they feel it is in the best interest of the township in keeping the road well-maintained, and it has gotten difficult to collect the owners' portion of the cost. **No action** was taken at this time as dust control is applied in late spring or early summer. The residents indicated they just wanted the supervisors to think about the matter over the winter and they will bring it before the board in the spring.

An approach application for Kloubec, located at 23647 Clarissa Haven Dr., **was tabled** until a later meeting following a site inspection and conversation with the owner by the chairman, to allow the property owner to do some further work in determining its optimal location.

Grewe moved to approve a permission request from Telcom Construction to plow 168 feet of 3pr 22 gauge copper cable, including a bore under Liberty Lane from ped to splice pit by 45340 Liberty Lane, with the understanding should any problems arise from that installation, now or in the future, it is the responsibility of Telcom Construction to repair or correct the issue. Estes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Regarding a plugged culvert, Pedersen said the water is now flowing freely through the culvert after material was cleared out.

Grewe moved to accept the bid of Mid-Central Equipment to replace a tarp over one of the township structures, in the amount of \$5,850.00. Estes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to accept the Fixed Fuel Contract offered by Pro-Ag Farmers Co-op in the amount of \$1.59/gal. Estes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Pedersen moved to approve an assessment reduction for Liberty Lane property owners Rodney and Catheryne Peddycoart. They were originally assessed \$1,448.85 for a front lot; however, their lot is a backlot and should have been assessed for \$289.77. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Grewe moved to approve a \$100 registration fee for both Irmen and Trites to attend 4-Corners Training for Clerks and Treasurers Oct. 2, in Fergus Falls. Estes seconded. Motion approved unanimously. (The updated claims total for August, with this addition, is \$26,463.77)

Estes moved to allow funds provided to Otter Tail County for Voting Operations, Technology, & Election Resources (VOTER) for disbursement to townships in the amount of \$52.49, to remain with the county. Grewe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Grewe moved to have the clerk send a letter of interest to Otter Tail County for a disk mower (Vin: #1EOR240XJLL461908) to cost \$9,500.00. Estes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Action on the township Maintenance Worker job description/safety handbook was tabled until a future meeting to allow the clerk to get all documents in order.

The next regular meeting of the Township Board will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, at the Town Hall.

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

Chairman

Clerk

Approval date: