



MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

September 20, 2022 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Call 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 864 2129 6130 Passcode: 067764

Town Hall 33155 Hemingway Avenue, Stacy, MN 55079

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

R. Keller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Members present: Chairperson R. Keller, Vice Chair T. Nelson, Supervisor B. Seekon, Supervisor C. Cagle, Supervisor J. Eischens

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Treasurer S. Aker, Clerk K. Wood, Deputy Clerk T. Smolke, Maintenance Supervisor M. Fehrman, Maintenance Staff C. Griffin, Planning Commission Member D. Stiers, Town Engineer J. Pelawa, County Commissioner B. Montzka, Stacy Mayor M. Utecht, and 9 members of the public signed in/attended virtually

REVIEW & APPROVE THE AGENDA

T. Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by C. Cagle. T. Nelson would like to add the discussion of pickleball courts under Parks. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 16, 2022

T. Nelson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 16, 2022. Second by J. Eischens. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

REVIEW & APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

B. Seekon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by T. Nelson. The SealTech line was questioned as the roadwork is finished, but it is referring to the Town Hall parking lot with striping. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Section 3 Definitions; and Amending Chapter 2 Section 5.10 Rural Transit Center District of the Lent Township Land Use Regulations (Ordinance 2022-06)

* J. Pelawa addressed the Board, stating he is no longer with Bolton and Menk and is heading an office in Hermantown, JPJ. J. Eischens questioned mileage and J. Pelawa explained it is discussed at the project stage and he does not believe Lent Township has ever been charged it. R. Keller said J. Pelawa is reasonable and really seems to care about Lent. A possible existing contract between the Township and the firm was discussed but deemed unlikely. **B. Seekon made a motion to approve continuing with current Engineer's services as long as there is no contract. Second by T. Nelson. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried. ***

T. Nelson made a motion and B. Seekon made a second for discussion. R. Keller reported he and C. Cagle were at the Planning Commission meeting. J. Eischens said if the city does not allow outdoor storage, it has to be screened. R. Keller said if we move forward with Stacy, we will discuss it then.

Landscaping Policy

R. Keller explained this applies to the RTC and what trees and where. C. Cagle made a motion to accept and J. Eischens made a second for discussion. J. Eischens suggested willow trees not be accepted as they



are messy and C. Cagle agreed, stating they have an intense root system. **Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.**

Planning Commission Vice Chair

R. Keller said the Commission is being reorganized and that the current Commission Chair would like to reinforce J. Johnson as Vice Chair and T. Schroeder as Chair. C. Cagle agreed and explained that T. Schroeder is great with contracts and is thorough. **J. Eischens made a motion to approve the Commission Vice Chair. Second by B. Seekon. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.**

Annexation Agreement with the City of Stacy (Resolution 2022-33)

R. Keller said this should be tabled until there is an agreement on staff wages. He said Mayor Utecht is in attendance to address the issue and it is just a matter of getting the numbers right. T. Nelson said that the Lent staff wages are already in the annual budget so there is no added expense to Stacy. M. Utecht said the city cannot verify from their pay matrix based on a job being done at different pay levels, by law, and they cannot offer benefits different from their personnel policy. He cannot confirm Lent staff wages will remain the same because he is not sure where the study will go and this should be handled after the merger. T. Nelson asked the mayor if the city is able to fund in increase in wages in this year's budget and M. Utecht responded that just because the matrix might move, it does not mean wages would go up. He spoke briefly on insurance benefits and said he is waiting on his clerk to check on feasible options. Changing providers was discussed but M. Utecht said someone with a lot of existing medical conditions would not want to see a change in providers, ever. C. Cagle said the Board told their employees that they would keep their wages and that it needs to be solidified in writing. M. Utecht said he reached out to the city's finance person again to add a sense of urgency on getting quotes from another company for the study. M. Fehrman addressed the mayor saying that he was told he would be the city's Maintenance Supervisor and asked how the city was able to budget the much higher wage that was offered to the city's new hire. C. Griffin said this matrix review is an important issue. B. Seekon said this is a hard pill to swallow and there is a good chance of losing employees that are watching this closely. M. Utecht said both entities have five voices and reassured those entities have equal input. R. Keller said he does not want to make a motion because this discussion is needed and B. Seekon agreed. *B. Montzka entered at 7:49pm.* M. Utecht reiterated the wage study has to be done before any compensation can be adjusted. He went on to request both entities split the cost of the wage study and informed the Board that this is the first big money the city has spent on this annexation. **B. Seekon made a motion to split the cost of the wage study. Second by T. Nelson.** The cost of the study was discussed and it was agreed that only a reasonable price would be approved. **Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.** M. Utecht also mentioned pay equity. The Council cannot simply move around job duties and all employees fall into a grade level. Job responsibilities will be the biggest change. Maintenance and Clerks are fully expected to significantly increase and if the study does not reflect that, the council will challenge the company.

MATIT Departure Notice

R. Keller explained that this is the township's insurance. B. Seekon said they need a ninety-day notice if Lent no longer needs their services and that this is something the office staff can take care of.

Lions LG555 - \$500 Parks and Rec (Resolution 2022-32)

T. Nelson made a motion to approve the Lions LG555 for \$500 for Parks and Rec (Resolution 2022-32) Second by B. Seekon. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.



OLD BUSINESS

Interim Ordinance Update

K. Lindquist said the representative from Westmatic the gentleman that does inspections for the county were both in attendance at the Planning Commission meeting and both provided great information.

5265 318th Street Complaint – Reduction of fees

R. Keller gave a summary. The property owner was working to clean up his yard but passed away. D. Stiers said the property owner's son was in attendance. Fees were discussed and it was determined to be 920.25, and 5,100 last year. The legal fees totaled 900 and the administrative fees needed to be kept in mind. J. Eischens asked if a reduction in fees was requested or offered and C. Cagle said the latter. R. Keller said they are setting a precedence and T. Nelson would like to classify this as a hardship. D. Stiers said he met with the resident before he passed mainly because of the papers that were requested to be served by the deputy but wanted to have the resident's son speak to this. The resident's son addressed the board and gave a backstory. His father passed on September 8th. They moved to the house in 1998 and they had chickens, gardens, and a horse pasture next door. His father was a proud veteran with some health issues. After the property owner's passing, while cleaning the house, the family found the letters and fines from the township. The son is working hard to clean the property up in hopes of moving his sister there. C. Cagle said a percentage should be taken off because of the effort put in. **J. Eischens made a motion to reduce the fines by half. Second by C. Cagle. Votes via roll call, Ayes 3, Nays 2. Motion carried.** R. Keller addressed the son of the resident explaining they did what they could and thanked him for coming.

Stacy Lent Annexation Report

R. Keller said that this was already discussed.

North Branch/ Chisago Annexation Report

R. Keller said the documents are in and B. Seekon questioned if the other entities had signed. J. Eischens asked if we have anything from Chisago and T. Smolke said we are still waiting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Zoning

C. Cagle spoke on the Interim Ordinance and detailed the checks and balances in place. The hauler would be responsible for the toxic waste. Discussion was had about a new compliant on resident running a home occupation and the concern about medical waste and disposal means. K. Lindquist placed a call to the owner with no response as of yet. She is collecting information and would like to follow up with the Fire Marshall. C. Cagle mentioned their tour with Countryview Marine did not go as planned as they were shooed off of the property. The trees planted will not survive and there was a heavy oil smell. T. Nelson suggested a call to Soil and Water. C. Cagle said the carwash representative explained the station should be manned at all times but it is only a suggestion and not a requirement. Micromanaging too heavily was talked on but this will set the standard for the Township. K. Lindquist said a meter system is not a huge cost and would give a level of confidence over time.

Roads

R. Keller would like SealTech to go out to specific roads. J. Eischens asked about an issue reported by the Maintenance Supervisor. R. Keller explained that the Sherriff's Deputy was in attendance because of it. R. Keller apologized to the Deputy for wasting his time and explained that an unruly resident said a Deputy needs to be present at this meeting. R. Keller went on to give a summary of the issues and



explained this resident had threatened the entire Township Staff and other Sherriff's Deputies. This resident also claims he is personally suing everyone involved.

Parks

T. Nelson said there have been no meetings but let C. Cagle know the pickleball court will be cut on Thursday and be replaced on Tuesday. It will be unusable for approximately five days. It only took this long because the salesman never reported this issue to his supervisors.

Building

B. Seekon reported that there are a few low-priority jobs to complete. The Fire Hall was discussed at the last Joint Powers meeting. There are currently no other quotes for HVAC and the bays still need to be painted. T. Nelson said it is no longer feasible to get the bays painted prior to the Firehouse Bash.

Broadband

J. Eischens said there was nothing to report. She has not heard anything from Hometown Fiber.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA)

D. Milles said he would like to be considered to serve on the Planning Commission. J. Selvog reported that Ribfest went awesome and without a hitch. He thanked the Board for working with him to make it happen. Approximately 1500 people were in attendance with around 5600 in beer sales. There were 2000 Ribfest tickets for contestants. Last year they were sold out in 50 minutes and this year they were gone in only 18 minutes. D. Stiers thanked the Board for the break on 318th. He said it was a larger tragedy than most realize and just a bad situation all around. Countryview Marine representatives explained that they are not dumping oil, their oil filters are recycled, and they run as efficient as they can because they care about the environment. The dirt hauled in is for leveling the driveway and they are trying to downsize boat parts as they understand them being an eyesore. In regards to screening, they have tried a fence and dogwood trees that they paid a lot of money for. Their neighbor, the complainant, yelled and threatened them over issues pertaining to the land between their businesses that a survey deemed belonging to Countryview. R. Keller questioned why the meeting didn't happen. The representatives said the Planning Commission is welcome anytime before 6pm. They started the business with their father and have grown to ten employees and all customers leave good reviews. C. Cagle said this is hearsay and she would like to walk the property. What she saw was not pretty and moving forward, she would like to look at both sides.

TREASURER COMMENTS

S. Aker asked for clarification on billing the city of Stacy for the bridge and R. Keller explained Lent owns half of the bridge so the bill should be split equally. The Treasurer asked if a bill should go out for Stacy Daze but R. Keller said no because Lent likes to help out with that. They confirmed charging the city the hourly wages of Maintenance moving forward and not the cost previously discussed. T. Nelson asked about the help on Doyle Field. S. Aker said it was 2.5 hours and C. Griffin explained he helped restring the fencing. S. Aker said the \$90 per hour was turned down by the city but T. Nelson said the minimum hours were turned down. B. Montzka reported that in his twenty years as the County Commissioner he has spent so many millions of dollars on the county roads and feels they are in really good shape.

CLERK COMMENTS

K. Wood reminded everyone that Fall Cleanup was the following day

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

J. Eischens and County Commissioner B. Montzka discussed the levy.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ❖ Fall Cleanup Day – Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- ❖ CCATO Meeting – Wednesday, September 28, 2022 – 7:00 pm

B. Seekon said the meeting will be at Sunrise Township, J. Kreiger from MAT would be in attendance, and mentioned an important special election in January. R. Keller said the premium, and all insurances, are increasing drastically. B. Seekon spoke on the lack of representation we have with a group that is supposed to represent our district.

- ❖ Joint Planning Commission with Stacy – Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – 7:00 pm
- ❖ Planning Commission – Wednesday, October 12, 2022 – 7:00 pm
- ❖ Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 18, 2022 – 7:00 pm
- ❖ General Election – Tuesday, November 8, 2022 – 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

ADJOURN

C. Cagle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32pm. Second by J. Eischens. Votes via roll call, Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Board Chair Signature

Clerk Signature

