

Board Meeting Minutes
Maine Prairie Township
July 13, 2021

Attendees: Chair Kuechle, Supervisor Wicker, Supervisor Loewen, Deputy Clerk Robinson, Harold Walz, Erin Gutwasser, Stephanie Ramthun, Joel Makarrall; Clerk Hunt attended virtually

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kuechle with the pledge to the flag.

Planning and Zoning meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Board meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to approve the June 8, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

Nine (9) claims were presented for approval and payment for the month of June totaling \$70,049.80 (see claims list attached). In addition, one (1) claim was presented and paid to Knife River-North Central in the amount of \$164,522.25. Payroll expenses were paid in the amount of \$5,931.16. Receipts for June totaled \$306,857.80. Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit and pay claims as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

133rd Avenue: Two residents were in attendance to discuss 133rd Avenue. They informed the Board that the road is dusty and rough due to washboards and asked if the road could be graded. The Board stated that it doesn't do any good to grade the roads when it is this dry. As soon as we get rain, the road will be graded. This road was dust guarded this year and if the road is graded, the Township would need to consider dust guarding again because the chemicals would be graded off. The resident inquired about adding gravel. Board informed her that the Township is on a 3-year rotation meaning that the Township is split into three sections and each section is graveled every three years. This doesn't mean that if a road in another section is in need of gravel that it would have to wait until that road came up in the rotation for its maintenance. Maintenance would be done if needed. Another complaint was the lack of snow plowing last winter.

Nystrom Pit/93rd Avenue: Supervisor Loewen received phone calls about trucks hauling out of this pit and going North on 93rd Avenue. Trucks are supposed to enter the pit using Powder Ridge Road off Highway 15 and exiting the same way. Supervisor Loewen spoke to one of the drivers and informed him of this and the company ceased going north on 93rd Avenue. Stearns County Environmental Services issued the Interim Use Permit to Central Specialties for an asphalt plant. A copy of this permit will be requested from Environmental Services. The Board discussed means of stopping trucks entering and exiting the pit from the North. No further action will be taken at this time.

MOTION TO APPLY FOR ARPA FUNDING: Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to apply for funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. All in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

2021-2022 Road Maintenance/Chip Sealing: This matter was discussed by the board. Chairman Kuechle spoke with Bertram Asphalt about pricing for chip sealing and crack sealing specific roads in the Township. Bertram asked Chair Kuechle to provide him with the roads being considered for this work and then Bertram would give the Township a proposal. A quote was received from ASTECH on June 7th for this work. The Board decided the roads that would be done this year are: **163rd Street; Danzig Road and Powder Ridge Road from Highway 15 West to Balkan Road.**

After further discussion, Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to accept ASTECH'S proposal with a cap not to exceed \$70,000 for crack sealing and sealcoating 163rd Street, Danzig Road and Powder Ridge Road from Highway 15 West to Balkan Road. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion/Information

Kingston Street: Chair Kuechle had a discussion with Ned Root, Kingston Township Chairperson after the June 8th Township Board Meeting. No agreement was reached during this conversation so Maine Prairie will move forward with terminating the Road Maintenance Agreement with Kingston Township. A termination letter dated July 13, 2021, will be sent this week referencing the sixty (60) day notice of termination with an end date of September 10th, 2021.

Knife River Invoice/83rd Avenue North: Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Lowen to pay the Knife River invoice less a 5% retainage billed for 83rd Avenue North. All in favor, motion carried. Clerk Hunt instructed to pay the Knife River invoice in the amount of \$173,181.25 less a 5% retainage.

Postcard/Postage Costs for Mailings/Stearns County Soil & Water: SWCD has partnered with two State agencies to provide a free nitrate and chloride screening clinic for private well owners in Stearns County. SWCD is asking Townships to send postcards to all property owners in their townships advising of this free screening clinic. Maine Prairie Township will post the Notice on its website rather than send postcards.

There being no further business, motion by Supervisors Wicker/Loewen to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:15 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Robinson
Deputy Clerk