

Board Meeting Minutes
Maine Prairie Township
October 13, 2020

Attendees: Chair Loewen, Supervisor Wicker, Supervisor Kuechle, Zoning Administrator Froehling, Deputy Clerk Robinson, Joe Hendricks, Jim Young, Shirley Zwack, Jim Gregory, Mike Arens and wife, Steve Hillesheim; Absent: Clerk Hunt

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

Chair Loewen opened the Badger Road Public Assessment Hearing to adopt Resolution No. 2020-05, Resolution Adopting Assessment for Badger Road Improvement, at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk Robinson read the Public Hearing Notice published in the Tri-County News. The purpose of the hearing is to pass upon the proposed assessment of costs in the amount of \$29,429.00 related to resurfacing portions of Badger Road. The properties proposed to be assessed for the costs of the improvement are those properties abutting such road or accessing from such road. Two residents were in attendance for the hearing. No written comments were received from the public. Chair Loewen called for comments from the floor. One resident asked when the interest on the assessment would begin. Chair Loewen responded that 2% interest would begin accruing when the assessment roll is certified to the County. One other resident asked who the check should be made payable to if paying the assessment in full. Chair Loewen advised that payment would be payable to Maine Prairie Township. There were no further comments. Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to close the hearing at 7:05 p.m. All in favor, motion carried. Brief Board discussion ending with Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to adopt Resolution No. 2020-05, Resolution Adopting Assessment for Badger Road Improvement. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Chair Loewen/Supervisor Wicker to adjourn hearing at 7:09 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Planning and Zoning meeting opened at 7:10 p.m.

Board meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to approve the September 8, 2020 Board Meeting minutes and September 22, 2020 Special Meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to use funds from the Gas/Gravel Tax fund to pay for road improvement projects. All in favor, motion carried.

Eight (8) claims were presented for approval and payment for the month of September in the amount of \$19,364.94 (see claims list attached). In addition, payroll expenses for 3rd quarter 2020 were paid in the amount of \$6,706.96. Receipts for September totaled \$1,557.00. Motion by Wicker/Kuechle to approve and pay claims as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

Shirley Zwack-Stearns County Deputy: Deputy Zwack gave a brief report on calls in the Township by Stearns County deputies. At this time, there are no major issues in the Township requiring any difference in policing.

Snow Plowing Quotes Notice: Request for Quotes for snowplowing during the 2020-21 season should be published in the Tri-County News October 22nd issue.

County Mileage Report Form: Badger Court and Lakeside Court should be added to the County mileage report. These roads were accepted as Township roads at the November 2019 Board meeting.

Stearns County Thunderin' Toms (NWTF) Gambling Permit: Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to approve a gambling permit for Stearns County Thunderin' Toms to be held at Pearl Lake Lodge. All in favor, motion carried.

Cares Act Update/Acoustical Treatment: An estimate was received from St. Cloud Acoustics, Inc. for installation of 25 - 4x4 sound barrier panels to be installed in the ceiling. After discussion, it was decided that further research will be pursued for this issue.

Assessment Notices Notifying Residents of the Assessment Payment Options: Notification letters with options to pay assessment will be sent to all affected residents being assessed after passing on the Resolutions at this meeting.

Deferred Assessment Resolution No. 2020-07: Discussion held in regard to addressing requests from residents to defer assessments proposed to be levied against properties. Motion by Chair Loewen/Supervisor Wicker to adopt Resolution No. 2020-07, A Resolution Establishing A Program to Defer Payment of Special Assessments for Senior Citizens and Retired Disabled Homeowners in Maine Prairie Township, Stearns County, Minnesota. All in favor, motion carried.

CARES Act Elections Grant: The Board reviewed documentation received from the County and there is no interest in pursuing this grant.

Reconvened at 8:30 p.m. to hold Acorn Road Public Assessment Hearing

Chair Loewen opened the Acorn Road Public Assessment Hearing to adopt Resolution No. 2020-06, Resolution Adopting Assessment for Acorn Road Improvement, at 8:30 p.m. Deputy Clerk Robinson read the Public Hearing Notice published in the Tri-County News. The purpose of the hearing is to pass upon the proposed assessment of costs in the amount of \$24,061.50 related to reconstruct portions of Acorn Road. The properties proposed to be assessed for the costs of the improvement are those properties abutting such road or accessing from such road. There were no residents in attendance for the hearing. The Township received a letter from a resident residing on Acorn Road requesting deferred payment of the proposed assessment.

A letter and a Deferred Assessment Application will be sent to the resident. The Board will act on the request after proper documentation is received with the application. A phone call had been received by Chair Loewen from another Acorn Road resident inquiring why Northern Natural Gas was not being assessed. Chair Loewen's response was, a) Northern Natural Gas does not own property abutting Acorn Road; b) Driveway to Northern's facility was originally off 83rd Avenue. The driveway location did not change until June or July; and c) Acorn was not paved until in August which was too late to change process. There were no further comments to address. Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to close the hearing at 8:35 p.m. All in favor, motion carried. Brief Board discussion ending with Motion by Supervisors Wicker/Kuechle to adopt Resolution No. 2020-06, Resolution Adopting Assessment for Acorn Road Improvement. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Chair Loewen/Supervisor Wicker to adjourn hearing at 8:40 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

An anonymous letter was received from a Township resident regarding property located at 16591 Carnelian Road. The letter is calling to the Township attention the debris being placed on the lot across the road from this property and that the owner should dispose of the piles of trash as well as the semitrailer parked on the property. Deputy Clerk Robinson will send a letter to the property owner requesting removal of the debris.

Old Business:

210TH Street: Milling 210th Street has begun. Potential for additional work is being considered.

There being no further business, Motion by Kuechle/Wicker to adjourn meeting at 9:00 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Robinson
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer