

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MIDDLEVILLE TOWNSHIP
3014 CO. RD. 6 SW
HOWARD LAKE, MN 55349
February 13, 2024

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Raymond, at 7:00 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Also present were Supervisors Walt Barlow and James Jacobson, PZ Administrator Jessica Elfmann, Treasurer Judy Forst, Clerk Joey Berg, and Maintenance Man Randy Klugow. Others in attendance are noted on the sign-in sheet included with the approved minutes.
2. Public Hearing from last month was continued for Thomas Sherwin who is requesting a lot size variance (on PID #212000-121300) for a building site for his son containing 10 acres. He plans to build a large shed and possibly graze a few head of cattle. The driveway will have to come off of Tom's driveway just a few feet off of the township road. To make it compliant, the Township may have to take over a few feet of Tom's driveway to give access to the new driveway. Jim R. will check in to how to accomplish this. James J. made a motion and Judy second the motion to grant the variances as stated along with a Deed Restriction to be recorded for PID #212-000-122400 with no (0) entitlements remaining. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.
3. Kathy Larson wishes to renew her CUP for dog boarding and training at 2589 Co Rd 7 SW, PID #212-000-144103. She has been doing this since 2016; there have been no complaints that the board is aware of. Walt made a motion and James J. second to approve a 5 year renewal. Carried unanimously 5-0.
4. Brian Marketon, HLWW School Board member, presented the "strategic plan" which is basically looking for input from the school district residents what the opinion is on what's being done right and what could be improved. There will be a couple in person sessions at the high school Feb 15 at 5:30 and 26 at 5:00. Surveys can also be done on-line at surveyhlww.us/external.
5. Karen Erickson presented some of her findings while researching the old Smith Lake Townsite. She has written a book with a lot of the history of the town when it was active. She read a few excerpts from old minute books. She has a strong desire to get the old abandoned cemeteries marked on maps and perhaps even fenced off in the farm field where the cemeteries are believed to be located. Wright County has done some research and as close as they can tell, the Methodist cemetery is in part of Block 6 of the Townsite, and the town cemetery was across the road, to the west, from the existing Memorial Stone that was placed along Locke Ave about 15 years ago. Karen also mentioned that there have been rodents digging under the Memorial, and so that needs some attention before enough digging could cause it to fall over. James R. assured her that we would do some checking to see what the wise thing to do would be.
6. Joey presented the Clerk's report: The January minutes were reviewed. The February misc. receipts in the amount of \$1,980.06 and claims in the amount of \$13,900.95 were reviewed. Walt made a motion and James J. second to approve the Clerk's report (including claim #s 10243-10260 & EFT#s E022401-E022407). Carried unanimously 3-0.

7. Judy then presented the Treasurer's report: she stated that the balance on hand at the end of January was \$570,730.09. She mentioned we received our final 2023 distribution, 2,739.02. She noted that there had been interest income of \$334.30 in the month of January of which \$324.68 was reinvested. James R. made a motion and Walt second to approve the Treasurer's report. Carried unanimously 3-0. The board then did an audit of the Clerk's January books along with the Treasurer's report and bank statements. A motion was made by James J. and second by Walt to approve the audit of the Clerk's January books. Carried unanimously 3-0.

8. Planning and Zoning: 1) Jess had received a call about getting a permit for a shouse along Co Rd 7. 2) Lawyer Troy Gilchrist had asked for direction from the board who to be in contact with regarding township business. James R. made a motion and James J. second to accept the PZ report and instruct the Clerk to write a letter to Troy requesting contact with our PZ Administrator and Clerk. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

9. Road Maintenance Report: Randy reported that he had done a little blading and a tiny bit of snow plowing. He had taken inventory of our road signs on hand. Walt made a motion and James R. second to approve the report. Carried unanimously 3-0.

10. Old Business: none

11. New Business: 1) James R. made a motion to move the March meeting to Thursday, Mar 14 due to annual meeting and Twp Election on Tuesday, Mar 12. James J. second, Carried unanimously 3-0.

2) discussion on the MBA life insurance for board members. Walt made a motion and James R. second to leave it at the same level, \$5,000 for the next year. Carried unanimously 3-0.

3) James R. signed the agreement with Bryan Rock Products with a price increase for next year. It will be 14.05 per ton with fines, or 25.20 for screened 3/8" representing a 5% increase.

4) James R. made a motion and Walt second to approve the same election judges as were trained 2 years ago for the upcoming PNP and Township elections on Mar 5 and 12. Carried unanimously 3-0.

5) discussion on our needs going forward and the levy to propose to the public at the annual meeting. We will propose increasing GR to 50,000, RB to 200,000, EQUIP to 55,000, PERA to 14,000, FIRE to 70,000, EMERG to 2,000, and leave RECY same at 9,000. This is an increase of 78,000 from last year at 322,000 to this year at 400,000.

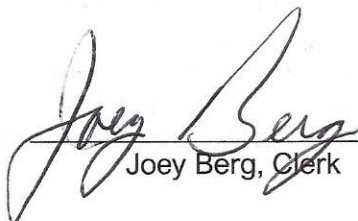
12. Meetings:

Mar 5 – Presidential Nomination Primary Election, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Mar 12 – Twp Election, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm, annual mtg to follow

Mar 14 – monthly mtg at 7:00 pm

13. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.


Joey Berg, Clerk

James Raymond, Chairman