

Regular Monthly Meeting

MIDDLEVILLE TOWNSHIP

3014 Co. Rd. 6 SW

Howard Lake, MN 55349

January 9, 2024

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Raymond at 7 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Supervisors Walt Barlow and James Jacobsen, PZ Administrator Jessica Elfmann, Treasurer Judy Forst, Deputy Clerk Briana Jacobs, and Maintenance man Randy Klugow. Also, present was Septic Inspector Mark Hayes. Absent was Clerk Joey Berg. Other in attendance are noted on the sign-in sheet included with the approved minutes.

2. Tom Sherwin and his son were present to request two variances. The first variance addressed was to split 10 acres off of his current 40-acre parcel. He has an adjoining 40-acre parcel that has a remaining entitlement which would need to be moved to this split off piece. Also then requiring a deed restriction for that 40-acre parcel. Currently these 10 acres is grassland, not tilled, but is still looked at as agricultural so would need a variance. The question was brought up as to why 10 acres. The son intends to put up a 60' x 80' shed eventually. There was discussion on the possibility of 5 acres instead of 10 acres and the possibility of issuing a variance for the shed size. The lack of drawing of proposed split brought up another point as to where the split parcel's driveway would be. Tom's thought was it would come off his current driveway and he would need to supply his son with an easement. This variance for consideration was continued for the February 13th meeting to allow for Tom to have a proposed split drawn up, Jessica Elfmann to look into the options for the driveway and easement, and Clerk Joey Berg to send out letters to any applicable neighbors as required.

The second variance to be addressed was the septic. Septic Inspector Mark Hayes was in attendance to explain the situation and his findings regarding the soil. Tom Sherwin had a second Septic System Suitability Report done by Miler's Sewage Treatment Solutions from Kimball, Minnesota. Their findings concluded adequate area and soil. Mark Hayes raised the concern of the amount of manure and blue clay that exists on the property and potential of drainage issues. He is in support of the variance with the stipulation that perk tests must be preformed to ensure the land will take the water. James Raymond made a motion and James J. second the motion to grant the septic variance with the stipulation it must perk test. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

3. Chris and Briana Jacobs from General Pallet, INC were present to renew their Conditional Use Permit for their land at 701 County Road 7 SW Howard Lake. The board proposed renewing the CUP for 10 years since the business continues to have no complaints and asked Chris or Briana if they had any reservation in doing so. They did not. James Raymond made the motion to approve the CUP for 10 years, Walt second the motion. Carried unanimously 5-0.

4. Briana presented the Clerk's report. The December minutes were reviewed. The January misc. receipts in the amount of \$221.00 and claims in the amount of \$52,304.10 were reviewed. Walt made a motion and a second by James J. to approve the Clerk's report (including claim #'s 10218- 10242 and EFT #'s E012401- E012407) Carried unanimously 3-0.

5. Judy presented the Treasurer's report: she stated the balance on hand at the end of December was \$619,739.87. There was receipt of \$6,623.70 from the state of Minnesota that was allocated as \$1644.00 RB, \$702.06 GR, \$2285.76 RB, \$816.34 Equip, \$195.92 PERA, \$816.34 Fire, \$16.34 Emerg, and \$146.94 Recy. There was also \$297.58 in interest income in which \$285.17 was reinvested. Walt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report James R. second the motion. Carried unanimously 3-0. The board then did an audit of the clerk's December books along with the Treasurer's report and bank statements. A motion was made by James R. and a second by Walt to approve the audit of the Clerk's December books. Carried unanimously 3-0.

6. Planning and Zoning - Jessica has been contacted by Karen Erickson re: the Smith Lake Village and the historical marker. She is hoping to create a Smith Lake Historical Society. She has concerns regarding the condition on the marker that is in place and the possibility of an unmarked cemetery. Randy will look into any repairs that need to be addressed with the marker. Randy noted there use to be a flag there was well but it continues to be taken down. Chairman James R. also brought up old township documents that are still on hand and that she is also welcome to look through those. Jessica will let Karen know about the documents and February's meeting. Jim J. plans to add Karen's books to the Middleville Township Website as a historical point of reference for people. James J made a motion to approve the Planning and Zoning report and a second by Walt. Carried unanimously 3-0.

7. Road Maintenance report – 1) hauling some rock and preforming shop maintenance, 2) culvert on 10th Street was totally disintegrated and needed to be replaced, 3) plowed a little snow Judy brought up that Accusign has gone out of business as of December 31, 2023. Deb Uecker received a thumb drive with the whole counties sign information She plans to create thumb drives for each township and pass the information on so everyone can continue to self-track the age and condition of signs. James R. made a motion to approve the Road Maintenance report, Walt second the motion. Carried unanimous 3-0.

8. Old Business –

1607 Keats Ave Update: Mark Hayes stated they are not following the stop work order. They have moved in about 3-4 RVs which Mark found to be in violation with a Wright County ordinance. Mark wrote up a 35-page report that he passed onto law enforcement, human services, Joey and the lawyer. Jess spoke with Todd at MetroWest and his advice was to move quickly and to litigate. The plan is to send out a certified letter to the property owner, North Metro LLC.

9602 10th St Update: Mark Hayes said he found pictures on Google maps that shows a backhoe digging a ditch and what looks like pvc, possible septic drainage to wetland area. Mark has info written and over to the lawyer. A letter needs to be sent to the land owner to request access to the property. Jess will check with the Wright County Assessors office to see if there are any pictures of the property from their recent assessment.

9. New business-

David and Marianna Nyquist are requesting to put in a mobile home for a hired couple for the dairy. Jess will check into whether it's allowed and if or what any stipulations entail.

Mark Hayes brought up an issue that may exist at 5837 Jennings – the old cement plant. It was sold in 2018 and Mark and Scott Deckert are trying to get a hold of new owners to decommission an old septic on the property. Also noted was the copious amount of old semi-trailers and recreation vehicles on the property.

Mark also mentioned his annual reports for PCA's is done and the 2023 books have been closed.

10. Meetings:

Feb 13- monthly meeting at 7:00 pm

11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Briana Jacobs, Deputy Clerk

James Raymond, Chairman