

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - May 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair, Heidi Kroening. Others present were Supervisors Mark Dunaski & Tony Bakhtiari, Clerk Cindy Woltjer & Treasurer Ron Mossberg. Absent was Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau.

Also, in attendance were 13 Windemere residents and 17 participants via Zoom.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk Woltjer read meeting minutes from the April 14, 2022 Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Kroening, second by Bakhtiari to approve said minutes. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Mossberg gave the report for April 2022. He reported the township inventory was completed and the data was being recorded on a spreadsheet. Deposits were minimal and expenses included a payment for the Rush Blvd. Culvert project. Motion made by Kroening, second by Dunaski to accept the Treasurer's report. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

The first resident to speak on zoom asked if the inventory had already been done and if any of the board members had discussed auctioning off or selling any of the equipment. He was told that there had been no discussion on the subject of selling anything. Kroening stated she had not spoken to anyone. Dunaski stated he had not. Bahktiari stated he had not.

The second resident had a question about the Short Term Vacation Rentals – STVR -permitting. He was told the ordinance was in process and would be discussed more in the Planning Commission report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Township Inventory :

Supervisor Bahktiari reported that including himself there were four people involved in doing the inventory – the clerk, the treasurer and the deputy treasurer. He stated that pictures and some videos were taken. He said he took pictures at the township pit also. He noticed that a wood chipper and a water tank usually used for clearing culverts were missing. Treasurer Mossberg said he was working on compiling the data on a spreadsheet and also uploading the pictures to the cloud for the website. Supervisor Dunaski said he would follow up with the road crew about the wood chipper and he also said that the water tank in question was the property of Mr. Buetow.

Award Sturgeon Lake High Water Feasibility Contract :

Supervisor Dunaski reported receiving one bid from Houston Engineering for the project. He made a motion to accept their quote of \$24,808 - seconded by Bahktiari. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Repaving of Warbler Lane :

Supervisor Dunaski stated that Warbler Lane was in terrible shape and probably needs to be repaved. It was originally estimated that it would cost approximately \$30,000 to do this project. Since Pine County does not plan on doing any work in northern Pine County this year there would be no plant close by and it was determined that the cost of the job this year would be closer to \$50,000 to \$60,000. The board decided to wait until next year to repave Warbler Lane.

The board then decided, with pricing so high this year, that repaving Sturgeon Island Road would also be put off until next year.

It was confirmed that the Sturgeon Island Bridge would be done this year. Supervisor Bahktiari reported that there was someone interested in taking the cover off the old bridge before the new bridge is constructed. A coordination between the contractor and the interested party was discussed.

Road Contract Bidding Decision :

Supervisor Dunaski explained that since the board decided to ask for sealed bids statute requires accepting the lowest responsible bidder. During a lengthy discussion, questions were raised about incomplete sections on one of the bids and the legal ramifications of asking for clarification after the bids were opened. Another issue was whether information may have been given to some bidders and not to others. It was suggested that each of the board supervisors talk to the township attorney to get guidance on how to legally proceed with the bids that were received.

A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to continue this discussion at a special meeting to be determined before the current meeting is adjourned. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bahktiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

A date of May 24, 2022 at 6:30 was later decided for a special meeting to continue discussion on the road contract bids.

NEW BUSINESS :

Planning Commission Vacancy :

One of the Planning Commission board members resigned so the clerk was asked to publish the position asking for letters of interest so as to be able to fill the vacancy at the June board meeting.

Possible Interim Ordinance Moratorium :

Tabled for June meeting.

Board of Supervisors Other :

Kroening reported that Nathan Rimolde from RTS was no longer confident doing remote Zoom meetings and would have to bill at a higher rate to do them in person.

First National Bank information for the signature cards need to be filled out and returned to the clerk.

Kroening then reported that she had been asked if the Township Hall could be used for a community rummage sale in July. It was decided that for liability purposes it should not be made available.

ROAD UPDATE :

Information was already reported earlier in the meeting.

ZONING UPDATE :

Chair Kroening read a report sent by absent Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau saying there had been much focus on the DNR request of appeal of the Sand Lake Resort permit cumulating in the board's decision to not have the Board of Adjustments hear the appeal. Efforts are underway to consider a moratorium to be discussed further at the regular June meeting. There are currently 2 active permits associated with commercially zoned areas in shoreland overlay – the Sand Lake Resort and Jimmy Kroon's project on the old Red Oak site. These projects can currently go forward as long as all permit requirements are being met.

Mr. Genereau has been working on the permit status of 13 campers on the shoreland area of Sturgeon Lake associated with Edelweiss campground. The campground owners have been cooperative. A review of all township and county zoning records have verified that no permits are on record with either the zoning office or the campers. A permit was located by DNR Hydrologist Heidi Lindgren dating to the 1970's that appears to permit the campers as long as certain conditions are met. This permit will be reviewed and a determination needs to be made whether any campers were in place before a 1996 ordinance and consider whether or not these campers may or may not be grandfathered in.

The Board of Adjustments did grant a variance for a land split in April. Two additional variance requests are scheduled to be heard by the Board of Adjustments in June.

Permits are picking up with most for docks, decks, garages and additions. Property owners are holding back on building new dwellings due to extremely high construction prices.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

Commissioner Cindy Carlson reported the Planning Commission is waiting for legal research to determine how many STVR's can be on each lake and also if it is legal to have a lottery system for them. They are also checking to see if it is legally possible to keep STVR's off any environmental lakes but if they are allowed, they want to be sure no outside watercraft would be allowed on those lakes. Only watercraft provided by the STVR owners would be allowed or only those launched at a public access.

There is also an opening on the Planning Commission that needs to be posted.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Supervisor Bakhtiari reported 8 medical calls, 1 gas leak and 2 motor vehicle accidents without injuries for Windemere Township. An agreement was presented for a signature and it was decided to do more research before signing the agreement at the next board meeting. He also reported a drive for volunteers and a poster was presented to be posted on the township website.

CLAIMS :

April 2022 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to approve the April 2022 claims as provided. Approval of EFT #s 22-17 & 22-18, Payroll #PAY 22-05, Check #s 13100 through 13116, & Direct Deposit #s DD1481 through DD1488 for a total of \$18,853.32. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TOWNSHIP MAIL :

Township mail was opened and reviewed.

ADJOURN :

Motion made by Dunaski, seconded by Kroening to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Chair, Heidi Kroening