

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - September 8, 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 & Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau.

Also, in attendance were 10 Windemere residents and 13 participants via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA :

It was decided to move agenda item #13 Closed Meeting to after item #5 Brett Westbrook.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk Woltjer read meeting minutes from the August 11, 2022. A motion was made by Kroening, second by Dunaski to approve the August 11, 2022 minutes. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Mossberg gave the treasurer's report through August 2022. A few permit deposits were made and some interest received. He stated that the annual Pine County Assessment was received for \$17,507. Motion made by Kroening, second by Bahktiari to accept the Treasurer's report. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

BRETT WESTBROOK :

Brett Westbrook introduced himself as a state trooper who is a candidate for Pine County Sheriff. He has been a resident of Pine County since 2004. He stated that he helped start and is on the board of a non-profit for first responders with PTSD. He is involved with schools in the area and is also a licensed teacher. He recently spoke to the Willow River School District and was able to help them to get a School Resource Officer. He said he plans to be proactive on crime and very available and visible to the community. He then reminded everyone to vote on November 8th.

DSL R PERMIT :

Scott Anderson attorney representing the township for the DSLR permit issues reported that DSLR is requesting tolling of the permit. He will also be talking to the board in a closed meeting regarding the law suit between the DNR and Windemere Township over granting the DSLR permit. After some discussion and answering questions Mr. Anderson proposed the board extend the permit to 6 months after the final judgement in the litigation. A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to

extend the permit to 6 months after the final judgement in the litigation. If construction is not substantially begun during this period of time, the permit will be void. . Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Nay. Motion Passed 2/1.

DNR vs. WINDEMERE CLOSED MEETING :

The public part of the meeting was closed as per Statute 13D.05 Subd.3B – Closure is allowed under attorney/client privilege. Topic for discussion is the case of the DNR vs Windemere Township and the DSLR to discuss analysis, tactics and litigation. A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to close the open meeting at 7:25 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to open the closed meeting at 7:45 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Employee/Union Update :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that the board and the union representatives have been working on the impact of the contract termination along with the township attorney and the matter should be resolved within a few weeks.

Road Maintenance Co-ordinator :

Supervisor Dunaski sent a rough description of a Road Maintenance Manager Position to the other board members and asked for any ideas from the members so it could be finalized and posted in the paper. It was suggested that an ad be posted so a person could be hired before the end of December. The ad would be finalized at an upcoming special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS :

Fall Road Projects :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that Sturgeon Island Road and Warbler Lane were contracted out and repaired with a hot mix, noting that the cold mix did not last as long.

Crack Sealing and Gravel Hauling :

Supervisor Dunaski stated he had two quotes for crack sealing on Sturgeon Island Road and Palen Road and they should be awarded soon. A second quote should be coming for the repair of the approaches to the Sturgeon Island Bridge so that can be awarded. He is waiting for a quote for a permanent repair to the gravel culvert area on Dago Lake Road and also Island Lake Road. Several culverts are reported to need replacing and Dunaski is hoping to get quotes on them so they can be replaced yet this fall. He has asked two contractors for quotes on gravel hauling and spreading and is in the process of calculating the

amount of gravel needed. A citizen had asked about signs in the township and Supervisor Dunaski reported that Pine County no longer does assessments as previously thought so they gave information on two companies that will do assessments and Dunaski will be reaching out to them for a quote.

Dunaski then said there have been questions about the Sturgeon Island Bridge Project and stated that the latest plan is that Pine County will be seeking bids in late 2022 or early 2023 to ensure a contractor will be in place and the materials will be ready for a late summer or early fall start in 2023. To start any electrical lines would have to be dealt with and any trees would need to be trimmed. Second, a by-pass would have to be put in place. They will be doing a solid sand by-pass with a road on top which would all have to be removed when the bridge is completed and the shoreline restored to its natural state. The final timeline is estimated at 6 to 8 weeks. The project is planned for the fall because the DNR is concerned with spawning in the spring.

Supervisor Dunaski asked for a special meeting and Tuesday, September 20th at 10:30 a.m. was decided on to discuss: 1) Road Maintenance Contracts; 2) Road Maintenance Coordinator and 3) Union Contract.

A motion was made by Dunaski, seconded by Kroening to accept the quote from ASTECH for \$12,775 for crack sealing on Palon and Sturgeon Island Road. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Approval of Variances – Hegge – Eberhart & Sinna :

A motion was made by Bahktiari, seconded by Kroening to accept the Board of Adjustments approval of the three variances listed. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed - 3/0. Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau would be getting the paperwork ready for signatures, notarization and filing with Pine County.

2023 BUDGET :

Treasurer Mossberg then asked that the 2023 Budget be added to the agenda for October. He asked that the board members send any budget suggestions to him so he can start a draft budget.

Board of Supervisors Other :

Chair Kroening made a suggestion that the clerk needs help with township document scanning that has gotten behind. The clerk said she would welcome any help with this.

ROAD UPDATE :

Supervisor Dunaski stated it was all covered earlier in the meeting.

ZONING UPDATE :

Zoning Administrator Genereau stated he continues to update the website and still has to post the draft STVR Ordinance which he hopes to do soon. There were 47 permits issued with approx. 6 still in process. This number is down from last year. There was a violation of the shoreland ordinance on Sand Lake and the DNR

got involved. Kroon's permit has changed slightly involving a different septic system and it is being looked into by Pine County. The next Planning Commission meeting is September 13th at 6:30 p.m. with the only agenda item being the STVR ordinance.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

Nothing more to report.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Supervisor Bakhtiari stated the meeting is scheduled for next week. He wants to ask Osten Berg to address the board about the possibility of obtaining a seat on the Fire District Board. It was decided that more information needs to be put together and it should possibly be put on the agenda for the annual meeting in March. Any questions from the board should be sent to the clerk to be forwarded to the rest of the board.

PUBLIC INPUT :

The first resident commented on the water table issues on his property on and near Sunset Bay Road. He asked if the board could contact an engineering firm to assess changing drainage issues in this matter.

There were no comments from Zoom.

CLAIMS :

August 2022 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to approve the August 2022 claims as provided. Approval of Payroll #PAY 22-09, EFT #s 22-29 thru 22-31, Check #s 13169 through 13195, & Direct Deposit #s DD1517 through DD1524 for a total of \$68,604.94. 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 9:08 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Chair, Heidi Kroening