

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - October 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 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 9 Windemere residents and 12 participants via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA :

A motion was made by Dunaski, seconded by Kroening to approve the agenda after tabling agenda items 6c – Township Sign Inspection and 6d – Snow Plowing until the November meeting. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk Woltjer read meeting minutes from the September 8, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Kroening, second by Dunaski to approve the September 8, 2022 minutes as read. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Mossberg gave the treasurer's report through September 2022 stating that some of the large expenses this month were the first half Fire District payment and legal fees for the union negotiations and the DSLR lawsuit. 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veteran's Resource Website Posting :

After discussion the board decided the township would not be posting this information to our website.

Road Employee/Union Update :

Supervisor Dunaski read a Resolution to Terminate the remaining employee Michael Buetow effective October 13, 2022. A motion was made by Dunaski, seconded by Bahktiari to approve the resolution. Vote Taken: Kroening - Abstain, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 2/A.

Road Maintenance Co-ordinator :

Supervisor Dunaski stated we received two applications for the Road Maintenance Manager Position. He said he would proceed with the interviewing process and make a recommendation to the other board members at the November board meeting. It was decided that Supervisor Mark Dunaski, Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau and Clerk Cindy Woltjer would conduct the interviews.

2023 Budget :

Treasurer Mossberg presented a draft budget spreadsheet for the board to start working with. Revenue and expense items were discussed and an updated copy would be sent to the supervisors to look over and make possible changes at a future meeting. One change for the new year would include the Short Term Vacation Rental fees and expenses involved when the new ordinance goes into effect. Other items brought up are the rising interest rates and it may be a good idea to invest the extra township money right now and also possibly a new line item - calcium chloride for dust abatement.

NEW BUSINESS :**Investing Excess Funds :**

Treasurer Mossberg asked that the board consider investing the township's extra money. He asked for a \$250,000 check be written from the checking account to US Bank for a funds transfer and close out the Tradition Capital Bank account at \$251,000 and move \$250,000 of that money to the US Bank account to start reinvesting as was done several years ago. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to go ahead with that plan and invest the \$500,000. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Culvert Replacement Quotes Review :

Supervisor Dunaski stated he contacted two local contractors to replace five culverts that were listed in the 2021 and 2022 road review. They are North Military Road near Heppner, Partridge Road near Birchview, Partridge Road North near the county line, Pioneer Road east of Partridge Road South, and Anchorage Place near County Road 46. The two quotes were from C&P Contracting, LLC for \$20,000 and the other from Gobel Excavating and Aggregate Inc. for \$15,900. Motion made by Bahktiari, seconded by Dunaski to accept Gobel Excavating and Aggregate's bid for \$15,900 to replace 5 culverts. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Township Sign Inspection :

Tabled for November Board Meeting.

Snow Plowing :

Tabled for November Board Meeting.

Gravel Pit Recycling Update :

Supervisor Dunaski reported getting phone calls regarding the brush recycling at the township pit. In the past the Lakes Association staffed several days in the summer for residents to drop off brush and compost. Suggestions were made to open up the pit on certain days next year and advertise the days so the residents would be aware when it would be open and also have someone to be there to monitor what is dropped off. Next year's dates and details will be determined at a later meeting.

November Board Meeting Date :

Treasurer Mossberg asked that due to the possibility of the Moose Lake/Willow River Rebels going on to the state playoffs that the November board meeting be rescheduled for one week later on November 17, 2022. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Bahktiari to move the meeting date to November 17th. Clerk will publish the change in the paper. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Donation to Historical Society :

Chair Kroening suggested donating money to the two local historical societies. Motion made by Kroening, second by Dunaski to donate \$1500 to the Moose Lake Area Historical Society and also \$1500 to the Pine County Historical Society. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Nay. Motion Passed 2/1.

Board of Supervisors Other :

Supervisor Bahktiari made a comment that there still was not a contractor to take care of the roads.

Supervisor Dunaski gave an update on the Sturgeon Lake High Water Feasibility report stating it should be ready by the November board meeting. He will be inviting a representative from Houston Engineering to speak at the November meeting to explain the results.

ROAD UPDATE :

Supervisor Dunaski reported work being done including gravel being hauled and spread, the approaches to the Sturgeon Island Bridge were repaired, the patch to the culvert on Dago Lake Road was repaired, the patch to the culvert on Island Lake Road was repaired, chip sealing has been completed. A few washouts still need to be repaired, one being on Parkview.

ZONING & PLANNING UPDATE :

Zoning Administrator Genereau stated he continues to work on the STVR's with the Planning Commission. He and Cindy Carlson will be working on the final draft to have the attorney look it over before presenting it to the Township Board in December. The Board of Adjustments heard two variance requests in September and both were approved. Two more are scheduled in November. The 2023 Planning Meeting Schedule will be posted on the website along with the Board of Adjustment meetings. Work is also continuing on the ordinance update with plans for it to be done for next year. He is continuing to work on the Moratorium regarding projects in commercially zoned waterfront districts and mentioned the two projects that are exempt – the Sand Lake Resort Project and Jimmy Kroon's Project on the old Red Oak site.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Supervisor Bahktiari reported 9 calls, one for a rubbish fire and 8 for medical.

PUBLIC INPUT :

The first person to comment was Joseph Pelawa from JPJ Engineering to introduce himself and stated he is the city engineer for Sturgeon Lake. JPJ Engineering was contacted to do the sign inventory for Windemere Township.

The second person asked about the dust abatement. What roads would be done and would all the residents be paying for the service. He then asked who the fiduciary will be on the large investments to be made.

The third resident brought up percolation and ground water issues that have been getting worse on his property on Sunset Bay Road.

Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau asked to make comments regarding an earlier discussion in the meeting that may have questioned his integrity. He asked that before anyone publicly chastises him that they first come to him with any questions or problems so they can be worked out without the public being involved. He stated that he is always available for a conversation with anyone.

There was one comment from Zoom giving thanks to the treasurer for his reporting of the financials. He also wanted to know who would be taking care of the roads if we have a sudden blizzard.

CLAIMS :

September 2022 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to approve the September 2022 claims as provided. Approval of Payroll #PAY 22-10, EFT #s 22-32 thru 22-35, Check #s 13196 through 13215, & Direct Deposit #s DD1525 through DD1531 for a total of \$283,825.24. 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 9:53 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening - Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Chair, Heidi Kroening