

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - October 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair, Heidi Kroening. Others present were Supervisor Mark Dunaski, Supervisor Tony Bakhtiari, Clerk Cindy Woltjer, & Deputy Treasurer Paul Horgen.

Also, in attendance were 12 Windemere residents and 30 participants via Zoom.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk read meeting minutes from the Regular Meeting September 9, 2021. A motion was made by Kroening, second by Bakhtiari to approve said minutes as read. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Deputy Treasurer Paul Horgen gave the report for September 2021 activity stating that the first ARPA payment of \$93,224.80 had been received. He also stated that two employees had been advanced a few hours to cover their benefits and will be reversed with the next payroll. This was due to it being a dual payroll month. Motion made by Kroening, second by Dunaski to accept the Treasurer's financial report. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

PUBLIC INPUT:

The first resident on Zoom commented on the Sand Lake Resort Project and asked that the DNR be involved at the special meeting in December for this issue.

A second resident also commented on the Sand Lake Resort Project and asked who permits or ok's projects like this one. Supervisor Kroening explained that when someone applies for a permit, and all the requirements are met, the township is required to issue the permit.

OLD BUSINESS:

Island Lake Shoreline Reinforcement:

Bids were then opened for the Island Lake Shoreline Reinforcement Project. The two bidders were MNL (Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc.) at \$59,084 and Veit & Company at \$43,502. It was mentioned that the township may qualify for a percentage match from the MN Soil & Water Conservation District but it was only available until the end of 2021. Motion was made by Bakhtiari, seconded by Dunaski to accept Veit & Company's quote. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0. Supervisor Kroening would also contact the SWCD about the match.

Sturgeon Island Bridge Repair :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that Erickson Engineering had done a safety study of the cracks discovered on the Sturgeon Island bridge. It was stated that the bridge was still structurally sound and made two recommendations. 1) Reduce the load on the bridge to 12 Tons and/or 2) Do additional work on the bridge in order to secure it until the bridge is replaced next year. Motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Bakhtiari to follow up with the engineer, to proceed with bridge fixes on temporary repairs for up to \$5000. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Sturgeon Lake High Water :

It was reported that the township could apply for a grant of \$25,000 for a study on how to relieve the high water on Sturgeon Lake in the event where flooding impacts those that live on the lake. A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Bakhtiari, to have Supervisor Dunaski solicit RFP to conduct a High Water Feasibility Study on Sturgeon Lake. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Township Equipment Update :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that the Ford F350 was still being repaired and covered by our MATIT Insurance Policy. He also reported that the township dump truck was still being repaired and was discovered that the steering pins were worn along with a number of other misc. things. A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to repair the dump truck for up to an estimated \$7000. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Gravel Hauling:

A motion was made by Dunaski, seconded by Kroening to extend Rydberg & Sons' gravel hauling contract to be completed by October 31, 2021 instead of the previous August 31, 2021. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

ARPA Fund:

Supervisor Dunaski reported that the township received our first ARPA payment of \$93,224. He also stated that the township has until December 31, 2023 to spend this money or the unused balance has to be turned over to Pine County.

Township IT:

There was discussion about offering Zoom for special meetings. The downfall would be if the power were to go out at any of these meetings, it would have to stop immediately and be rescheduled. Determinations and decisions about how and when we offer Zoom meetings will be discussed at a separate meeting.

A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to hire RTS – Rimolde Technology Services – to assist with the township's technology services. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

NEW BUSINESS :

Island Lake Culvert Hydrology Study :

It was reported that the Island Lake Culvert Hydrology Study would cost approximately \$7000. A motion was made by Dunaski, seconded by Bakhtiari to proceed with Erickson Engineering to do the hydrology study for \$7000. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Hill Street Shoulder Washout Repair:

It was reported that the repairs should be done yet this fall.

Schedule Sand Lake Resort Project Special Meeting:

It was decided that a Special Meeting would be held on December 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM. A venue is yet to be decided with Holy Angels Church, Moose Lake City Chambers, and the Moose Lake Event Center as suggestions. Supervisor Bakhtiari will check with each of them and report at the November meeting. Supervisor Kroening will contact Pine County, the DNR, the Water Conservation District, MLWSSD, the Moose Lake Fire Department, the Lakes Association, etc. to see if they would like to be present at the meeting.

Board of Supervisors Other:

ROAD UPDATE :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that there are ditching and culvert projects in the township ready to go but there are still issues on mobilization of equipment.

He also stated that there is a problem with beavers constantly clogging up the culverts.

ZONING UPDATE :

With Administrator Dennis Genereau absent, Supervisor Kroening stated that there have been 80 permits issued to date and there were more in the works.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

Commissioner Dawson Gentry reported the Planning Commission is reaching the final stages of an ordinance for Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVR's). They plan to call a special meeting in April or May for a public hearing. They hope to be able to finalize the ordinance by July 2022. The Planning Commission stated that Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau has been very busy enforcing our ordinances. It was also suggested that some of the ARPA money could be used to hire another full time zoning person or to hire another person to assist Mr. Genereau.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that he attended the meeting. He stated that 25-30% of the fire calls are for Windemere Township and they are mostly medical calls. He also reported that there are five (5) standpipes in Windemere Township and they are the township's responsibility.

CLAIMS :

September 2021 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to approve the September 2021 claims as provided. Approval of EFT #s 21-34 through 21-40, Payroll #PAY 21-0923 & PAY 21-10 Check #s 12958 through 12979, & Direct Deposit #s DD1411 through DD1422 for a total of \$483,430.12. 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 Bakhtiari to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Chair, Heidi Kroening