

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - December 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 9 Windemere residents and 10 participants via Zoom.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Clerk Woltjer read meeting minutes from the November 10, 2021 Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Bakhtiari, second by Dunaski to approve said minutes. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0. Minutes were then read for the November 30, 2021 Special Meeting. A motion was made by Dunaski, second by Bakhtiari to approve said minutes. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0. Minutes from the Special Meeting on December 2, 2021 were read. A motion was made by Kroening, second by Dunaski 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 November 2021 activity stating the deposits were substantial including the second half of 2021 property taxes paid, along with a state of Minnesota government aid check that was determined to be an extra ARPA payment and the zoning permit checks. Larger than normal expenses were for Rydberg & Sons for \$18,413.46 and Mid State Truck for \$8,925.83. All second half property taxes have been added to the Roads & Bridges Fund. 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 to speak apologized for getting upset at the November meeting. He also asked for better common-sense rules for bringing in dirt to fill in stump holes, etc.

The second and third residents brought up a blighted property in their neighborhood and were very concerned that there was little or no progress made that they could see. They were upset with substances being dumped on the ground at this property and asked about having their wells tested. Chair Kroening stated that the Pollution Control has been looking into dealing with this problem.

A fourth person inquired about a donation from the township to the Essentia Health Foundation for their new clinic for the community.

There were no comments from Zoom participants.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sand Lake Resort Informational Meeting :

Chair Kroening stated the entities that will be invited to the special meeting on December 16, 2021 are Heidi Lindgren with the DNR, the Soil and Water Conservation District, Matt Vogt from the City of Moose Lake representing the MLWSSD, Mark Lambert along with his engineer and attorney, & Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau. The basic agenda will be 1. Introductions 2. Presentation by Mark Lambert 3. Presentation by Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau 4. Q & A. Prior to the meeting the public has been invited to submit any questions to Clerk@windemeretownship.com to keep duplicate questions and comments at a minimum. There will be a Zoom link for residents that want to participate on line. But with an unknown wifi to use this will not be guaranteed. The meeting will also be recorded on Utube and will be posted on the township website. The meeting will be at the Moose Lake City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 PM. Treasurer Mossbeg will post the power point presentation provided by Mr. Lambert on the website ahead of the meeting. Motion by Bakhtiari, seconded by Dunaski for any official correspondence sent to Windemere township officials be forwarded to the clerk to then be redistributed to the board members. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

ARPA Update :

Supervisor Dunaski said he had been in contact with Kelly Schroeder, Pine County Treasurer regarding the ARPA money. He suggested we go back through the claims to March 2021 to identify certain items that can be covered with ARPA funds. There was some discussion about the guidelines that determine what does and does not qualify for ARPA reimbursement. There will be a separate fund designated for those expenditures.

NEW BUSINESS :

Set 2022 Monthly Meeting Dates :

A motion was made by Kroening, second by Bakhtiari to publish the 2022 regular monthly meeting dates, and to include the 2022 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting date set for April 18, 2022 at 4 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Ordinance Update :

There was discussion about hiring an attorney to assist in updating the existing ordinance. The cost would be approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000. It was also suggested that the township should consider turning over the zoning responsibilities to Pine County. Chair Kroening said this was already done approximately 2 years ago and it was decided against it but is open to asking Pine County to give their presentation again.

Sturgeon Island Bridge Repairs :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that Redstone Construction would do the repairs for \$4200 but would not start until after Christmas. He also stated that when the new bridge is being constructed there would have to be a bi-pass road put in.

2022 Budget :

Supervisor Dunaski reported that Pine County assessment costs will be reduced at \$1 per tract, per year until the cost is down to zero. There are also a few budget line items that need to be confirmed before the budget is finalized. He stated that there are three areas that could change in the next 2 years with township governance and should be looked into further - 1) Zoning 2) Administration & 3) Road Maintenance. Additional meetings to discuss potential administrative changes and zoning were mentioned with a road maintenance meeting also to follow.

Union Contract :

It was stated that our contract with the IUOE Operators Local 49 is going to expire on June 30, 2022. If it is decided to make any changes, a letter to the union needs to be sent out before the end of January 2022. It was suggested that we need to contact our attorney for guidance on this matter before a final decision is made. A special meeting date will need to be determined before the next regular meeting in January.

Board of Supervisors Other:

Supervisor Bakhtiari stated he wants to check with Pine County to see what can be done to show progress with the blighted property in question at the beginning of the meeting. He also asked if ARPA money could cover the cost of cleaning up blighted properties and the testing of residents' wells. It was decided to wait and discuss the options and possible costs of cleaning up with Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau.

It was brought to the Board's attention that the township needs to approve a Resolution to accept Eric Neilson to continue as a board member for the MLWSSD. A motion made by Kroening, seconded by Bakhtiari for Windemere Township to accept Eric Neilson as the continued Board member for the MLWSSD until January 1, 2026. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Supervisor Dunaski stated he could not attend the Special Meeting on December 16th for the Sand Lake Resort.

ROAD UPDATE :

No report.

ZONING UPDATE :

No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

It was reported the Planning Commission is planning a special meeting in February to discuss the camper language in the ordinance and STVR's.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Supervisor Dunaski suggested that the Fire District mail or email their billings directly to the clerk twice a year, in June and November. He also stated that the Fire District Director volunteered to come and explain these costs to the residents at the annual meeting in March.

CLAIMS :

November 2021 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to approve the November 2021 claims as provided. Approval of EFT #s 21-44 through 21-46, Payroll #PAY 2112, Check #s 13000 through 13018, & Direct Deposit #s DD1432 through DD1440 for a total of \$113,552.00. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TOWNSHIP MAIL :

Township mail was opened and reviewed. Treasurer Mossberg said there is a Zoom class action lawsuit that could net the township around \$20. It was decided to discuss it at a future meeting. He also asked the clerk to get together with him to get the books matched before the February meeting for the Board of Audit. Together they will set up a meeting time to do this.

ADJOURN :

Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Dunaski to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM. Vote Taken: Kroening – Aye, Dunaski – Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Chair, Heidi Kroening