

Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - August 8, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman, John Wesely. Others present were Supervisor, Pete Steen, Treasurer, Ron Mossberg, and Clerk, Scott Danelski. Absent Supervisor Heidi Kroening.

CLERK'S REPORT :

The Clerk's July 2019 report was tabled until the September 2019 Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT :

Treasurer's financial report was read. Motion by Wesely, seconded by Steen to approve the Treasurer's July 2019 financial report as submitted. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay.

OLD BUSINESS :

BALSAM ROAD BOX CULVERT :

The Balsam Road Box Culvert Project was discussed. The project has been awarded to Houle Excavating, LLC from Little Falls, MN for a total cost of \$166,000.00. Windemere Township is responsible for \$20,000.00 of the total cost of the project (\$10,000.00 towards engineering costs and \$10,000.00 towards construction costs). The remaining expense of \$146,000.00 will be paid for through the MNDOT Road & Bridges Fund through (State Aid Project (SAP) # 058-599-044). Erickson Engineering estimated the total cost of the project at \$144,000.00. Due to a shortage in box culvert production, the tentative start of construction for the Balsam Road Box Culvert Project is October 2019.

ISLAND LAKE OUTLET :

The Island Lake outlet was discussed. The township attorney is reviewing the easement needed in order to complete construction of, and to conduct future maintenance on, the Island Lake Outlet Channel. Once the easement is completed, signed by the Webb family, and then recorded with Pine County, construction will be able to begin on the project.

ROAD T-756 :

An update was given on Pine County named road T-756. Motion by Steen, seconded by Wesely to approve Windemere Township Resolution 2019-T756. Roll Call Vote Taken. Wesely – Aye, Steen – Aye, Kroening – Absent. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay. The approved motion will be recorded at Pine County.

DOBO TAX-FORFEITED PROPERTY :

The Dobo property was discussed. The township had the property appraised and the value came back at \$70,000.00 (given the well and septic are still functional). Pine County had previously appraised the property at \$78,000.00. Pine County has offered to sell the Dobo property to the township for a total cost of \$5000.00 and allow the property to remain county tax-exempt for (1) year. The county also gave a second option which would be to sell the property during the Pine County land-forfeited auction sale at a cost of approximately \$1300.00 in fees paid to the county or the sale. Pine County additionally requested Windemere Township to waive the approximately \$52,500.00 lien the township has on the Dobo property.

Motion by Wesely, seconded by Steen to approve to allow Pine County to sell the Dobo property at the Pine County land-forfeited sale and keep Windemere Township's approximate \$52,500.00 lien in place. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay. The Dobo property will not be available during the 2019 Pine County tax-forfeited land sale and will have to wait until the 2020 sale to be able to go up for auction.

STURGEON ISLAND BRIDGE # R0726 :

The Sturgeon Island Bridge # R0726 was discussed. During the July 16th, 2019 special meeting there was a lot of interest in keeping the current bridge structure in place. The Board decided to allow a committee be formed to research the feasibility of keeping the current Sturgeon Island Bridge structure intact and to see if the bridge can be placed on the National Registry of Historical Landmarks and then possibly qualify for grant funds to repair the structure.

Motion by Wesely, seconded by Steen to post and publish for letters of interest to participate on the Sturgeon Island Bridge Preservation Committee. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay. The Board will approve up to seven members on the committee.

Motion by Steen, second by Wesely for Windemere Township to submit an application to the National Registry of Historical Landmarks requesting the Sturgeon Island Bridge # R0726 by placed onto the national registry. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay.

NEW BUSINESS :

BIOSOLIDS :

The spreading of Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) biosolids was discussed. WLSSD is requesting approval from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to apply biosolids on agricultural lands of the Dave Ketchum property. The MPCA will approve or deny the request following a 30-day comment period.

Located in the recorded Windemere Township meeting minutes from December 1, 2005 the Board announced the outcome of the township biosolids election. Results were; 42 – Aye, in favor of the spreading of biosolids in Windemere Township and 97 – Nay, not in favor of the spreading of biosolids in Windemere Township. A previous motion made by the Board on December 1, 2005 reads; Motion by Young, seconded by Ring to accept the results of the biosolids election by the people of Windemere township against the spreading of biosolids on agricultural land according to the specifications outlined by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). Motion passed. No action taken by the current Board.

CULVERT QUOTES :

Windemere Township culvert quotes were discussed. During the 2019 Windemere Township annual road review, it was determined that 16 culverts located on various township roads are in need of being replaced.

Motion by Wesley, seconded by Steen to accept Contech Engineered solutions linear foot quotation for purchasing 16 aluminum culverts with galvanized steel aprons not to exceed \$7904.30. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL :

The rental of equipment to complete Windemere Township maintenance projects was discussed.

Motion by Steen, seconded by Wesely to authorize Road Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Buetow, to solicit quotes for the rental of a trackhoe/excavator for a duration of up to (1) month with approval from Road Maintenance Supervisor, Pete Steen. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay.

EQUIPMENT MOBILIZATION :

Tabled until a later meeting.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OTHER :

None.

ROAD UPDATE :

Road Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Buetow gave the monthly road update. Erickson Engineering has been out and began staking the Birchview Road and Rush Blvd box culvert projects.

ZONING UPDATE :

Zoning Administrator, Phill White gave the monthly zoning update. High water levels have been dropping which has been helpful. The Zoning Department viewed a lot of non-compliant work being completed due to the high-water levels and the Windemere Zoning Department will be meeting with the Pine County Zoning Department on 8/8/19 to discuss the shoreline violations. The Zoning Department received 14 new permit applications since last month and the July 18th, 2019 variance hearing for a minor sub-division was approved. The State of Minnesota contacted the Windemere Zoning Department with some perceived violations during the permitting of the Moose Lake Golf Club and Doc's Sports Bar & Grill. The Windemere Zoning Department provided the State of Minnesota with all necessary documentation and it was found that the Zoning Department had indeed completed all the permitting according to the zoning rules and regulations. Summer Zoning Department hours are still in effect.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

Clair Strandlie gave the Planning Commission update. The next scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission will be on Tuesday August 13th, 2019 6:30 PM located at the Windemere town hall. The Planning Commission has requested the Town Board to attend the meeting to discuss the new Comprehensive Plan.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

No Fire District update this month due to conflicting meeting schedules.

CLAIMS :

July 2019 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Wesely, seconded Steen to approve the July 2019 claims as submitted. EFTs - 1918 through 1919, Checks - 12351 through 12383 & Direct Deposits - 1175 through 1181 for a total of \$42,157.71. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay.

Township mail was opened and reviewed.

Motion made by Wesely, seconded by Steen to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Motion passed, 2 Aye
– 0 Nay.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Scott Danelski

Chairman, John Wesely