

ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Tipka-Chairman Supervisor; Dave Jutz-Supervisor, John Smith – Supervisor, Elvera Smith Treasurer, Lori Johnson-Clerk

OTHER ATTENDEES: Alan Skjefte; Mike Schiesl

APPROVE AND ACCEPT MINUTES – *John Smith motion to accept and Dave Jutz second.*

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Township Day – 2 Supervisors \$200.00
- Jack's - Propane \$300.85
- Fireproof File Cabinets from ULINE \$3,388.63
- Mike Murphy – February Snow Plowing \$ 3,350.00
- Meeker County Highway Dept 2022 Maint. agreement (41.95 @ \$700 per mile) \$29,365.00

Motion to accept Treasurer's report and pay bills by Dave Jutz and second by John Smith

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: None

CLERKS REPORT:

- Road Projects 2022 for Annual Meeting and projected project list for 2023
- Election Judges: Election Judges are chosen – verifying with Barb Loch on who has necessary training. Elvera asked if we want to keep the pay the same for election judges. It was decided to keep the pay the same. There was discussion on the pay for training for the Spring Training Courses for clerk & treasurer and supervisor. For training – currently we do not pay for mileage – just \$90 per day.
- Board Of Audit- Need to discuss & set levy for next year
- Hutchinson Fire Meeting – we were not notified of the meeting – they missed us – Lori has the paperwork from the meeting. They had a good turnout – we were the only ones not represented – we have the date for next year.
 - Board of Appeals & Equalization Meeting- Set Time – All agreed April 13th – Thurs will work.

OPEN MEETING:

- Mike Shiesl asked about mail balloting and how it gets on an agenda. It was explained that last year it came up at the annual meeting and it was set for an actual discussion item on the agenda for the May meeting. There were only a couple of people there. Further discussion regarding how the annual meeting works and how to get items on an agenda.

Motion to close open meeting made by Dave Jutz and second by John Smith

OLD BUSINESS:

- Dave Jutz said that he has heard nothing from Mark Woods on VRBO
- Furnace repair – Still need a pump in the current tank – John Smith said he will make sure there is a new pump by the next meeting
- Dave Jutz & John Smith attended Capitol Day – gave update on trip. Some items discussed were current bills, DNR buying land, etc. Governor Walsh gave speech.

- Update on Meeker County Highway Dept – they are short on drivers like everyone– they use real time for drivers, so they can see speed – plowing – location, etc and can verify exactly what roads have been plowed. Very good meeting overall.
- Update on Litchfield Fire Meeting from Dave Tipka – cost going up due to purchasing more equipment. Still waiting on new fire truck. Ellsworth had no fire calls. Lowest on rescue squad also – only 4. There is no pay from other townships for mutual aid.
- Discussion about setting levies – Dave Jutz said that property taxes are going up. It has to do with higher land and home sales. There are 5 counties that will be going up 30% - Meeker is one of them. All counties will be affected to some degree.
- Discussion on setting levies: Road stay same at \$240,000.00 since we will have funds from bonding – Fire increase to 53,000 from \$50,000 and general will raise to \$25,000 from .
- Lori still working with attorneys to get information on how to handle assessments – not much information yet – he is looking into it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn John Smith and second Dave Jutz 8:18PM