

## ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2022

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

OTHER ATTENDEES: Carol Watts & Patrick Cattarin re: Dead end road problem – Lake Willy

**APPROVE AND ACCEPT MINUTES** – *Motion by John Smith and second Dave Jutz*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bills to pay:

- Mike Murphy – Plowing Dec \$577.50 & Jan. \$907.50 = \$1,485.00
- Radke Spraying: \$470.25
- Received check from Lake Manuella Assoc – Hall use for meeting \$35
- Gravel Tax from Meeker Co. \$24,525.77
- State of MN Road Maintenance from Meeker Co \$39,152.50

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

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA : None

**CLERKS REPORT:**

- Hutchinson Fire Dept Meeting – details to be discussed later in meeting
- Litchfield Fire meeting is February 16 @ 7:00 details to be discussed later in meeting
- Dassel Fire Meeting Reminder Feb. 23
- Appeals & Equalization Meeting is scheduled April 14 @ 6:00 – all supervisors approved
- Need completed and projected project list for annual meeting report
- Showed report from Barb Loch regarding tax & levy – Dave Jutz said he is working on the usage reports from gravel pits.

**OPEN MEETING:**

Carol Watts & Patrick Cattarin brought map of area they live in – can see dead end of cul de sac from their house and own all of the land surrounding land. They are seeing an increasing problem with cars getting stuck – parked for extended amount of time – concerned of possible crimes. Possible solutions after they discussed with Phil Schmalz would be putting up cement barriers with chain. That would maybe easiest solution. Another option is for township to abandon the property and they could put a larger swinging gate that would look nice. There is a culvert there that has had to be replaced previously. They have no plans to develop that area. Dave Jutz had talked to land owner Steve Uhlrich who rents the land. He thought cement barriers would work or the barriers with chains which would be easier. Safety is definitely an issue too. The township could donate land back and get lifetime easement and be sure to have access for plowing and emergency vehicles. Dave Jutz will check with the company that surveyed to determine who owns what area. Dave Jutz will check with Mark Woods. Subject of no spraying area of their property came up. It will take 2-3 years to get better – but is better each year.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Furnace Repair** – John reported tank not in yet
- **VRBO update:** Dave Jutz said that Mark Woods suggested we write the proposal as we submitted it. Each VRBO has to come before the meeting to say the rules they will have. Discussion that we have to have rules that would or would not be approved. Meeker County noise ordinance would apply. Rules have to be definitive so they can be enforced. Township will have to mail the guidelines and they have to come before a meeting.
- **Update on land sale:** No update yet – close to be finished and then Dave Tipka and Lori Johnson will have to sign.
- **Bonding:** Dave Jutz talked to Phil Schmalz – the county does not have any time this year to bid anything this year. If we want to do 208<sup>th</sup> we should contact the company doing it and work out with them. Mid-Minnesota can provide a bid also – Dave Jutz will contact them once we know for sure what we want to do. Dave Jutz also brought up the

road past Steve Schmidt's and the road around Lake Manuella (654<sup>th</sup>). Lori read the projected projects from last year.

- Dave Jutz said that the trail groomer issue discussed previously would be covered by American Rescue Act Fund. Lori said that previously we had a resolution to donate \$1,500 as long as it was under the ARAP funding. Since it was approved previously, we will donate \$1,500.00 to Meeker Count Trails Association for groomer.
- Speed Limit Signs: Dave Jutz brought up speed limit signs for Lake Erie. Need speed limit signs by 25 MPH by gravel, lake landing and where it turns into residential. Dave Tipka mentioned about changing them to prevent stealing. We also need them on Lake Washington. Resolution by John Smith and second Dave Jutz to replace.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Speed Limit Traffic Signs:** Lori provided list of stolen signs and that many other townships are missing some as is Meeker County. Motion made by Dave Jutz and second by John Smith to have them replaced and also to discuss changing the mounting method to prevent future theft.
  - Lake Willy Road issue was discussed in Open Meeting.
  - Elvera and Lori brought up issues of new computers. Both are using their own home computers and printers. The printer and computer that Lori got from the beginning is no longer compatible. It could be an issue if the next clerk or treasurer or if we had to have an alternate person fill in. We also need to look at switching to CTAS for treasurer. Discussion again about having a written form for alternate clerk and treasurer.
  - Sign contract for Litchfield Fire Dept. Dave Tipka and Lori Johnson signed.
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- **ADJOURN :** *Motion to adjourn by Dave Jutz and second by John Smith – Adjourn 8:14 PM*