

ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 20, 2022

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

OTHER ATTENDEES: 14 other attendees

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

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Bills to pay:

- Meeker Washed Sand & Gravel \$3,746.40
- North Star Surveying – Huhn \$500.00
- Hutchinson Fire Dept \$4,326.00
- Payroll Taxes \$704.80
- Luedtke Contracting \$8760.00
 - Bill Diedrick \$18,537.78 (Discussion about original bid much lower – Dave Jutz said bid came in higher since there were significant issues once the project began.)

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

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: None

CLERKS REPORT:

- Assessment Search Check \$20.00
- Hall Rented for Dec 2 – need to have someone clean.
- Snow plowing bid from Murphy – need to approve or get other bids

OPEN MEETING:

- Kent Dibb just requested copy of minutes regarding his new location for septic.
- Todd Walters thanked board for the great work on his road project – Dave Jutz said hill was bad and east shoulder was pretty bad also. it is now Class 5 and packed. It was figured to be 8 ft wide and just kept getting worse as project continued and a decision had to be made at that time. Bid just came in much higher than expected.
- Doug Busho – asking about the road project and the billing process. Wanted to know how road projects are decided and how residents are notified. Lori said she has been in contact with Auditor Barb Loch and MN Township attorney. Discussion about properties that are owned by multiple owners. More information will be coming and nothing will happen until 2023. All property owners will be notified. Lori talked to the MN township attorney and got several names of attorneys that deal with these issues. It is usually assessed by parcel rather than individuals. The initial petition was only a starting place – when/if the project goes forward every individual will be contacted well in advance and it will be published in the newspaper as well. Lori also had a list from the Meeker County tax website that has every mailing address for each resident. Dave Tipka brought up cost of maintaining black top compared to gravel and typically township does not do dead end roads. There was discussion on how the road around Lake Manuella was done also.
- Jodi Eggert brought up a property next to her home that was doing a lot of work on the property and hillside. We said that would have to go through the Planning/ Zoning. She was questioning what the penalty was to just do the project and ask permission later. He took some of her trees down because he crossed property lines even though he was told to get a variance when he bought the property and he said he did have it surveyed. She was questioning what

the township could do – if anything if the owner just keeps on doing the project and then going to Meeker County Planning/Zoning afterwards. Discussion was if the penalty was fair for the fine compared to waiting and getting a permit ahead of time. John Smith said Planning/Zoning were looking at tripling the fine for after the fact work. It was previously a non-buildable lot when a previous lake resident tried to buy. She said he was told before he even purchased the property that he needed to contact the county for a permit. He had told her he plans to build an actual home there and she is questioning how that can happen when it was unbuildable for previous potential buyer of that lot.

- Question about having a civil engineer to look at dead end roads previously discussed. Dave Tipka said the cost is very high and it would be up to the residents to pay...could be as much as \$16,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Furnace Repair – John said still no one has committed. He has not heard from Limitless – John has him coming next Tuesday to his residence, so will get an answer. Still does not have an answer this month – Dave Tipka has not contacted from another contact.
- VRBO – Lori brought information from the Stearns County. People have to get a lodging license and another less expensive license. Stearn's County gave her two other attorneys that specialize in VRBO's. Our current attorney has been very busy with other projects. Lori has a print out of all the guidelines that Stearn's County has used. They are taxing as a business also. They have noise – parking, septic – water – sanitary – overnight capacity compared to septic – guest record – no tents – no signs directing people to that area i.e., wedding and also have to have an emergency contact that can be available to the property on short notice.
- Tree Trimming: Dave Jutz reported that Gabrielson could not do, however he did contact Wimmer that we used last year. The trimming is done – the county had contacted Dave about some trees down that had to be cleaned up – he will be charging for approximately 2-1/2 days' work.
- File Cabinets – Lori said we need to get the current desk and file cabinets moved before we order. Dave Jutz and John Smith will come down next week to move desk out and we will sell. The current file cabinets need to be move before we get anymore delivered. The old ones under table need to be scrapped out.
- Existing road projects: Dave said Kyle called about getting rest of road project done this year. Roads 216th and 208th need contracts. Dave Jutz said he put it on hold in case they could not get done this year. As long as they will still honor next year and we will be first.
- Shelter: John Smith said shelter will be done – we just need to mark spot.
- The pipe on Green Leaf on 640th is dry now. The culvert is half full of mud and Dave Luedke said it would be a good time to get done. He is contacting Gary Bennett from DNR look at something on nearby property and will have him look at the culvert while in the area. Dave Tipka said we should look at looking at cost to possibly putting in a bridge there or something that will not continue to plug up. We will discuss the findings next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business

ADJOURN: *Motion to adjourn by Dave Jutz and second by John Smith*
Adjourn at 8:35 PM