

Dunn Township

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Johnson.

Members present: D. Johnson, Kvale, Dalman, Seifert and Herseth. Treasurer: Peplenjok, Clerk: Johnson and township engineer: Stabnow.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**AGENDA:** A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kvale and seconded by Seifert. Motion passed unanimously.

**PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** A motion by Kvale and seconded by Herseth to approve the minutes as presented, passed unanimously.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Kvale and seconded by Dalman. Kvale asked if fire department payments have been made. Chair; 2<sup>nd</sup> half still to be paid. Unanimous approval. Treasurer then recommended that we invest in a Certificate of Deposit. Interest on checking is minimal. There is a special 7 month CD at 3% interest being offered by Bell State Bank. There would be a 3 month interest penalty for early withdrawal. Kvale made a motion to invest \$190,000 in a 7 month CD. Dalman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLAIMS:** A list of claims was presented by the treasurer. A motion was made by Kvale and seconded by Seifert to approve the claims list for payment, passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS/AGENDA REQUESTS:**

None

**PELICAN VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT:** PVHD board approved 1 year renewal for the Ecumen contract. Construction mortgage executed for \$4,450,000. Full fiscal year loss of \$555,900. Slotten's monthly report is on file.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPORT:** Striping projects completed. Woodlake Lane project completed. Lost highway – Egge's to start this week. Fish Lake Road signage; the 30 mph signs with Watch For Children that were recently put up send mixed messages and are not recommended and the 25 mph curve sign is non-standard. Chair; what would the engineer recommend? Stabnow; put chevrons on both sides of curve and remove speed limit signs. No data shows they are effective plus they add hazards in the ROW. Dalman; 25mph is too fast on that curve. Herseth; a road study might actually raise the speed limit there. Stabnow; remove the signs. Drivers are expected to be reasonable and prudent. Chevrons only. Kvarre; Fish Lake Road is misused by drivers. Nothing will change until drivers start to get ticketed. Herseth; can township hire someone, such as an off-duty police officer, to patrol? Can townships band together for this? Clerk to check with county. Kvarre; Should we ask Schlueter to attend one of our meetings? Kvarre; 215<sup>th</sup> Ave – Lake Region has line in ROW where township wants to dig. Where should utility easement be? What should township expect from the utility? Chair; utility line should be further out in the slough. Ask the utility what they will do. Kvarre to ask.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** 1. West Ottertail Township Assoc. meeting notice on 11/24 2. Several other misc. notices.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Property/Casualty increased deductible. This issue was addressed at the October meeting. However, Clerk discovered that a separate resolution needs to be made by the board to increase the deductible. Resolution 2015-06 to increase the annual deductible to \$2,500 was made by Kvarre and seconded by Seifert. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Winter Maintenance Resolution – Resolution 2015-07. The Ottertail County Highway Dept requested that the town pass a resolution re picking up sand/salt

from the highway department. In Resolution 2015-07 Dunn requests an approximate quantity of 200 cubic yards of sand/salt be reserved. Motion made by Seifert and seconded by Herseth. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Seal coat/traffic marking with Ottertail County. County engineer sent message stating that if Dunn wanted to participate in their seal coat/traffic marking efforts for 2016, they needed a resolution from the township. After some discussion it was decided that Dunn would continue to perform these tasks as needed without county participation.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Fadness stairs; An inquiry was sent to the township attorney regarding this issue. Atty stated that an encroachment agreement would be more appropriate than a variance if the town decided to leave the stair in place. Herseth; the permit with OT county was not complied with. Chair; Township s/b reimbursed for legal opinion, supervisors time, etc. Kvaré; shouldn't all residents abide by the rules. Herseth; an option is to remove the stairs. Chair; perhaps the stairs can be made removable. Dalman; could they put steps in to the hill. A motion made by Herseth to establish a resolution to remove the stairs from the ROW – to be removed 33 feet from road centerline. Seconded by Dalman. Motion to establish resolution 2015-08 whereby Fadness/owner remove stairs from ROW – 33 feet from centerline. Motion passed unanimously. Clerk to send letter to Fadness.

2. Roger Erickson – Fish Lake Rd speed limit request. Erickson stated that he felt the signs help people slow down. Herseth; people drive too fast on Fish Lake Rd. Kvaré; Sheriffs office has been called repeatedly. Chair; there was no agreement that 'watch for children' signs could be put up. Kvaré; Solar signs might be a solution. Clerk; Ask lake association to purchase signs. Seifert; permanent signs should be fairly cheap. Herseth; Might cost \$3,000 per sign for the LED type. Clerk to check on signage cost. Kvaré; send letter to lake associations asking them to participate in purchase of signs. Chair; lets find out cost first. Erickson; chevrons are only on the west side of the curve. Supervisors will look during their fall road tour. Chair; Take down watch for children signs. Erickson will do. Kvaré; township should recognize owners observance that signs have been effective.

Erickson; can we get law enforcement to enforce parking on Fish Lake Rd?  
Stabnow; current speed limits may be unenforceable.

3. Poss Beach tree. Survey info was reviewed. Kvaré; go to owners and ask them to pay for legal/township expense if township gives up easement. Stabnow; the tree is the property of the owner, not the township. Township only has an easement. Kvaré; will make a proposal to land owners and see where it goes.

4. GIS project update. Herseth – nothing to report on GIS project.

5. Township Road Standards. Herseth went over outline of standards. Suggested to expand definitions and remove several sections including conflict of interest, list of current township roads, etc. Recommended outline attached to these minutes. Kvaré; there needs to be a paving policy including paving specs. Stabnow; landowners should pay to upgrade/pave roads. Herseth will start writing new standards and report back to board.

6. Schmoll fire call. Schmoll was sent two letters by the city of Pelican Rapids to pay them for fire service provided 4/24/15. Kvaré visited with Schmoll late in September. Kvaré; we've already talked to him once. We should send him a registered/certified letter. Chair; give him two weeks from date of letter to pay. If not paid, cost will be applied at the December township meeting. Kvaré made a motion for Clerk to send said letter. Seconded by Seifert and passed unanimously.

### **TOWN BOARD MATTERS:**

1. Snow/ice Press notice. The notice place in Nov, 2014 was reviewed. A decision was to have the same notice placed in both the Dec 15 and Jan 15 editions of the Pelican Press.

2. Muskie Stocking in Pelican, Franklin, Lizzie. Mike Johnson (Clerk) addressed the board as a resident of the township. He presented several items, including letters from the Perham Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Perham that called for the opposition of stocking muskies in local lakes. Johnson asked the Dunn board to support the lake associations in Dunn township in their opposition to

muskie stocking. Kvare; we should support our local lake associations. Chair; township should support the lake associations. Herseth; is it a responsibility of a governmental entity (township) to take sides in this issue? Kvare; perhaps the township should move slower on this issue. Associations need larger political units to step forward. Johnson; we are working on just that. Dalman; not for muskies. Seifert; opposed to stocking muskies. Herseth; support lake associations but get legislators to stop stocking. Chair made a motion to accept the suggested resolution to support the lake associations in their opposition to stocking muskies in Ottertail County. Seconded by Dalman. Discussion; Kvare; getting larger groups with more muscle to support will get the DNR's attention. Vote was split two/two. Chair cast deciding vote in favor of motion. Motion passed 3/2.

**MEETINGS:**

WOTTA meeting Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 6:45pm at the OTPower Co. Community Rooms  
The next monthly town board meeting will be Monday, December 14, 2015.

**ADJOURNED:** Motion by Seifert and seconded by Herseth to adjourn, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_ Michael Johnson, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ David Johnson, Chairman