

**BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE**  
**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for September was held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Nicollet County Satellite Offices in North Mankato. Chairman Craig Smith, Supervisor Mary Milbrath, Supervisor Randy Gish, Supervisor Tom Langdon, Supervisor Tim Lorentz, Treasurer Richard Timm and Clerk Lori Cullen were present as well as Eric Miller (watershed), Lynn Baldus (attorney representing Kent Schwickert) and 13 township residents as listed on the sign-in sheet.

Craig called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Craig called for Additional Agenda Items and Approval of Agenda. Randy made a motion to approve the additional agenda items. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The minutes from the August 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting were reviewed. Randy made a motion to approve the minutes. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Richard Timm gave the Treasurer's Report for August. There is \$15,606.01 in the Checking account, \$379,526.67 in the ICS account as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The bank did not enclose the Platinum account in their mailing to Richard. He will report August and September balances together. Randy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Claims were reviewed from August 2017, as well as August's payroll. Tom made a motion to accept the August claims. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Craig called for any further discussion regarding anything from the list of old business.

Mary made a motion to sign the Engagement Agreement from Knutson+Casey approving Alex Johnson as a township attorney to consult regarding issues of annexation and other potential concerns. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed and a letter was signed by the board stating details of the agreement. Either party may terminate the agreement at any time.

Craig expressed concern regarding the ditches and culverts. Specifically, the culvert by Kerns Addition. Craig visited with the Nicollet County engineer. He said the township should hire an engineering firm to determine the amount of flow the culvert handles and the size of box culvert needed to meet the requirements. The cost for an engineer's evaluation would probably be around \$3,000. Craig was told there is money available through Nicollet County. The overall cost for this large project will be roughly \$85,000 - \$100,000. The maximum cost for the township would be around \$20,000. Craig said it should be on the 2018 project list.

Lori reported that the CPA's are meeting her for two days of field work at the shop. They hope to be able to present their final report at October's meeting.

Tim said that Teresa Webber will purchase the replacement tree that was clipped by the road grader and the township will reimburse her for the cost of the tree and planting.

There was no further discussion from the remainder of the list of Old Business:

Nicollet County Township Association Meeting; Eric Miller Watershed News & upcoming meeting for all to attend; FT/PT employees & time cards; Census update; District 4 Meeting – Farmington MN 8-7-2017; Digital recorder to record meetings; Orange Cones; OFCCP's nondiscrimination and EEO laws – poster; Craig and Harlan's road tour with Dean from Nicollet County  
help needed – call for help

## NEW BUSINESS

Lori received the paperwork for the MATIT coverage renewal notice.

Another letter was sent to the township regarding a parcel of land being reviewed for annexation to the city of North Mankato at the request of the property owner.

Nicollet County is requesting a letter of certification regarding current road mileage in our township. Tim reported that the township currently has mileage is 39 miles of road.

Huntley-Wilmarth meeting – Power Line coming through North Mankato and possibly Belgrade Township. Craig opened it up for residents to discuss. Chris Fredricks brought a Letter of Resolution opposing the current inset route. Steve Johnson said they would potentially be going over an indian burial ground. Residents expressed concern that it will decrease property value. Eric Miller suggested to reach out to the DNR for a list of endangered habitat maps. Richard asked if we want to get the County involved. Chris asked us to just support the property owners with the afore mentioned Letter of Resolution. The residents are not asking the township to spend money on it. Craig encouraged residents to send individual letters to Excel Energy. Tom made a motion to accept, sign and send the Resolution brought by Chris and supported by town residents. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed. The letter will be sent to:

EXCEL ENERGY

414 Nicollet Mall Floor 6

Minneapolis MN 55401

Mary suggested we begin thinking about what to have in the 2018 Annual Township Newsletter.

Mary shared information regarding the sharing of fine revenues. She explained that we get a stipend of any fines that occur in Belgrade Township and that we should be taking advantage of that. Randy suggested tabling discussion until after meeting with Dave Lang. He'll be at the next meeting.

Mary read a letter from Corey regarding MN Border to Border Broadband. It's an ongoing endeavor.

Eric Miller invited Mary to the Water & Soil USDA NRCS Meeting held on 8-17-2017 regarding cleaner water. Part of this involves looking at different culvert sizes. Eric said it's optimal to hold run off water back for 24 hours, which makes for cleaner run off. Cover crops bring in a lot of invasive weeds. Eric added that the engineering firm has not set any dates for the stakeholder meeting. Eric will work with us and the state on how to properly word getting help with the cost of culverts.

Emergency preparedness will be addressed by Dave Lang at the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. Mary said "The heat is off of the township for the most part" in the case of a disaster. Craig said we need to be prepared for major wash-outs with a list of names.

One of the Nicollet County agenda items at their next meeting involves the Schwickert Cartway proposal. Randy has previously spoken with Andy Willert about Belgrade Townships role in this process. He also inquired about the lot size. The County is being requested to have a variance on the lot sizes. 3.9 Acres & 6.3 Acres. Lynn Baldus, attorney for Kent Schwickert, came to explain more about the cartway. They did a wetland delineation study. Township resident, Jill, brought photos suggesting it is in the middle of a wetland. Lynn said ISG and the Army Corp of Engineers did a survey to ensure that it is not going to go through a wetland. Craig expressed concern about being responsible for maintaining the cartway in the future. Lynn said the township would not be responsible because it would be a private cartway. Gloria Alfstad spoke up regarding the fact that they were understanding that only one house would be allowed on the property as it is now, not two. Kenny Klooster is concerned about the wildlife. Kent Schwickert already has access to the property without having to put a cartway in. Dan Nuehring said if it is edging wetland you may have to continue to add base due to stability issues. Tom made a motion to deny the cartway proposal. Randy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lori met with the Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer at Pioneer bank to get their names added to the signature card so they are able to sign checks (only in the event where Richard or Lori are unable to).

Lori inquired if everyone had their email set up so we can update website. One Supervisor still needed to set up their email.

Kenny Klooster said the website was down. Lori will check into the problem right away.

Craig attended the Nicollet Fire Department Meeting. There was an increase from 25 to 30 firefighters. They had 60 calls since their last meeting. The new truck to be purchased in 2018 is still being researched. They requested an update of residents' addresses living in Belgrade Township. Mary already provided it to them.

Loren expressed concern about his road and the trees that need trimming. Craig said we are limited because of having only one employee. Craig will talk to Harlan.

Tim brought a fall road priority list. He explained that winter will be here soon and there are a few things that should get taken care of before then. The list was: Mow shoulders, cut edges and recover gravel, replace Old River Bluff culvert south of Gamble Hill and clean Old River Bluff ditch north of Warden. The supervisors agreed it was a good list. Craig said he would like to assess, too. Tim suggested get a belly mower. Loren recommended when cutting along edges with grader, to recover gravel, that taking just a little at a time, every time, works best. He said that's the way past road graders have done it with success. Craig spoke with Nicollet County about spraying along the roads to control growth.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Donna & Doug Hewitt informed the township that a neighbor is pushing debris into the township right of way. Craig thanked them for bringing it to the board's attention before it becomes a potential issue in the winter time. Mary will send a letter by certified mail to afore mentioned neighbor.

#### ADJOURN

Tom made a motion to adjourn. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned @ 8:33pm.

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Craig Smith, Chairman

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Date

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Lori Cullen, Clerk