

**BELGRADE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
NICOLLET COUNTY SATELLITE OFFICE
October 10th, 2017**

The Belgrade Township regular monthly meeting for October was held on October 10th, 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 Harlan Olson, Sheriff Dave Lang, Justin Block (Nicollet County), Tom Hillstrom (Project Head of EXCEL Energy High Voltage Power Lines), Tim Rogers (Power Line Project) and 19 residents, as listed on the sign-in sheet. There were also 3 visiting non-resident individuals who attended to listen to power line presentation.

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

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

The minutes from the September 12th 2017 meeting were reviewed. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes. Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Richard Timm gave the Treasurer's Report for September. There is \$1,331.62 in the Checking account, \$13,607.12 in the Platinum account and \$379,916.78 in the ICS account as of September 30th, 2017. Lori gave the Platinum account balance for August, which was not enclosed with Richard's bank statement mailing last month. The balance in the Platinum account as of August 31st was \$13,455.94. Randy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The Supervisors reviewed the MATIT insurance policy at the October meeting and agreed to the renewal terms.

Ditches – Tim was able to make one pass along all the township roads with the mower. More mowing needs to get done.

The CPA's conducting the audit will present at the November meeting due to the full agenda of tonight's meeting.

Mary made some phone calls regarding the 'sharing of fine revenues' (Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) & Court Services Amendment) and confirmed this is something the township needs to participate in.

Huntley-Wilmarth (EXCEL Energy) High Voltage power lines – more discussion will be held along with a presentation during new business

Emergency preparedness - Dave Lang 10-10-2017 – under new business

The letter sent to a resident addressing dumping in township ditches resulted in prompt clean-up of the ditch by the resident.

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

Craig and Harlan's road tour with Dean from Nicollet County: Letter of certification regarding current road mileage in our township: Culverts by Kerns Addition: PT help needed: Replacement evergreen for Teresa Webber: Newsletter: Broadband: Water & Soil USDA NRCS Meeting 8-17-2017: Nicollet County Planning and Zoning Meeting Agenda: Deputy Clerk & Treasurer: Fall list of priorities: Supervisor's emails

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency preparedness - Dave Lang gave a brief talk regarding an emergency management department meeting he attended in April. Dave explained that we are covered by the county in emergency/disaster situations, meaning they will run any necessary disaster relief for the township. Justin added that from the county level, their office would help us submit to FEMA, etc. for documentation for federal funding. Every 5 years the county must update their plan with hazardous material. We will receive notice of that in November. Craig said we brought him in to help cover emergency preparedness and to understand that the key role of the Belgrade Town Board is to focus on keeping roads passable in a disaster type of situation. Justin has a list of special contractors for specific types of repair if needed. Justin said the quicker we present an estimate to submit the better potential to receive funding... and that's for any event that happens. There are 13 townships in Nicollet County.

Huntley-Wilmarth (EXCEL Energy) 345 kV transmission lines presentation was given by Tom Hillstrom. The two end points of the line are the substations. It's 40 miles of line. The goal is to try to avoid homes, parks, wild life management area and wildlife refuges. They have made some adjustments after the feedback they received from the June meeting. They are now in the process of comparing routes. When that is finished they'll submit a permit application to be sent to the state. The state begins their own process. They'll determine if the application is complete, followed by a scoping process which begins with an environmental impact study. There will be formal hearings for the public to attend and give comments. If someone is giving a comment it's best not to just say "We don't want it", but instead give substantial reasons. The state explores why the lines are needed. The public utilities commissioners will be the ones to give final approval of the route. Harlan Olson asked to see maps of the routes. Tom started the slide presentation. **If you are a Belgrade Township Resident and would like to check the potential routes or how this may impact you, visit www.huntley-wilmarth.com.** This is a resource where you can find more information. Chris Frederick asked Tom Hillstrom to explain why the two residential routes were chosen. Tom Langdon stated that the route along Rockford Road has no housing there right now. He said it seems like it's existing houses verses "potential" housing. Chris mentioned that one route crosses 3 rivers, verses 1 river on a different route and inquired about that environmental impact. He also pointed out that the eastern route has more existing infrastructure. Tom Hillstrom said they're aiming to submit their application around Dec/Jan. Steve Johnson asked if there's permission to go over Minneopa State Park. Tom said the DNR has not yet given them permission to cross it. Mary Milbrath called 4 offices at the DNR and was told they do not get politically involved. Tom said the goal is using the least impactful route. Judson Bottom route will most likely be eliminated. Mike Milbrath stated he is quite unhappy about the whole thing. Molly Lowe expressed concern about how we can't compete with North Mankato in opposing this. Andy Frederick added our township has future residential areas, too. Tom Hillstrom said they are still accepting a lot of comments. You can submit comments on the website. Andy Johnson shared that he sent an email quite a while ago with no response. Tom assured residents that he has looked at every comment and has tried to send responses. Trisha from EXCEL asked how we would like to see the mailing sent since many residents said neighbors have no idea what's going on because they threw their mailing thinking it was junk mail. Other residents expressed their concern as well. Craig closed with pointing out Belgrade Township has a unique terrain with many trees and ravines. We already struggle with water issues which clearing out vegetation to place the large poles for the power lines will most likely create more issues and expense for the residents. Tom guaranteed they will not bypass public comment.

Lori reminded residents that resolutions, town petitions and other agenda items brought up by residents need to be sent to the board 5 days before the scheduled meeting, so supervisors have time to review and can give an informed response/vote.

Mary said there is a grant for aging voting equipment – 50% of scanners, 75% for electronic rosters.

MAT Annual Conference November 17 & 18, 2017 @ Mayo Civic Center, Rochester for board members.

Sharon called Tom asking if the grader could blade the turn around at the end of Minnewaukan. Harlan said no gravel got put on that road.

OFCCP's nondiscrimination and EEO laws poster – Lori replaced the posters at the shop. These posters are required by law and need to be kept current. The ones replaced were between 13-15 years old.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chris, from Gislason and Hunter Law Firm, recommended the township wait until after the county planning meeting regarding the Kent Schwickert property before discussing their petition for a cartway. If the county approves the land easement being requested, the language may allow for a petition to be presented requesting a cartway, if the land has no other access. It is the county's responsibility to approve land easements. Randy and Tom will try to attend the County meeting on Monday.

Mike Milbrath asked if there will be one more mowing done. Craig said that is one of the goals for this fall.

Lori brought a letter from the Hwy 14 initiative. She also brought a copy of the bridge report. The board is not interested in funding any part of the Hwy 14 initiative.

Mary thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURN

Tom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Craig Smith, Chairman

Date

Lori Cullen, Clerk