Town of Embarrass

Board Meeting

June 10, 2020

Visitors: Lorrie Richardson, Paul Knuti, Roland Fowler, Bill Wright

Present: Roy Worsham, Gary Rantala, Gene Wright, Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese

Meeting was called to order by Worsham at 6:01 p.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance.

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes. Carried 3-0.*

Question was asked about the Road and Bridge fund. Clerk shows Worsham cost for second half of snowplowing and grader tires that were taken out of fund. *Motion/Wright: Second/Rantala to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Carried 3-0.*

Road report was given by Rantala. Complaint was called into Rantala about Laitinen Road. Rantala drove the road and felt that the road was good and being that it is gravel it cannot get much better. Rantala states that he drove all the township roads and they are all in good condition. Worsham agrees. Discussion was had about the dust on Hanka Nevala Road. It was explained to the visitors that the roads were to be chloride every other year. This year it was decided that chloride on the roads are being postponed because the township is trying to cut costs. St. Louis County is also cutting expenses on some areas of roads.

Maintenance report was given by Wright. Wright received a complaint phone call regarding the mowing at the cemetery. Wright explains that the cemetery was mowed the Thursday before the complaint date and it was looking good and that we are working two guys and not summer hires this year so grass may get longer in between mow times. Shower house repairs were made to stop the leaks. Bill Wright speaks to explain roof leaks on the town hall. He says there is no boots on the roof and if those are put on it will stop the leaks along with a sheet of tin and some caulking. He believes tin is overlapping and some proper stich screws need to be placed. *Motion/Worsham: Second/Rantala to* *have Bill Wright fix the town hall roof* *and to pay Bill for whatever the costs may be. Gene Wright abstained. Carried 2-0. Motion/Worsham: Second/Rantala to have Bill Wright put insulation in the kitchen at the town hall. Gene Wright abstained. Carried 2-0.* Gene Wright says he will come in to help work on the carburetor for the 4-wheeler. Wright also noticed that the brake cable is shot and will repair that as well.

Campground report. Cell phone is not receiving and sending messages like it should. Clerk asks if a cell phone booster should be bought or to bring the phone into AT&T to see if there is an issue with the phone. Supervisors suggest phone being brought to AT&T to see if there is something that needs to be corrected. Campground caretaker Lorrie would like to put a column in the Flying Finn to give updates and stories of the campground. All are in favor of Lorrie doing this. A comment box at the campground was suggested. Clerk will make a sign for comments to be put in the payment box. Fowler asks if the Pavilion will be stained this year. Worsham responds it is on the list but with being short staffed it might not happen this year. If it does it would be after July. Worsham thanks Bill and Jerod for fixing the water problem at the campground.

*Motion/Wright: Second/Worsham for clerk to renew the Post Office lease. Carried 3-0.* Signed lease renewal dates are for another 5 years. (08/01/2022 – 07/31/2027 at $1,210.00 a month annual rate of $14,520.00) Current monthly rent paid by USPS is $1,100.00.

Information Center has been closed due to the COVID-19. Supervisors all in agreement to open the Information/Visitor Center.

Knuti reports he has been working with Mesabi Trail on new signage. Kiosk has been put up at the trail head and looks great. Mesabi Trail may be looking to recruit people to help create signs.

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Rantala for clerk to call A-1 to have the two porta potties removed at the Information/Visitor Center to save the township the monthly fee from A-1, and to reopen the outhouses. Carried 3-0.*

Nelimark Museum will be opening July 2nd. Supervisors discuss meeting with Marlin to discuss tours. Worsham would like all supervisors present at the meeting. Clerk will work on setting a date that works for all. *Motion/Wright: Second/Worsham to set up a separate meeting with Marlin. Carried 3-0.* Outlet on pole at the Nelimark is wanted for events that are held. Wright says that anything $250 and under that according to the contract signed that SISU is to have completed. Supervisors would also like to have window discussed when meet with Marlin that needs replaced due to rotting.

Worsham wanted the Pyhala Homestead put on the agenda to announce that with everything going on in the budget cut, there is no sense on having anything even discussed about it this year. Only thing to be done will be mowing of property and the hay field will be cut this year. Clerk speaks to say that Pyhala field has been cut this year, but others do not agree. Wright speaks about the meeting he and the clerk went to with attorney to discuss the possible sale of Pyhala. It was explained from attorney that the Pyhala cannot be sold unless permission from MN Historical Society, so the next step would be to contact them. Knuti explains there was a task force put together and some things being considered are having the Historical Society taking over the Pyhala Homestead.

Complaints about some township roads have been received. Worsham expresses his concern on the roads in question and believes Hanka Nevala should be sprayed with chloride along with the others that were put off earlier due to budget cuts, he understands the budget cuts but also feels that it is fair to the tax payers to take care of the roads. Knuti expresses that Sauna road is still benefiting from the application of chloride that was done in the past. *Motion/Worsham: Second/Rantala to rescind the May minutes motion to hold off on chloride for the roads and a motion to chloride the five roads. Carried 3-0. Motion/Wright: Second/Rantala to transfer $3,500 from general fund to road and bridge fund to cover the chloride costs. Carried 3-0.*

Property Inspection meeting was completed on May 29, 2020. Within the next two years the cemetery needs to be worked on to make room for new lots. What needs to be prioritized from the Inspection findings:

1. Roof at Town Hall
2. Panels at Cemetery
3. Cut weeds around rocks then paint rocks
4. Basement windows at Nelimark
5. Stain pavilion
6. All others as time allows

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Rantala to accept and approve Claims (17507- 17532, $5,012.47) and Correspondence. Carried 3-0.*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:45 by Worsham.*

*Next regular meeting will be held July 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Jennifer Boese*