Town of Embarrass

Reorganizational & Regular Board Meeting

January 13, 2021

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

Present: Roy Worsham, Gene Wright, Bernie Mettler, Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese

Visitors: Ed Udovich, Roland Fowler, William Wright, Dawn Marks

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Worsham with The Pledge of Allegiance.

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

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Mettler to select Wright as Board Chair. Carried 2-0.*

*Motion/Wright: Second/Mettler to select Worsham as Vice Chair. Carried 2-0.*

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to continue holding the board meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. and to be adjusted if need be. Carried 3-0.*

Discussion was held on compensation for town officers and employees. *Motion/Worsham: Second/ Wright to give cost of living raise of 1.3% to all maintenance, treasurer, and clerk. Regular maintenance was not given a raise last year so he will get a dollar raise. Carried 3-0.*

*Motion/Mettler: Second/Wright for Worsham to be road supervisor. Carried 2-0.*

*Motion/Wright: Second/Worsham for Mettler to be maintenance supervisor. Carried 2-0.*

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to keep Timber Jay as the official publishing newspaper. Carried 3-0.*

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to retain the polling places. Town Hall, EVFCU, Trapline Liquor, Trapline Convenient Store and Post Office. Carried 3-0.*

*Motion/Worsham/ Second/Mettler to leave the rates of Heritage Park and Campground, Flying Finn subscriptions, Town Hall rentals, Cemetery costs, Ice Candles and Tour rates all the same. Carried 3-0.*

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Mettler for the 2021 Ice Candle Celebration to be held on December 18, 2021. Carried 3-0.*

Board reads and signs the Code of Ethics and the Open Meeting Law Policies.

Upcoming training opportunities were discussed and reviewed.

Worsham reads maintenance report for December. Snow clean up several days at all township properties, ensure heating shack had ample wood supply, new cutting edge for ATV plow purchased and installed, respond to Post Office for report of no exterior lights, new trucked picked up Wednesday the 30th. Ice Candle Celebration- Flagging of graves for candle placement, 614 ice candles were made by Roger and Bonnie Davies, Natalie Nelmark volunteered as part of an Honor Society commitment, she assisted in all aspects of the preparation. Community and 4H volunteers handled majority of candle placement and lighting. The board shows great appreciation for those who had a part in the Ice Candle Event. Wright would like maintenance to plow to the brush pile at the campground and burn it. Maintenance worker Ed Udovich tells the board that he walked to the burn pile to check but is concerned he will get stuck with the plow truck plowing a path to it and says that there is public using the trail for skiing, snowshoeing, ATV’s and snowmobiles. The board supervisors all agree if public is using the path/trail then not to wreck it by trying to plow. Wright says they can walk to the burn pile.

Wright speaks about the grant received from IRRRB for the Information Center restrooms. Wright explains that the clerk did get an extension on the $45,000 grant funds, but with the COVID-19 funds are low and does not think we should be spending any extra money. *Motion/Wright: Second/Worsham to get ahold of Chris Ismil with IRRRB and talk with him about the grant. Also, to speak with Commissioner Paul McDonald to discuss the funds that were going to be asked of by St. Louis County. Carried 3-0.*

Chief Tom Martin with the Embarrass Fire Department joins in on the meeting by zoom. Worsham asks about the 3% increase that the department will be asking of. Martin explains some of the costs and with COVID-19 more funds are being used, it has been a busy year. Martin would like to meet with the board to discuss this and the board agrees. Board will discuss a day and time to meet with Martin.

Bids for the truck, trailer and heaters were opened. *Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to accept the bids on the trailer for ten dollars and the heaters for one hundred one dollars and fifty cents. Carried 3-0. Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to accept the bid for the truck for two hundred sixty dollars. Carried 3-0.*

Marks speaks about her concerns about Governor Walz wanting mask mandate to become law before giving up emergency powers. Marks comments on the letter released by Governor Walz on January 7th. She is asking for people to call all county commissioners and your representatives to release St. Louis County from the executive powers of Governor Walz. Businesses are being hurt and some shut down permanently, families are unable to get together, cities, towns and townships are having financial difficulties. Fairs and fundraisers are among many that are being stopped that help communities survive. Marks states COVID-19 is real, and that people have died from it but also has a survival rate of 99.07%. Marks explains that the COVID relief funds that the township got was twenty-five dollars a person and believes citizens freedom and rights are worth more than that. Board is to be non-partisanship so does not comment.

Complaints need to be called in to the office with a name attached to the complaint to be creditable. All complaints should be brought before the entire board. *Motion/Worsham: Second/ Mettler for all complaints to be called in to the township office. Clerk will take the name, contact information and complaint/concern and it will be discussed at a board meeting.* Discussion had on plowing the parking lot between the two ball fields. W. Wright does not agree with it being plowed, states it will destroy the new truck. Worsham explains he told maintenance to plow the parking lot because it is good for the whole community so people can park vehicles to unload and load snowmobiles or public parking for snowshoers or cross-country skiers, township bought a plow truck to use it. Motion was withdrawn by Worsham, clerk to contact MATS to get the proper procedure on how complaints should be received.

*Motion/Worsham: Second/ to plow the Nelimark Museum with the new truck and charge the same as previously and bill to Nelimark every other time. Carried 3-0.*

*Motion/Worsham: Second/Mettler to continue to plow half of the parking lot between the two ball fields. Carried 3-0.*

Estimate for box spray liner, rack with light and toolbox was reviewed. *Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to purchase the items for the truck and to take it out of the recreation fund. Carried 3-0.*

Ford 150 truck has been dying out on the highway and parking lot. Fuel pump is suspected to be the problem. *Motion/Mettler: Second/Worsham to get the truck fixed. Carried 3-0.*

Discussion on getting estimates on the town hall roof so clerk can look into grants. *Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to get estimates on a roof for the town hall. Carried 3-0.* May have to do more caulking or minor repairs if it starts to leak like it has in past springs as the snow melts until the funds are available.

Discussion had on maintenance hours. Wright would like Udovich to work Wednesday -Saturday. Worsham does not agree to take all Udovichs Saturdays*. Motion/Wright: Second/Worsham to adjust maintenance schedule Roger Monday – Thursday, Ed Tuesday – Friday. Saturdays if needed to plow and if either maintenance is available to come. Carried 3-0.*

Worsham brings up the grant work completed by clerk for the truck. *Motion/Wright: Second/Worsham to give clerk two-hundred-dollar bonus for all the grant work that has been done. Carried 3-0.*

*Motion/Mettler: Second/Worsham to accept the claims (17704-17724, $6,188.54 and correspondence. Carried 3-0.*

*Worsham adjourned meeting at 8:03 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Boese