

Franconia Township

Town Board of Supervisors Meeting - Tuesday December 10, 2019

Franconia Town Hall 25156 St. Croix Trail. N. Shafer, MN 55074

Town Board Members Present

Dennis Gustafson - Chair

Owen Kuhnly - Vice Chair

Kevin Rochel - Supervisor

Starsha Froberg – Clerk

Karen Anderson - Treasurer

Lee Cartier - Maintenance

Jake Guzik - Engineer

Residents Present:

Ken Martens Sonny Sparby Tony Minnicsoffer Shirley Gustafson

Angel Permaloff

Call to Order:

Board supervisor Kevin Rochel called the Franconia Township monthly Town Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 7:00PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve Agenda:

Dennis Gustafson added township website to the agenda, and made a motion to adopt the agenda. Vice-Chair, Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Kevin Rochel made a motion to accept the minutes from Franconia Town Board of Supervisors Meeting on November 12th 2019 at 7pm. Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Supervisor Kevin Rochel made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 18th Special Town Meeting. Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports:

Engineer:

Jake Guzik offered his expertise to the board in creating a “5 year plan” regarding Township roads. Board is to select a date for this meeting in January 2020.

Treasurer:

Karen Anderson presented the board with claim numbers to be submitted for approval; 001119, #429 through 433, ph01219, #12917 through #12931. Kevin Rochel made a motion to accept the claims, Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried. Karen Anderson presented the board with payroll checks #12932 through #12934 for approval. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to accept the payroll. Kevin Rochel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Maintenance:

Lee Cartier reported the end of 2019 was productive in which he was able to grade a few roads before they froze and completed more brush mowing this year than he was able to in past years. Lee mentioned residents should review the snow and ice policy found on the Franconia Township website for this upcoming winter season of 2019-2020.

Clerk:

Starsha Froberg suggested to the board that the land purchased to house the future town hall be filed as tax exempt. Dennis made a motion to file the land as tax exempt, Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Froberg, asked for board approval to pay for and join the MCFOA for clerk training. Kevin Rochel made a motion to accept this request, Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried. Clerk Froberg asked the board for their approval on opening an account for a social media page through Facebook where residents can go to be updated on township news and information. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to approve the request for a Franconia Township Facebook page. Kevin Rochel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Option A Government:

Clerk Froberg presented information to the board the option of changing the town government to "Option A" (5 man board) in a roll call vote the option to change was denied 2 to 1. Kevin Rochel and Dennis Gustafson both voting No, and Owen Kuhnly voted yes.

Option B Government:

Clerk Froberg also presented to the board with the option of changing the elected clerk's role to "Option B" in which the Clerk can be appointed and not elected. In a roll call vote, Kevin Rochel voted yes, Owen Kuhnly: yes were in favor of adding the question for "Option B" government on the ballot for the March 2020 elections. Dennis Gustafson voted no as he was was opposed to making any changes to the clerk's position.

The motion to add the language for an "Option B" government on the March 2020 ballot was approved with a 2 to 1 vote. Motion Carried

Tony Minnesoffer attended the December Regular Board meeting to introduce to the board and residents, Ken Martens. Ken was sought after to write a historical book for Franconia Township. He asked the board to send out a news release pertaining to the grant issued by the state of Minnesota to Franconia Township for the book. Mr. Martens also suggested the township hold an open house for residents to gather and share historical information related to the township.

Moderator Pay:

Dennis Gustafson made a motion to pay the moderator (Jim Birkholz) at the November 18th Special Town Meeting \$50 for his role as moderator. Kevin Rochel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

2019 Wage Review:

Lee Cartier did not receive an increase in pay or other incentives per his employment with the Township as Maintenance supervisor in 2019. Annual Wage review to be revisited in March of 2020 at the annual town meeting.

FTCC update:

Resident Angel Permaloff shared that there will be a public hearing regarding Solar in the county to be held in March. Information regarding the grant application with CTC for broadband internet will hopefully be shared min-January. Angel Permaloff also made an official request to view documentation on the future town hall land purchase and farm land lease information.

A motion made by Kevin Rochel to adjourn the December Regular Town Board of Supervisors Meeting at 8:54 o'clock p.m. was seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Gustafson - Chairman

Starsha Froberg - Clerk