

**Franconia Township, Minnesota**  
**Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – February 9, 2021**  
**Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail N Shafer, MN 55074**

**Town Board Members Present**

Owen Kuhnly – Chair  
Dennis Gustafson – Vice-Chair  
Sonny Sparby – Supervisor  
Angela Dahlstrom – Clerk  
Karen Anderson – Treasurer  
Lee Cartier – Maintenance  
Jake Guzik – Engineer

**Residents Present:**

Brian Linde

**Call to Order**

Chairman Owen Kuhnly called the monthly Franconia Township board meeting to order at 7:01pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approve Agenda:**

Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the agenda and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

**Board Member Reports:**

**Engineer – Jake Guzik:**

Preliminary Concept plans for future Franconia Town hall were presented. Review of plans, and discussion of best area for building, and potential for future use of property. Brian Linde did inquire about potential to start possible driveway inlets or culverts. The plans will be reviewed further discussion.

## **Maintenance Report:**

Security System had no updates at this time.

Lee said that he had been out plowing, talked about trap rock on gravel roads, and said he is still replacing signs that get hit in inclement weather. Lee said there was some tree trimming on Cornelian Blvd. that needed to be taken care of. It would need to be done before there could be work done on the bridge at the end of the road. Lee did get 3 estimates for the work. Above All Tree Care's bid was \$2,350.00, Wild River Tree Service LLC bid \$2,684.38, and Haaven Stump Removal had a bid of \$2,900.00. Lee was trying to reach the Homeowner of the property the trees were located on. Once the owner was contacted, Lee could go forward with tree clean up. Owen Kuhnly made the motion, and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

Lee discussed the bridge at the end of Cornelian Blvd. It was determined it would cost township about \$20,000 to repair the bridge; \$10,000 for construction and \$10,000 for Engineering. It was decided to start a Resolution to present at the March meeting. Dennis Gustafson made the motion and seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Lee said Quinlan needed work, said the quotes for seal coating came in, it would be about \$120,000 to seal coat. Quinlan also needed shoulder work done along with St. Croix Bluffs, and a part of Shamrock. Brian Linde asked about a 2<sup>nd</sup> lift in 2020 for the association, discussion about pros and cons of a 2<sup>nd</sup> lift, and if the association covered cost, and then if they would turn it over to the township after. It was also discussed if they would consider Jake to do sample testing.

Grants for road repair were discussed. Lee said there are roads that need to be worked on, and recommended to start with NW corner and Lawrence creek. He would like to get the ditch cleaned, fix drainage, gravel, and tree removal. Elevation needs to be raised up on 95 for about 1200' to next point. Estimated to cost \$75,000 - \$80,000. It was determined quotes needed to be gathered before spring. Motion was made by Dennis Gustafson and seconded by Owen.

## **Treasurer Report:**

Karen Anderson presented the board with claim numbers to be submitted for approval #1317 through #1337 for a total amount of \$29,269.92, and payroll checks #13236 through #13238 for a total of \$4,007.54. A signature card for the surplus store was mentioned for Dennis, Owen, Sonny, Angela, and Lee. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the claims and payroll and seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

### **Township Clerk:**

Angela Dahlstrom verified all driveway permits were reviewed.

Angela gathered information from both Lindstrom Clerk, and Shafer Clerk on their websites. Both Clerks reported their Website designer to be Lynn Koalska, who is also the Franconia Township website designer. Shafer Clerk, Joan, did share that she had looked into other web designers and she said that it was not in the Cities budget to switch designers. Angela also talked to Lynn Koalska, and gathered information on updating or recreating the Franconia Township website. She would be willing to do either, with direction from the Board as to what was wanted for a website. It was decided that the Board would take time to decide key points of a website requirement, and would review website updates in April 2021.

The quotes from the Township insurance holders, Chisago Lakes Mutual Insurance and MATIT insurance was reviewed. It was decided that the Township will leave both policies the way they are.

Review of the U.S. Census Bureau 2021 Boundary and Annexation Survey. It was determined no boundaries have changed since the last Census. Angela will respond to the inquiry with "No Changes" to the requested reporting.

### **Citizens Forum**

Brian Linde was present to get updated information on Broadband.

### **New Business**

An email was sent out from Minnesota Benefit Association about a "Township Group Life & Disability Program" offering Life and Disability insurance. The Board reviewed the information and it was determined that at this time no one wanted to enroll.

The National Park Service sent a courtesy letter with an update for a new home and driveway adjacent to 25499 Sawmill Ave., Franconia Township. Lee did confirm that this was a courtesy, that the permit was from the State, and there was nothing required from Franconia Township.

### **Old Business:**

Angela Dahlstrom presented a Resolution for a one-day liquor license for approval from the Board. The resolution was for Bethany Cox from St. Croix River Association. They are hosting an event at the Franconia Sculpture Park on May 20, 2021. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Owen Kuhnly and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

Karen Anderson stated at the Joint Powers meeting February 8, 2021, the Joint Powers Board was to review a raise in the firefighter retirement fund from \$1,100.00 to \$1,300.00 a year. It had been determined both the Franconia and Shafer board, and council had to agree to approve the 2/3 Franconia, 1/3 City of Shafer retirement fund then the joint powers could be changed. The proposal had been sent to Shafer, however, the proposal was not approved. No representative from Shafer was present at the Joint Powers meeting February 8, 2021, so it was decided that another Joint Powers meeting will be held March 1, 2021.

Franconia Township was informed the Broadband Grant did not get approved. However, Daniel Omdahl did send an email with information on fiber to the home. He did say the winning bidder for almost all of Franconia Township was Windstream, and almost all areas of Franconia would be covered. He also stated no tax levy would be needed, that it would be paid by federal tax dollars from FCC and by Windstream. The downside was that it was still in the early stages of planning, and that it would not reach our area for another 3-4 years.

The Lindstrom Urban Development plan was reviewed. It was believed that the land Lindstrom was including in the extra territorial grab was a 2-mile radius. Angela was requested to reach out to Lindstrom to request a clear documentation of the land in question.

Information on the Historical book determined the timeline has been pushed out due to health reasons and Covid-19.

Dennis Gustafson did mention that CCATO meetings were still unable to be held in the North Branch building due to Covid. CCATO was asking Townships to take turns hosting the meeting at their Town Hall locations. Dennis did sign up Franconia Township to host the August 25, 2021 CCATO meeting.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

CCATO- February 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm Lent Township

Budget and Audit Meeting – February 27, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Elections – March 9, 2021 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting – Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 8:30 p.m.

Election Certification Meeting – After annual meeting – March 9, 2021

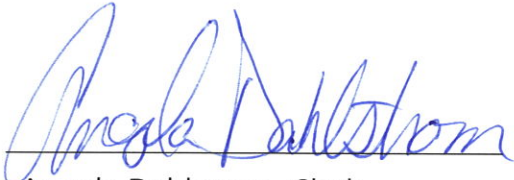
Franconia Township Board meeting – March 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm

**Adjournment**

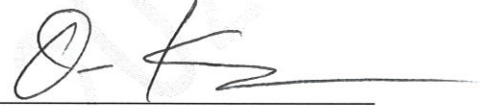
A motion to adjourn the February Regular Board Meeting was made by Sonny Sparby and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:26 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk



Owen Kunhly, Chairman

Approved March 17, 2021