

**Franconia Township, Minnesota**  
**Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – August 10, 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:**

Fitzie Heimdahl  
Kathy Dellwo  
Mark Dellwo  
Anthony Minnichsoffer

**Call to Order**

Chairman Owen Kuhnly called the monthly Franconia Township board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approve Agenda:**

The agenda was reviewed; an addition of Annual Meeting Budget was added to the Treasurer report. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the agenda and seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

July Minutes were reviewed, a correction to the spelling of Bluhm was noted, as well as updating upcoming meetings, and adjourning July meeting, not June. With those corrections in place, Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the July 13, 2021 the Town Board of Supervisors meeting minutes and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

July 27, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes were reviewed, Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion approved.

**Board Member Reports:**

**Engineer – Jake Guzik:**

Bridge Replacement over Lawrence Creek was discussed. If the Township moves forward with replacing the bridge, the Township would cover the first \$10,000.00 in Engineering fees, and the first \$10,000.00 in construction costs. The Board questioned if the structure itself was sound, and it was determined structurally it was sound, however, the geometrical requirements at this time are not met. The benefit of updating the structure would ultimately be for plowing. There is one resident that resides on the other side of the bridge. Currently Lee has used the skid steer to plow the bridge when needed. Dennis Gustafson voiced concern about the cost of updating the structure, while using the same foundation, and same elevation. Jake did say that the approach would be improved and the existing structure would be improved. It was decided at this time to review other options and discuss the bridge in a future meeting.

Lawrence Creek Road improvement project estimates were presented for approval. The estimates include culvert repair, surfacing, ditch grading, and topsoil. At the far end of the project where the ditch is higher than the road, gravel will be hauled in and raised to eliminate the water runoff as well. Dennis Gustafson motioned to approve the quote. Sonny Sparby seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding with Bolton & Menk was discussed, however, at this time Franconia Township has a standing contract with Windstream. The contract is on hold, and the Board was not sure that they could go forward. At this time Windstream has the Federal Grant, and it is estimated to be five or six years for Broadband to move forward. If other providers come forward the Board would be open for review.

**Maintenance Report:**

Lee reported a culvert on Franconia Trail was replaced. Downed trees were also cut up on Cornelius, Quinlan, and an oak on 280<sup>th</sup>. Ditch work was done on Olympic Trail where the road was having water issues every spring. A resident submitted a request for adding a second drive to his residence at the far west side on Quinlan. The Board reviewed request and determined that a review of the property to determine need would be needed. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to approve the request after the review if the drive was determined a necessity. Dennis Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Grading has also been underway as Franconia Township has finally had some rain. Also Review of some roads that need repair. Olympic trail was mentioned. A traffic count was done a couple of years ago, and the traffic count was 275 cars, however, that was not during the time the Greenhouse was open, so the count would be higher during the Greenhouse season. Part of Olympic Trail is in Chisago City, potential to review with Chisago City next year for going in on dust control for Olympic. Bluhm Lake Road also needs improvements and dust control. Many roads need base work. Long term life expectancy of the plow truck was questioned. Right now it is at 6 years. Lee requested if Franconia Township will retain the truck, he would like to upgrade the gears in the rear end of the truck. The current gears are not working for heavy snows, and will cause wear and tear in the truck. Lee did research, and get estimates for repair. The current gear in the truck is 489, and it was recommended that 563 would be the correct gear the truck would require for what the truck is being used for. Lee said he could get the correct part for \$2400.00 from Fleet Pride in Roseville, and complete the work himself, which would save labor costs at a repair shop. He did say he would see if he could obtain a couple of more quotes if the board would like, to try and find a lower price. The Board did agree the repair would be in the best interest for extending the life of the truck and approved the expense of the repair to the lowest quote.

Lee had reached out to the City of Shafer inquiring about use of their Boom Mower. He had not yet heard back from Shafer at the time of the Board Meeting. Discussion of experience or knowledge of others experiences with Boom Mowers and the tendency for them to break down or have other issues did come up. It was not equipment the Board would look at purchasing at this time. Rental costs for a Boom Mower run \$3400 a week. Dennis Gustafson did say he found a place that would rent a Boom Mower for \$2500 a week, plus delivery costs. The Board decided to keep looking for other servicers.

**Treasurer Report:**

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1462 through #1482 for a total of \$59,301.52, claim #1483 for a total of \$85,884.44, and payroll checks #13358 through #13360 for a total of \$4,252.39. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, claims and payroll. Dennis Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Question of adding a road coverage policy to the Annual Audit and Budget meeting on August 24, 2021 was presented. It was decided that would be reviewed in the Spring to add to the Annual Audit and Budget meeting at that time.

### **Township Clerk:**

Angela Dahlstrom submitted permits for review.

Noise ordinance sign forms for MN DOR were reviewed. Sign placement locations were not correct, Sonny Sparby will email Joseph Bruer for correction. Once forms with correct sign placement are received, Sonny Sparby will complete the form and payment will be submitted.

### **Citizens Forum**

#### **New Business**

Tony Minnichsoffer and Fitzie Heimdahl were present to update the Board on the Book Grant for Franconia Township. Tony did acknowledge 2020 had presented challenges with Covid and shutdowns, and also health issues. Due to the circumstances, the Grants Manager extended the deadline to June 2022. The research is being completed in two sections, the 1<sup>st</sup> section is done, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> section has been started. The Historical Society has approved a second researcher, so at this time search is underway to fill that position. They will keep us informed of the progress and when a 2<sup>nd</sup> researcher is hired.

Residents Kathy & Mark Dellwo, of Quiet Valley Road were in attendance to present a signed petition from all of their neighborhood interested in blacktopping/double chip sealing the road. Dennis Gustafson did confirm he sees eight signatures on the petition. Jake Guzik did say he would have to go forward and get quotes from contractors and engineers estimates. There is prep work would need to be done, so work would be looked at for next year, and Jake would get actual quotes in the spring.

The August CCATO meeting will be held at Franconia Township. There was discussion of set up, refreshments, and health guidelines.

#### **Old Business:**

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Annual Meeting Cont.- August 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

CCATO – August 25, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting – September 14, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Joint Powers – September 13, 2021 7:00 pm

**Adjournment**

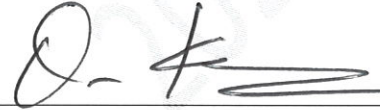
A motion to adjourn the August Regular Board Meeting was made by Sonny Sparby and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman

Approved September 14, 2021

