

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – September 14, 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
Jake Guzik – Engineer
Lee Cartier - Maintenance
Karen Anderson - Treasurer
Angela Dahlstrom– Clerk

Residents Present:

Mark Dellwo Kathy Dellwo
Sarah Eagan Donald Eagan
Scott Anderson Julie Galonska
Jen McLaughlin John Zach
Karen Linde

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 Quiet Valley was added to New Business, and training was added to Old Business. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the agenda and seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

August Minutes were reviewed, an error to Sonny Sparby's name was corrected. With that correction, Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the August 14, 2021 Town Board of Supervisors meeting minutes and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports:

Engineer – Jake Guzik:

Jake presented requests to approve contractor's pay for three separate services. The first project was the 260th Street and 280th Street Seal Coat Project in the amount of \$72,212.96 to Pearson Bros., Inc. for the project which included extra work done on 260th St. and 280th St. as approved by the Board. The request included withholding 1% retainage. Once the final sweeping and striping has been completed, the final payment of those items as well as the retainage will be made. The second project was the 2021 Seal Coat Project in the amount of \$60,295.63 to Pearson Bros., Inc. for the services they provided. This project included the extra work done on Franconia Trail N and Quarry Rd. as approved by the Board. The request included withholding 1% retainage. Once the final sweeping and striping has been completed, the final payment of those items as well as the retainage will be made. The third project was Lawrence Creek Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$14,200.99 to RE Peterson Inc. for the services they provided. This project included extra work done on Franconia Trail N as approved by the Board. Once restoration has shown sufficient growth, the final payment as well as the retainage will be made. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the payment for those projects, and seconded by Owen Kuhnly.

The State Park Road Account Program (SPRA) FY2022 was presented. Funds for road projects are not available every year, but have been for the last couple of years. The funds may be used for roads leading up to launches or landings. If the Township would be interested, an application would need to be completed requesting funds, and presenting a percentage of cost that the Township would cover. It was recommended to input that the Township would cover at least 25% but it more competitive to receive funds if the Township is willing to cover 50%. The application is due by October. The Board discussed that in the past the residents denied wanting road improvements due to high traffic, and the residents have to pay the costs, however, it is mostly nonresidents using the road, so most likely the residents would not want that. The board suggested getting some numbers on cost and see from there where to go.

There was discussion of the shouldering project that was completed on ^{260th} ~~Olinda Trail~~. The project was set to stop at Pheasant Run, as the last part of ^{260th} ~~Olinda Trail~~ had been recently rebuilt due to issues when it rains. The shouldering project did not stop at Pheasant Run, but instead went over the recently rebuilt section, and pushed the shoulder back up. Jake did say he will have that corrected.

Maintenance Report:

Lee had mentioned he had been out with Covid, so he has been playing catch up. With the rain, some grading has been done. The Skidder was brought to North Branch for a recall on the seat. It was out 3 days and brought back.

A driveway permit for 280th was submitted. The driveway comes in and Y's off. There is no reason to put in a culvert. 280th has just been repaired, so it was mentioned that if big trucks were going to be coming in and out, it will be hard on the road. It was recommended to make sure there was a 7-ton limit max, and recommended to get a damage deposit. Karen had a permit for use, and Lee would have the permit signed.

Treasurer Report:

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1484 through #1506 for a total of \$163,738.86 and payroll checks #13376 through #13378 for a total of \$5,228.31. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, claims and payroll. Sonny Sparby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karen reported that with the ARP funds, an outside audit will need to be done. Chisago Lakes Township had an audit done, and the cost was around \$5,600.00, so as Franconia Township is smaller, the cost will be less. Attorneys Couri and Ruppe, P.L.L.P. have been used by Franconia Township and were suggested. Their cost is typically \$230-\$250 per hour. A motion to approve an outside audit was made by Dennis Gustafson, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Township Clerk:

Angela Dahlstrom submitted permits for review.

A Frontier Right of Way permit application was submitted for signature. Lee did sign the permit, and Angela will email the signed copy to Cindy Olsen with Frontier.

Citizens Forum

New Business

Residents Kathy & Mark Dellwo, Sarah & Donald Eagan, Scott Anderson, Jen McLaughlin, and John Zach of Quiet Valley Road were in attendance as their neighborhood is interested in blacktopping/double chip sealing the road. Jake said he had an engineer's estimate for double chip sealing would be \$72,000.00. Some of the included items of the double chip seal estimate

could be taken out, but as a rough estimate, \$72,000.00 would be at the top. With the road, the Township would cover 25% of the chip seal cost, and the residents would be responsible for 75%. At 75% divided by 8 residents, it would be about \$6,750 per residence. The residents asked if Quinlan to 286th would be done as well? The residents on Quinlan would need to be approached if they would want to be a part of that. The time for estimated bids would be February/March 2022, and construction would be between May to July. The question was asked if it is better for the residents to pay up front, or to add to tax assessment. Dennis Gustafson mentioned it may be better for residents to pay up front, otherwise tax roll costs more for everyone. The "T" or turnaround has deteriorated, and the residents inquired if that would be upgraded as well. Jake said that part of the road would be asphalt, so it does not get torn up. The S curve will be chip sealed as low speeds would not cause the road to get torn up. The residents asked how much more asphalt for the road would cost, Jake said about 3x more.

Julie Galonska was present to give a summary about the upcoming Osceola Landing improvements. A preconstruction meeting is set to be held September 15, 2021, as well as a press release. The construction is set to start any day. The southern part of the access will be closed once construction starts, and will be closed to 2023. The two launches near the bridge will stay open. Parking will be limited, but businesses such as canoe and boat rentals will still have access. There will be a new motorized boat launch when complete. The purpose is to improve safety, provide separate motorized and non-motorized boat launches. There will be paved walking paths, new lavatories, added parking, and other enhancements. The launches by the bridge will be upgraded after the bridge project is complete.

Resident Karen Linde was present to ask about the annual meeting year end budget. There were no changes to report, the budget stayed the same.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have been applied for. The State site provides guidelines that outline approved spending. Franconia Township has to report the funds received. Franconia is required to send in monthly reporting. Dennis Gustafson mentioned thoughts of investing funds in a new town hall. Allowable expenses would be sewer, water, air/ventilation, etc. The topic of how to disperse the funding will have to be added to the agenda at the Annual Meeting in the spring, and get residents approval. Karen Linde mentioned a resident's committee. At this time, it was too early to discuss a committee until fund allocation was approved.

Midco sent an email letting Franconia Township know Midco will be expanding their services in Franconia Township in 2022, to approximately 118 homes and businesses in the area and offering high speed internet, video and phone services. Midco inquired if Franconia Township would wish to grant and enter into a franchise agreement with Midco. There was discussion if that would be of interest, but as Windstream has already received Federal funding it may not be an option. It was decided more information would need to be gathered before making any decisions.

Old Business:

Noise Ordinance Signs were ordered, but as of yet, have not been placed. Sonny Sparby will place a call to Joe Bruer to check on progress of the signs.

There is a Legal Seminar offered Saturday, September 25, 2021 in Rutledge, MN hosted by Attorneys Couri and Ruppe, P.L.L.P. The Board plans to attend, so Angela Dahlstrom will get a Notice posted.

Upcoming Meetings

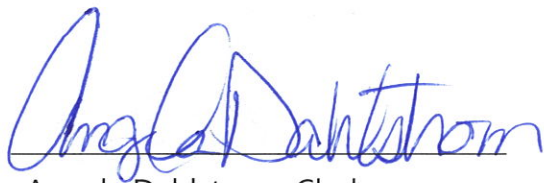
CCATO – September 29, 2021 7:00 p.m. Sunrise Township
Regular Board Meeting – October 12, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Joint Powers – December 13, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman

