

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – October 12, 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:

Rob Carlson Denise Hibben
Paul Rolfsmeier Darel Hall
Scott Anderson Mark Dellwo
Bill Porter

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 and also new Town Hall were added to Old Business. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the agenda and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

September Minutes were reviewed, a correction in the engineer report in reference to the shouldering project on Olinda Trail. Olinda Trail should be corrected to 260th. With that correction, Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the September 14, 2021 Town Board of Supervisors meeting minutes and seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports:

Engineer – Jake Guzik:

Jake reported the shouldering and seal coat projects were completed, and Lawrence Creek Road improvement was outstanding.

Maintenance Report:

Lee reported he has been brush mowing, and that grading has been done. He said Quinlan was bad this time around. He graded North Olympic, a resident stopped him and asked if anything was going to be done with the road. Lee said the gravel is wearing out and three or four spots get frost boils. There was mention that the Greenhouse has no ordinance or conditional use permit pertaining to Olympic. That might be something to think about pertaining to repair and maintenance for the road. Also Franconia Trail is a decent road and has been mostly rebuilt and upgraded, the culverts on the road have been upgraded, there may be potential for double chip seal. Quail Ridge may also be a candidate for double chip seal. Discussion of contacting residents of Quail Ridge to inquire if they would be interested in getting the road double chip sealed, then they could go in with the residents of Quiet Valley. It's believed there are 8-10 residents on Quail Ridge. If they would be interested in the project, it may lower the chip seal costs for the Quiet Valley residents with more people going in on the work.

Lee did confirm he received the 2022 Minnesota Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) Renewal Information.

There was discussion for need of a part time or temporary maintenance employee. There are tasks that Lee should not be completing by himself, such as stump and tree removal, snow plowing, etc. There will need to be a job description completed including pay rate and hours. Gary Lindblad was mentioned that he may be a candidate, and it was requested he be asked to come to the November Board meeting. That brought up discussion for getting a plow for the pickup as that could be in use while the plow is out. Owen Kuhnly did mention that is needed to plow the bridge and for the residents at the end of the bridge. The question was asked how the plow and truck would be stored, as the truck would not fit in the shop with the plow attached. The plow would have to be removed before the truck was put in the shop. It was suggested to get two estimates on the cost of a plow for the pickup. Sonny Sparby made a motion for the estimates, and Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1507 through #1528 for a total of \$9,783.76 and payroll checks #13411 through #13416 for a total of \$6,653.34. Claim #1524 for \$89.02 requested by Fitzie Heimdahl for a lunch meeting was reviewed by the Board. The Board determined that the Book Grant was contracted for a book, not for a lunch. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, payroll, and claims, minus claim #1524 for \$89.02 Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Karen presented a Proposal for December 31, 2021 Audits with Certified Public Accountant Michael W. Pofahl. The Board reviewed, and Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the proposal. Sonny Sparby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Township Clerk:

Angela Dahlstrom submitted permits for review. Frontier submitted a Right of Way Permission request for Power Lines along the Township Road. There was not a Right of Way application or \$75.00 fee. The Board did approve the Permission Request, as long as a Right of Way Permit was completed and \$75 fee received.

A Planning Administrative Form – Variance was submitted for approval. The form was reviewed; the homeowner, would like to install a solar PV array for residential use. The existing shading on the property necessitates installation of this array in a position that at its closest point is approximately 65' to the center of County Rd 26. The Board expressed concern at the proximity of the panels to the center line of the road. The homeowner explained due to drainage system, and trees, the location of the panels was optimal at the mapped location. The homeowner is putting in 40 panels. It was decided by the Board to approve the variance with a note on the form that if the panels could be moved back further away from the center line, they should be moved further, but for sure no closer to the road. Sonny Sparby made a motion to accept the Variance with that note. Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Angela Dahlstrom submitted a Resolution for Polling Place for 2022. The Resolution sets the Polling Place for 2022 at the Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail, Shafer MN 55074. The Resolution was signed by Chairman Owen Kuhnly and Angela Dahlstrom.

Employee Review for both Angela Dahlstrom and Karen Anderson need to be set. Angela Dahlstrom will have a closed review set at 6:30 pm on November 9, 2021, and Karen Anderson will have a closed review set at 6:30 pm on December 14, 2021.

Citizens Forum

New Business

Midco sent an email letting Franconia Township know Midco will be expanding their services in Franconia Township in 2022, and inquired if Franconia Township would enter into a franchise agreement with Midco. It had been decided more information would need to be gathered before making any decisions. Melissa Wolf, the Government Relations Manager for Midco did say she could have a Midco representative attend by Zoom or Phone for the November meeting to answer any questions.

Jerry Murray had requested 280th Street Recoat be added to the October agenda, however, Mr. Murray was not in attendance. 280th Street had a double chip seal completed about four years ago, and is to have a recoat completed about five years after. There was discussion on when the recoat would be completed. It was determined the project would be tied in with other seal coating projects to be completed. Seal Coat projects will be reviewed in the following months.

Darel Hall with Dedicated Animal Control was present to talk about the services he provides in animal control, his experience, and areas he contracts with. He explained the closest animal control currently is in Andover, about an hour and a half away. Darel said he works with the Sheriff Department and responds to all animal calls large and small. The Board questioned who would be responsible for the fees? Darel said he bills the Township for all calls, and it is up to the Township to recoup the cost from the responsible party. He said he has no way to enforce collection of cost from residents, but the Township could have the cost added to the resident's tax bill. The Board questioned how many calls are typically from the area? Darel said there were quite a few calls in the area. The Board discussed if anyone can call, and make a report. That if Animal Control responded the Township would be billed, and no limit or control on that. Darel asked if the Township is in control of dog tag funds? Franconia is not in charge of Dog Tag funds, and there is no dog tag ordinance. Darel said there is very few unpaid bills per year. The Board decided at this time they would not sign a contract with Dedicated Animal Control.

Joint Powers met on October 4, 2021. An amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement was completed between the City of Shafer and Franconia Township for the Shafer/Franconia Fire Department. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to approve the amendment, and Owen Kuhnly seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

Noise Ordinance Signs were placed. The Board discussed putting in place a no through truck ordinance. There are big trucks going through on 260th that need to find a different route.

Fitzie Heimdahl submitted an update on the Franconia Township Book Grant. An established researcher and editor has been found. The book grant deadline has been extended to June 2022. It was believed 75% of the research would be completed and ready for review by March 2022.

Residents of Quiet Valley were in attendance to review the rough estimate of double chip sealing Quiet Valley. Jake Guzik had given a rough high end estimate of \$6750 per resident. The Residents of Quiet Valley did review with residents on Quinlan if they would be interested, but they were not. The residents felt the estimate was too steep. Jake did say that was the top figures, and again a high end rough estimate, that there would be costs that could be cut. Jake did say they could get more solid estimates in the Spring. The residents asked about dust suppression options instead, possibly calcium chloride. The residents pay for calcium chloride, and Lee did say they could call him in the spring for contact information for someone who would provide that service. Dennis Gustafson did talk about taxes, and the township taking care of the road. Dennis mentioned that 280th had been built for blacktop when it was developed, and Quiet Valley had not been built the same. Dennis believed that residents should not have to cover culverts and gravel. Jake Guzik did say that he had only provided the residents of Quiet Valley an Engineers estimate, and objects that anything is being pushed to any decisions, but only so they have a rough idea based on current costs. It was decided to get some sort of road plan put together. The Road Plan will be added to the November agenda.

Plans for a new Town Hall were discussed, and using ARP funds toward a new Town Hall. Plans would need to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Owen Kuhnly had an estimate at a prior meeting, but nothing had been set or approved. The Board needs to get a set design to start gathering estimates. Discussion of starting with a basic building design and a list of requirements that the Town Hall would need. A contractor would know codes and requirements for building. The Board decided to hold a special meeting October 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm to bring plans to review and start putting together a building plan.

Upcoming Meetings

Regular Board Meeting – November 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.
CCATO – December 8, 2021 7:00 p.m. Amador Township
Joint Powers – December 13, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

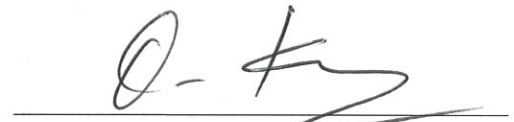
A motion to adjourn the October Regular Board Meeting was made by Dennis Gustafson and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman