

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

Andrew Curley – MIDCO  
Gary Lindblad  
Thomas Parenteau  
Adam Dally (Spike)  
Fitzie Heimdahl – via zoom

**Call to Order**

Chairman Owen Kuhnly called the Employee review meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**Employee Review:**

The Board of Supervisors held an Employee review for Treasurer, Karen Anderson. Owen reported that it was requested to add to the minutes that the books are balanced between Treasurer and Clerk. Treasurer to assist Clerk with CTAS. Fire Hall funds need to be broken out on the Treasurer's Report. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to give the Treasurer a 2.5% raise. Seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion approved.

**Adjournment:**

Employee review adjourned at 6:50 pm.

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

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

November Minutes were reviewed. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the November Town Board of Supervisors meeting minutes and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

**Board Member Reports:**

**Engineer – Jake Guzik:**

Jake Guzik submitted two pay requests for closing projects. One for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final payment for the 2021 Seal Coat project in the amount of \$6,098.14, and one for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final payment for the 260<sup>th</sup> and 280<sup>th</sup> Seal Coat Project in the amount of \$8,810.36. Both Projects completed by Pearson Bros., Inc. Lee did verify the job had been complete, without any problems, and Pearson Bros. did nice work. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the payments, and seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

**Maintenance Report:**

Lee reported he got final grading in over the last month, and out brush mowing done, both as he was able. The plow was installed on the pickup and was in good working order. General maintenance mixing trap rock in preparation for icy weather was completed. A couple of signs needed repair, and new ones ordered for residents. Lee took Gary Lindblad out to show him the areas he would be needed for plowing if he would be willing to come on board as a part time/temporary employee.

The Board did review, and due to the pandemic, and winter snow plowing needs, the Board did agree a part time/temporary employee was needed. Gary Lindblad was willing to take the position as a part time/temporary employee for Franconia Township, to assist in plowing, and as needed. A pay rate of \$22.00 an hour was agreed upon. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to hire Gary Lindblad at the rate of \$22.00 an hour part time, and seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer Report:**

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1547 through #1576 for a total of \$43,848.06 and payroll checks #13431 through #13433 for a total of \$5,209.87. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, payroll, and claims, seconded by Dennis Gustafson. Motion carried.

Dennis Gustafson asked for the Treasure to make two separate entries on the Treasurer report for the Shafer Franconia Fire Department funds. They can remain in one savings account at MidWestOne Bank. Dennis Gustafson made a motion to separate money out to separate accounts, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried

Karen Anderson did have an employee review. Owen Kuhnly did submit the minutes of that review.

### **Township Clerk:**

Angela Dahlstrom submitted permits for review. Lee did say part of a permit fee was waived for a resident on 280<sup>th</sup>, as it was a shared drive, and a culvert was not needed. Also, a request to hold a permit reimbursement was made for 15333 280<sup>th</sup> St. location, as the house was not built yet, and Lee wanted to make sure there was no damage to the road before returning funds. Check to be held is 13451 to Don Gruhlke.

The number of ballots to order for the March election was asked, it was determined 100 ballots will be ordered.

### **Citizens Forum**

#### **New Business:**

Fred Rogers has submitted a request to reserve the Franconia Town Hall February 1, 2022 from 6-10 pm. The Board did agree to allow the use of the Town Hall with the payment of the \$50 fee, and the understanding the Town Hall will need to be wiped down after use.

There was a request to put an Alzheimer's support link on the Franconia Website. While the Board was in support of the cause, other requests to add links to the site have been made, and been denied as well.

Resident Spike Dally was in attendance to discuss concerns with plowing. He wanted to discuss the plowing in relation to the right of way, and felt the plow went wide when it was recently plowed. Mr. Dally did try to access the Snow Removal Policy on the Franconia website, however was unable to access the policy. Clerk Angela Dahlstrom will email him a copy, and have a new copy uploaded on the site. Mr. Dally did say that the snow gets plowed from the street to his garage, and that the plow cut 5-10 feet into the grass. The Board did review, and that was still within the right of way. The Board's concern is if it is not plowed wide enough, going forward as snow accumulated, it would get too heavy for the plow to push back far enough. It is not the intent of the plow driver to tear up the grass, but it does happen. The Township roads have a 66' from the center line right of way. The residents can submit a request to the Board not to have their road plowed, and to abandon the road and the residents can take care of that section themselves if desired. Thomas Parenteau had requested for the plow to back into his drive and push the snow out instead of pushing it in. The Board asked about the one drive he had intended to abandon. Mr. Parenteau said that had not been done as not all neighbors had been in agreement. Mr. Parenteau asked if it would help if flags were put out to mark where they wanted to limit the plow. Lee did say he can try not to push back as far, however, as the snow got heavier, there would be a narrower section plowed for them to drive. Mr. Parenteau said that would be fine. Ultimately, Mr. Dally and Mr. Parenteau said they would put flags up, and call and let the Board/Lee know when they were up for the Board/Lee to review if acceptable.

A Resolution to increase benefit level for the Shafer Franconia Fire Department was presented to the Board. The current amount is set at \$1,300.00, and was submitted for an increase to \$1,500.00 to the Statewide volunteer firefighter retirement plan. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried, and the resolution adopted December 14, 2021.

**Old Business:**

Andrew Curley, with MIDCO, was present to discuss MIDCO's intent to provide areas of Franconia Township with services. Mr. Curley did provide information about MIDCO, including that they provide Cable TV, Internet, and Telephone services. The company is based out of Edina, and primarily provide services to the Dakota's and Minnesota. MIDCO is looking to provide about 160 homes and businesses in Franconia Township with services. The Board inquired if MIDCO was to come in, if they would cover all of Franconia Township, as the Board was sure many residents would like that option. Mr. Curley did ask how many homes were in Franconia Township. It was estimated there are

about 660-670 homes, and about 1800 residents in Franconia. There was discussion of other companies wanting to come in. Windstream has received a grant, and about Home Town Fiber coming in. The primary concern to the Board was a whole lot of residents were not included in this plan. Mr. Curly did say they are looking to expand a little at a time, and would look to move out further in 2023. The challenge for MIDCO is the cost of expanding to areas further out. Dennis Gustafson did ask the cost to each resident for these services to be installed. Mr. Curly said the cost of installing fiber optic is at no cost to the homeowners. There is a cost for home installation and a monthly fee. The initial home installation cost is about \$100.00 and about \$50.00 a month for the basic service and goes up from there. Once the homeowner gets services it is a month to month services, and no cancelation fee. MIDCO is requesting a signed franchise agreement for them to provide the services in Franconia. The agreement is required as MIDCO will be providing cable/video. It is not an exclusive contract for MIDCO, and will not limit other businesses from providing services. The board requested time to review the agreement and will add MIDCO to the January agenda.

Fitzie Heimdahl was present via zoom to discuss a payment request. The Board wanted to review the payment request, and discuss State Statute guidelines. Mr. Heimdahl did explain the nature of the request, and the challenges due to the pandemic. He also informed the Board much of his work has been done pro bono, and gave a report on the status of completion. The Board did acknowledge the expense being related to moving forward toward completion of the book. The concern lied on the Board needing to follow statutes and the sesquicentennial funds being the resident's funds so the Board had to be conscientious of allowable expenses. The Board requested instead of separate payment requests, to submit invoices on detailed sheets, for the Board to organize and approve expenses. Mr. Heimdahl will look at submitting an invoice before the January 11, 2022 meeting so the Board can review and approve. He will submit it by email to the Clerk, Angela Dahlstrom.

Quiet Valley residents submitted a Quiet Valley Road Upgrade Survey, with all residents of Quiet Valley marking yes, they would like the road stabilized at a cost of \$3000 or less to each residence. The Board did say there would need to be a document submitted for each of the residents to sign. Jake Guzik did say he would try to have something put together for the February meeting.

The new Town Hall building plan requests had been submitted to three building companies. Owen Kuhnly did hear back from B&B, Sherman, and Morton and will have numbers by the end of February. Jake Guzik did say it would take about \$6000 in planning costs, but would have someone come to the meeting to provide numbers and estimates at no cost if the Board was interested. Owen did say the builder's estimates included the engineering fee with the building. Owen will double check with the county on numbers. He would have more information at the following meetings.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Regular Board Meeting – January 11, 2022 7:00 p.m.

CCATO – January 26, 2022 7:00 p.m. Chisago County Correctional Facility

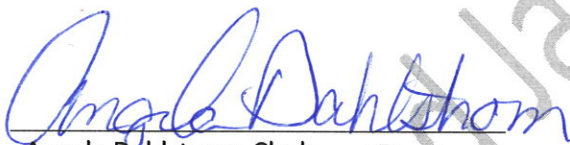
Joint Powers – February 14, 2022 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk

  
Owen Kuhnly, Chairman

Approved January 11, 2022