

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – March 16, 2022
Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail N Shafer, MN 55074

Town Board Members Present

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

Residents Present:

Julie Jensen	Mary Jane Sahl	Mark Forsberg
Tom Niedenfuer	Travis Greene	Andrea Wallis
Dennis Gustafson	Shirley Gustafson	Mark Wolcott
Spike Dally	Eric Utne	Jeri Maeve Reilly
Tom Parenteau	Shellee Parenteau	Dave Pary
George DeGidio	Melissa Wolf	Chuck Fitzer

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, Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the agenda and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

February Minutes were reviewed. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

The Annual Meeting minutes and Board of Canvas minutes were reviewed, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Sonny Sparby, seconded by Owen Kuhnly.

Clerk Angela Dahlstrom swore in the new officer Doug Wallis, for a three-year term on the Franconia Town Board of Supervisors, and gave Oath of Office to all Board members.

Sonny Sparby nominated Owen Kuhnly to be Chairman on the Franconia Town Board of Supervisors. Doug Wallis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Owen Kuhnly nominated Sonny Sparby to be Vice-Chair on the Franconia Town Board of Supervisors. Doug Wallis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Franconia Town Board of Supervisors will hold a monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m., the third Tuesday of each month, at the Franconia Town Hall 25156 St. Croix Trail North, Shafer MN 55074, unless otherwise posted. Owen Kuhnly motioned to adopt this change, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

The Chisago County Press is designated the official Township Newspaper.

The designated posting boards are located on the north side of the intersections of Redwing Avenue and Franconia Trail, as well as the board located on the north side of the Franconia Town Hall building as the Official Township posting boards. This was set at the Annual Meeting March 8, 2022.

Owen Kuhnly suggested to keep the Chairman compensation at \$150 per month, with \$60.00 meeting compensation, so it is the same compensation for all Board Members, continuing April 1, 2022. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve. Doug Wallis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Duties set for 2022 Reorganization;

Owen Kuhnly made a motion to nominated Sonny Sparby to Joint Powers, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried. Sonny Sparby made a motion to nominate Owen Kuhnly to Joint Powers, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion Carried. Owen Kuhnly and Sonny Sparby to serve on the Joint Powers Board with the City of Shafer.

Sonny Sparby to continue as Township Maintenance Supervisor with a requested \$10,000 emergency spending limit for Township related emergencies. Owen Kuhnly motioned to approve Sonny Sparby as Supervisor and a \$10,000 emergency road repair limit, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Owen Kuhnly will Supervise the Township Clerk and Treasurer, website, policies, etc.

Designated banks will remain as is, a savings account at Security State Bank of Marine as well as 2 savings and one checking account at Midwest One bank. The designated signers on the account are set as Chair Owen Kuhnly, Vice Chair Sonny Sparby, Treasurer Karen Anderson, and Clerk Angela Dahlstrom. A motion was made by Doug Wallis to approve Sonny Sparby as a signer, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve Owen Kuhnly as a signer, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion Carried.

Approved regular meetings will continue as set in 2021 to include;
Board Meetings – CCATO – Joint Powers/Shafer Fire Department – Minnesota Association of Townships – District Trainings – Legal Trainings and reviews – MAT Spring and Summer short courses and MAT annual meeting – CTAS Training-Board of Equalization Meeting-State Highway meeting-MNDOT meetings- County Board Meetings-Spring Road Tour
Other meetings will need to be board approved.

Board Member Reports:

Engineering Report:

Jake Guzik presented a Request to Authorize Preparation of Plans and Specifications 2022 Seal Coat Project. The Seal Coat Project plan is estimated to cost \$180,000.00. The anticipated project schedule is; Authorize Preparation of Plans and Specs for March 16, 2022; Approve Plans and specs/Authorize Ad for Bid April 19, 2022; Bid Opening May 5, 2022; and Potential Award at Board Meeting May 17, 2022. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion Carried.

Maintenance Report:

Lee said there have been a lot of snow drifts with all the wind. He had been out pushing that back. Ice was the biggest factor, and he had been out ^{grating}graveling a few times. There was only one gravel road that had a significant amount of ice buildup. Lee did say the road weight limits went on today (March 8, 2022). He reported the culverts are good, however, there are two catch basins frozen up. He is working on clearing those. There are only a few residents in that area, and Lee let them know he is working on clearing it up. Midco has contacted Lee with questions on Bonding. The Board will be reviewing the Midco Resolution and will find out more information.

Treasurer Report:

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1621 through #1641 for a total of \$11,838.69 and payroll checks #13495 through #13503 for a total of \$7,583.27. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, payroll, and claims, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Karen reported that the Treasurer and Clerk had a meeting in a week to balance the books.

Karen presented an Electronic Payment Approval Policy Statement allowing authorization for the Town Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to pay electronically set invoices as directed by the Board of Supervisors. A motion to approve electronic payments was made by Sonny Sparby, and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Township Clerk:

Permits were submitted to the Board for review.

A Resolution Reestablishing Precincts and Polling Places was presented for approval. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

The Office of the County Assessor sent out Notice of the Board of Equalization to be held on the 28th day of April 2022 at 1:30 pm.

Citizens Forum**New Business:**

Residents from the Franconia Landing area were in attendance to discuss the road to the village. Julie Jenson addressed the Board, stating there were 29 households polled if they would want the roads paved to Franconia Village. Of the 29 households polled, 24 responded, and all 24 households were opposed to paving. Reasons for not paving included higher speeds, increased traffic, and taking away the historic atmosphere. The residents requested that the paving grant application that was submitted be rescinded. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to rescind application, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

The Center City Fire Department report was presented by Travis and Mark. There were 154 runs, 900 personnel hours, 2500 training hours, 600 event hours. There were 37 runs in 2021 for Franconia. Currently there are 18 members. Mark presented the contract. The contract has remained the same for many years. They would like to see the money increased, however, Center City does only cover 4 sections of Franconia Township. Funds had been donated for a new truck, but now a new tanker is needed. Center city is proposing \$5600 to operate and \$2600 for a truck fund. They did leave the contract for review.

A variance was presented for resident David Pary. He had a new house in the summer, and wants to build an outbuilding. There are ravines on 3 sides of the property, and he is requesting an outbuilding be allowed to be put on the east side. The setback is 20' he is requesting a 5' variance. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the variance, and Sonny Sparby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ginger Porcella had requested approval for One Day Liquor License Resolutions for one day each month starting in May, and ending in September 2022. The resolutions had been approved in 2021 for that season without incident. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the 5 separate resolutions, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Owen Kuhnly requested a review of Township Clerk performance, to verify compliance. A recommendation to increase Clerk pay from \$600 to \$625 was presented. Doug Wallis made a motion for pay increase to \$625, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Resident Dennis Gustafson made a request that if moving forward with New Town Hall plans, a building committee be formed with local residents. The Board did agree a small committee would be an option for planning the New Town Hall. Dennis Gustafson requested he be on the committee, and did also say Starsha Froberg was interested in being on the committee as well. Resident Spike Dally inquired why the Board was not using funds to repair the current building. The current Town Hall cannot be added on to, the land is split by Hwy 95, and no additional land to build on at the current location. Mr. Dally did ask what would be done with the current building. There are options to sell it, move the building, or the Board is open to discussion of other options.

MIDCO representative Melissa Wolf was present to discuss broadband. The Board did review the resolution MIDCO is requesting. Owen asked if the resolution locked

Franconia into any contract. No, the resolution is basically stating MIDCO is allowed to serve Franconia Township for cable/basic Broadcast services. The resolution is a requirement for any cable service providers. Residents present did ask about the services MIDCO provides, the cost of services, and areas of installation. Melissa did say at this time, this resolution only pertains to the video aspect of the services, however, MIDCO does offer internet, cable, and other services. MIDCO at present is only covering a small area, but will plan on moving further into Franconia over time. Also MIDCO representative Dave Strack had called Lee with a list of questions, and was requesting permission to work in the Township Right of Ways for installation. The Board discussed permit fees, possibly getting a bond in case of damage during installation, and insurance coverage. Jake said MIDCO would have a construction estimate, and the Board could base fees on a percentage of that. Lee will call Dave to see if he has a set of plans on the work to be done, and MIDCO will be added to the April agenda.

The Board was informed Lee's review will be coming up in April, and will be held at 6:30 in a closed meeting April 19, 2022 before the Regular Board Meeting. Also the Road Tour will be coming up, it was decided on April 9, 2022 at 9:00am.

Upcoming Meetings

CCATO – March 30, 2022 7:00 p.m. Rushseba Town Hall

Regular Board Meeting – April 19, 2022 7:00 p.m.

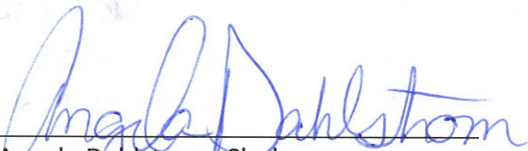
Board of Appeal and Equalization – April 28, 2022 1:30 pm Franconia Town Hall

Adjournment


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

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman