

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – December 20, 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:

Wade Glenna	Rick Daas
Chuck Fitzer	Jeffrey Williams

Call to Order

Chairman Owen Kuhnly called the monthly Franconia Township board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed. A request to add a Grant for the Fire Department was made. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the grant, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

November minutes were reviewed. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports:

Engineering Report:

Maintenance Report:

Lee reported Jim Vitalis had been in a few days. They had cut brush and pushed it back, and cleaned up the dead end/turn around. Gary has been helping with plowing. The truck had a leaky cylinder, Lee is waiting for the part to come in to fix it. Midco had been urgently digging to put in lines before the freeze, and left the ditches a mess. Jake will contact Midco for records of where the lines are being dug, and about restoration of the areas they are digging. Lee did fix a few areas in the fall from where Midco had dug, so it would not damage the plow. Lee has not received a permit yet for the Drive on Que. Owen did talk to Patty Perrault with zoning. Owen did say they will get together after the holidays to go over permits and driveway permits. Sonny did say he would get ahold of the homeowner on Que. The Board did request to make sure the roads are getting plowed shoulder to shoulder. Lee did say that is the goal. When it snows, he goes through and clears the road first pass, and then pushes it back on the second pass. Multiple days of snow have been a challenge to keep up, but he will work on getting everything pushed back. Lee mentioned the dead end at Whispering Bay, and the possibility of putting a turn around there. A culvert and drainage would need to be put in, or would need to use private property. A couple of junction boxes had been damaged during mowing, an insurance claim will be made. Going forward an incident report will need to be completed and the Board contacted. Lee asked if postcards could be sent to residents reminding them to not plow snow from driveways into road or across road. There have been a few issues when plowing.

Treasurer Report:

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1824 through #1846 for a total of \$27,713.40 and payroll checks #13695, #13711 through #13713 for a total of \$6,937.88. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, payroll, and claims seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Karen recommended moving \$100,000 from Road and Bridge funds to Blacktopping funds as well as \$50,000 from fire funds to general funds to avoid being negative. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to approve moving funds, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

The CD Bond was obtained. It should gain \$200 in interest. Karen did discuss putting Fire/Gambling funds from checking into a money market to get a better interest return. Owen did verify that if the funds were moved, that it could be accessed without penalty if needed. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve putting Fire funds into a money market account, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

A Resolution Accepting Donations was presented for approval. The resolution is for approval to accept a donation to Shafer Firemen's Volunteer Benefit Association for \$80,000.00 for the benefit of the citizens. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Joint Powers met, Ron with the SFFD asked about the sam.gov account to bid on projects or for funding for projects. Owen wanted to make sure there would be no conflict for the Township. Owen requested more information with that. Owen made a motion if he received more information on funding, and if there are no conflicts account can be used, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

The Treasurer and Clerk met for quarterly code book balance. Books balanced with bank statements.

Township Clerk:

Permits were submitted to the Board for review.

A closed employee review for Angela Dahlstrom was held. A 3% raise was agreed upon. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to approve the raise, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion approved.

A resolution to set the polling place for 2023 at the Franconia Town Hall was submitted. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Daryl with the Assessor's Office sent an email with a link for training for the Board of Equalization. The email was forwarded to the Board with the link.

Citizens Forum

New Business:

Rick Daas was present to discuss obtaining a resolution from all townships in Chisago County to stop solar power plants from coming in. US Solar is trying to build a commercial solar site, 1000-1500 acres and Rick would like to get Township support. Owen Kuhnly did say Franconia Township has been through this situation before. Owen did not want to sign a resolution limiting what landowners could do in Franconia Township with their property. However, he would be willing to go to County Board meetings in support of more stipulations for solar companies such as higher clean up bond and maintenance of fields. Rick Daas did say he would leave an example of the resolution he is requesting signed for the Board to review.

Owen Kuhnly has been working on getting site plans for the New Town Hall. He talked to Gregory Contracting, they will put something together for an estimate.

The Board wanted to look at putting together a resolution or ordinance for Township roads for weight restrictions and no through traffic. A request was made to have a meeting to work on Ordinances and Policies. The meeting was set for January 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Old Business:

Jeffrey Williams was present to provide an update on the historical book. The book is closer to being closed out. Owen Kuhnly said he could enter the information into the book grant portal and submit it.

Upcoming Meetings


Regular Board Meeting – January 17, 2023 7:00 p.m.
CCATO – January 25, 2023 7:00 p.m. Lent Township

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the December regular Board Meeting was made by Sonny Sparby and seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angela Dahlstrom, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman