

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – March 21, 2023
Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail N, Shafer, MN 55074

Town Board Members Present

Owen Kuhnly – Chair
Sony Sparby – Vice Chair
Doug Wallis – Supervisor
Jake Guzik – Engineer
Lee Cartier – Maintenance
Karen Anderson – Treasurer and Clerk
Chuck Fitzer – Deputy Clerk

Residents Present

George DeGidio
Jeffrey Williams

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. Additional items added to the agenda were 2023 street maintenance and sodium chloride under Engineering. New grader and salt under the Maintenance Report. Electronic payment policy under the Treasurer and the Historical Book written by Jeffrey Williams Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional items, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Swearing in of New Officer

Chuck Fitzer was sworn in as Deputy Clerk.

2023 Reorganization

Sonny Sparby made a motion to nominate Owen Kuhnly as chair of the town board, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Owen Kuhnly made a motion to nominate Sonny Sparby as vice-chair of the town board, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Sonny Sparby made a motion to change the monthly board meeting date to the second Tuesday of each month for the upcoming year, beginning with the April meeting, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried. Treasurer and Clerk Karen Anderson was directed to make the post the change everywhere it needed to be posted.

The Chisago County Press was designated as the official newspaper for Franconia Township at the Annual Meeting. No motion was necessary.

Compensation for supervisors was discussed. For the prior year, it was set at \$150 per month and \$60 per meeting. Expenses, for meeting and other necessary travel, were reimbursed as follows: mileage at the IRS rate, meals, and other money expensed in performance of township board duties. No reimbursement for alcohol. Expenses must be pre-authorized. Doug Wallis made a motion to keep the compensation and expense reimbursement policies the same as last year, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Committee memberships and other appointments were discussed.

Owen Kuhnly made a motion for Owen Kuhnly and Sonny Sparby to be on the Joint Powers Committee, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Doug Wallis made a motion for Sonny Sparby to be the Maintenance Supervisor, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

It was stated that all three supervisors would oversee the Clerk and Treasurer. Karen Anderson stated that she would get the township website straightened out. Currently, it is tough to access. She only has access to the calendar.

Owen Kuhnly stated that all three supervisors would be members of the Policies Committee, and Sonny Sparby and Doug Wallis verbally assented.

The supervisors agreed that the only physical posting place for township notices will be the town hall. The township banks will continue to be Midwest One Bank and Security State Bank of Marine, and the account signers will be Doug Wallis, Owen Kuhnly, Sonny Sparby and Karen Anderson.

Karen Anderson stated the following: she will send in the list of officers by the end of the week to Minnesota Association of Townships. She will send the township Levy and Officer Report to the county within a week after this board meeting.

Approval of Previous Minutes

February minutes were reviewed. Owen Kuhnly stated that the rough estimate put together for the new township hall site plan was \$70,000, not \$30,000 as stated in the proposed minutes. He also stated that Bolton and Menk was less with their estimate, not comparable as stated in the proposed minutes. The minutes were updated to reflect these changes. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried.

Board Member Reports

Engineering Report:

Engineer Jake Guzik reported that gravel repairs on Olympic Trail, Franconia Trail and Quinlan Avenue would total over \$175,000, so that has to be published in the township paper of record, the Chisago County Press. A spring road tour was discussed, and will take place Saturday, April 15 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Franconia Town Hall. Participants will include Owen Kuhnly, Sonny Sparby, Doug Wallis, Lee Cartier, and Jake Guzik.

For sodium chloride, Lee Cartier will find out the cost per foot before the next regular board meeting. Jake Guzik will check with Scandia.

Maintenance Report:

The sending out of postcards to township residents about telling them to not plow snow into the road and into ditches across the road was discussed. Owen Kuhnly stated that the postcards would be sent out in the fall and would be discussed at the regular October board meeting.

Lee Cartier stated that he had been getting calls on rough and muddy roads and will be out to timely grade the roads once they dry out.

The replacement of the current grader was discussed. Lee Cartier presented a quote for a new machine from Ziegler CAT. The current grader is approaching its seven-year guaranteed buyback deadline of April 30, 2023. There is no guaranteed buyback after that date and the warranty on the current grader runs out in May 2023. The board needs to decide whether to buy a new grader or keep the current one. If we keep the current one, should we add a power train warranty? There are about 1,300 hours on our current grader. The proposed new grader, a Caterpillar Model 140 motor grader, would cost \$375,380 (including a seven-year/2,000-hour warranty), less \$125,000 for the guaranteed buyback for a net cost of \$250,380. If the board does decide to move forward with the purchase of a new grader, delivery is about a year out. Lee Cartier will invite the Caterpillar representative to the April board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claim #1896 through #1919 for a total of \$16,335.08 and payroll checks (no check numbers were noted on the report) totaling \$6,500.04. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the payroll checks and claims checks, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was discussed. A discrepancy from January 2023 was noted. Approval of the Treasurer's report was continued until the January discrepancy was cleared up.

Electronic payment approval was discussed. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the use of electronic payments, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried. All three board members will sign the electronic payment approval form.

Karen Anderson reported that the town received a gambling check from the fire department for \$34,500.

Township Clerk:

Nothing to report.

New Business

2023 MATIT short courses and new blue address sign reverification and placement were discussed.

Citizen's Forum

Nothing to discuss.

Old Business

The book grant will be closed out. Jeffrey Williams, who did the writing for the first part of the project, stated that the research report, appendix, bibliography, and key findings were completed, closing out the research phase of the proposal. The township will need to get a new grant in order to finish the book. The documents that have been completed to date will be given to Owen Kuhnly electronically.

Upcoming Meetings

CCATO – March 29, 2023 7:00 p.m. Rusheba Township

Regular Board Meeting – April 11, 2023 7:00 p.m.

CCATO – April 26, 2023 7:00 p.m. Nessel Township

Board of Equalization – Thursday, April 27, 2023 1:30 p.m. Franconia Town Hall

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Fitzer, Deputy Clerk

Owen Kuhnly, Chairman