

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – June 13, 2023
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 and Clerk
Chuck Fitzer – Deputy Clerk

Residents Present

None

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 as presented, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the May 9, 2023, Franconia Township Board of Supervisors monthly meeting were reviewed. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Recycle Day – Owen Kuhnly said that it went pretty good. Doug Wallis said it was a little slower. The bill was \$674. \$274 was for junk and the recycling fee was \$400.

Midco – Representative did not attend meeting. Put on July agenda.

Owen Kuhnly said that Sam Ashkar from HomeTown Internet wants to know if we want to put \$100,000 of ARPA money into the tower and go to the county for the matching \$100,000. Owen Kuhnly said that most of Franconia Township won't get fiber for three to five years. And we are supposed to get free high-speed internet (except for the monthly fee) from Windstream in a few years. He said that everyone who subscribes to Hometown Internet will need a receiver on a 30-foot pole, and there is no guarantee of good high-speed service. Owen Kuhnly said that he thinks it will be worthwhile to use the ARPA money if the county matches it. Also, Frontier is supposed to be moving toward high-speed internet. Doug Wallis reported using the T-Mobile 5G home internet and said it works well.

Doug Wallis made a motion to table the HomeTown Internet issue to the next meeting, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried.

2022 Audit – Report from Mike Profahl, CPA – Karen Anderson stated that the audit report had to be submitted to the State by June 30, 2023.

After a short discussion, Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the audit report, Owen Kuhnly seconded. Karen Anderson will have Owen Kuhnly sign the audit before she sends it in.

Clerk Position Review – Owen Kuhnly stated that it had been three months, so the clerk position was due for a review. Owen asked Karen Anderson and Chuck Fitzer to meet at 6:30 p.m. before the next town board meeting to discuss the position.

Engineering Report – Jake Guzik

Jake Guzik said that the patching on 280th, 260th and Quinlan is done. It's a six-year patch. There will be a bill to approve at the next board meeting. Quinlan was added to the project because we were still within budget.

2023 Projects – Jake Guzik reported that the gravel maintenance contracts are ready. The work has to be substantially completed by August 25, 2023.

Quiet Valley Reclamation – Jake Guzik reported that the reclamation went well, and that the road is as hard as a rock now. Lee Cartier also reported that they did a nice job. Jake Guzik reported that Quiet Valley Road will be sealcoated next year and that the township will receive a payment request from Astech for this year's work.

Jake Guzik was contacted by the developer of Dayspring Hills. Jake let the developer know that the board wants to see something in return from the developer for taking over the roads.

Bridge in Franconia – there is no concern about the bridge in Franconia at this time. Owen Kuhnly said the bridge is not failing. Lee Cartier said the cost to repair it would be about \$20,000.

~~Franconia Trail Grant – Lee Cartier pointed out that we missed the grant for \$30,000 to pave Franconia Trail. (deleted by Board on July 11th)~~

County Line Road Reconstruction - Lee Cartier reported that Scandia is talking about a major reconstruction on the county line road (240th). It has been moved from 2029 to 2026. Franconia Township will be required to pay 50% of the cost. Jake Guzik will check with the engineer in Scandia to find out the possible cost.

Grading - Lee Cartier talked about how hard it is to grade when it is so dry.

Chloride Issue – Lee Cartier got a hold of a company, but they cannot get here until July.

Catchbasins on Quarry Road – With the project upcoming on Quarry Road, Lee Cartier and Peterson Companies cleaned out the catchbasins, which will help to save the road.

New Driveway on Quinlan – it was reported that they have not asked for a permit yet.

Gravel Project – It would be about \$40,000 - \$45,000 for Class 5 gravel on about 3,000 feet of 280th behind the apple orchard. Owen Kuhnly said we need to figure out where we are at. We are at \$400,000 already. We could have Brett Peterson do it and we could do the culvert at the same time and then it's done. Lee Cartier stated that Brett Peterson would not be available until after July 4.

Owen Kuhnly asked Karen Anderson to come up with numbers and get a discussion on the agenda for next month's board meeting. Sonny Sparby said we could use ARPA money for the project. Owen Kuhnly said he would rather use our own money. Karen Anderson said ARPA money can be transferred to the general fund without a resolution.

Maintenance Report – Lee Cartier

Lee Cartier reported that Midco is fixing some of the bad spots resulting from their fiber optic work last fall, but they haven't fixed all of them. Owen Kuhnly said Lee should keep track of where the unaddressed spots are so we can inform Midco. Lee Cartier also said that the unaddressed spots can be tough on the mower.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Anderson said she received an e-mail reminding the township that interest of \$80,000 on the bond is due on August 1, 2023. This will be presented as part of the claims for next month.

Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claims #1964 through #1984 for a total of \$50,409.26 and payroll checks #13826 through #13829 for a total of \$6,002.21. Karen Anderson went through the Treasurer's Report. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve all claims and payroll checks and to approve this month's Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Karen Anderson reported the 2022 financial statements were sent in to comply with the annual continuing disclosure report requirements, and the financial statements were posted, so the township is compliant. Our fee will be \$850.

Clerk Update

Permits – none

Highway 95 Road Closure – from Highway 8 to Pleasant Valley Road – just an FYI.

MAT Membership Cards – Karen Anderson passed them out

Population of Franconia Township – Karen Anderson reported that, as of April 1, 2023, the township population was 1,785 people, in 646 households.

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement Tour – the tour is July 31, 2023. Anyone who wants to attend should RSVP to Benjamin Elfelt Chisago County as soon as possible (lakeimprovement@chisagocountymn.gov, 651-213-8370).

Old Business

Driveway Permit Form – The form is completed. Owen Kuhnly said to be sure we keep a full copy in a folder.

“No Parking” Ordinance – Karen Anderson added a special event part to the ordinance. For special event limited parking, the requestor must contact Lee Cartier at least three business days in advance. Lee will call dispatch or reach out to the Board to call dispatch and let them know about the special event permit, so the sheriff doesn’t start tagging vehicles. Lee Cartier said that the ordinance will be handy to have for plowing.

Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the “no parking” ordinance, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried.

Karen Anderson will have Owen sign a clean copy of the approved ordinance. She will get the ordinance into the Chisago County Press and onto the township website.

Board-Attended Meeting Reports

Sonny Sparby attended last month’s CCATO meeting and reported that they elected officers.

Next month’s regular board meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be closed for the first half hour.

Upcoming Meetings

CCATO – June 28th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m., Chisago Lakes Township Hall

Regular Board Meeting – July 11th, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement Tour – July 31st, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Center City Fire Station

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Fitzer, Deputy Clerk

Owen Kuhnly, Chairman