

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – July 11, 2023
Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail N, Shafer, MN 55074

Town Board Members Present

Owen Kuhnly – Chair

Doug Wallis – Supervisor

Lee Cartier – Maintenance

Chuck Fitzer – Deputy Clerk

Sonny Sparby – Vice Chair

Jake Guzik – Engineer

Karen Anderson – Treasurer and Clerk

Residents Present

Josh Leonhardt

Brian Leonhardt

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. Motion made by Sonny Sparby to approve the agenda with the following amended changes, remove swearing in of officer, CCATO meeting update and Townhall maintenance, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the June 23, 2023, Franconia Township Board of Supervisors monthly meeting were reviewed. Owen Kuhnly said that we should take out the language related to the Franconia Trail Grant. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes, amended to take out the language described above, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Dayspring - Josh Leonhardt – Paving 285th & adopting private streets of Dayspring - The road (285th) in Dayspring is paved, with three inches of asphalt and 12-15 inches of Class 5 as a base.

The township's negative experience with the Snowgoose development was discussed, along with the fact that with the Sierra development, they had to remove the asphalt and pave it again.

Lee Cartier said we want to make sure that the paving that is already there meets standards. Jake Guzik stated that it's probably due for a mill and overlay.

Brian Leonhardt said the HOA has a little bit of money left in it, but that snow plowing is killing the HOA. 285th getting paved and getting rid of the HOA would help to get some home sales in the development. Currently, there are 22 lots, 18 of which are unbuilt. Once the development is complete, yearly property taxes will go up to \$126,000 versus \$20,000 now.

Jake Guzik recommended a mill and overlay, cleaning the storm sewers, getting the culverts working and paving from Snowgoose to 95. Owen Kuhnly said that the board needs to go out to look at it one more time. Jake Guzik needs to write up his recommendations and figure out what it takes to finish the road. Then give the board a broad spectrum, so that the board has a number and can present it to the Leonhardts and decide what's fair.

Owen Kuhnly asked Jake Guzik to lay out schedule of logistics Dayspring for the next meeting and send it out before the next board meeting, so everyone could look at it in advance of the meeting. Jake Guzik agreed to do so

Owen stated that Sonny Sparby, Jake Guzik, and Lee Cartier are the contacts on this. Owen asked the Leonhardts to return to next month's meeting.

Brian Leonhardt stated that Wade Glenna is the builder.

Home Town Internet (HTI) – Owen Kuhnly talked to the Sam from Home Town Internet. Sam stated, the County is helping Townships out with internet service. The plan is to match funds with the County: \$100,000 to \$100,000. HTI said that we would pay a little under \$1,000 per resident at thresholds of 25, 50, 75 and 100 residents. Sonny stated that Chisago Lakes Township just received \$200,000 from the county for their internet project. Owen said the funds, up to \$200,000 per township, until the funds are gone.

As far as other options, Owen said that Windstream is out three to five years, Frontier will not be here for quite a while, and he doesn't see Midco coming in.

Owen stated that HTI does not charge for testing to see if a homeowner would be able to get high speed internet through the HTI system. He also said that this only works if the county matches us and our contribution is limited to \$100,000 for a set number of residents, which will probably be 125 to 130 residents.

Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve using up to \$100,000 of ARPA funds for the project to get high speed internet service to Franconia Township residents, provided that the matching funds are awarded from the County, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

A contract with HTI will spell out everything that has been discussed. In addition, Sam from HTI stated that they will not raise prices in any packages for at least three years, and language to that effect will be in the contract. In order to get the County matching funds, Owen Kuhnly will complete the paperwork and pass it along to Sam at HTI, who needs to fill out their part and submit it to the County. All paperwork related to this project will be brought to the meeting for all three supervisors to sign.

Town Hall Maintenance – Sonny said cement and painting work needs to be done. Owen said we should have Jim come out to pressure wash and scrape. The supervisors and Lee Cartier talked about doing the painting themselves. Owen pointed out that it would officially be a meeting if two or more of the supervisors are there. Owen said that this is a lower priority project, and if the pressure washing and scraping is not done by the next meeting, that's okay.

Doug Wallis made a motion to hire Chuck Fitzer as the Township Clerk for \$600 per month plus \$60 per meeting for any township-related meeting he attends for a probationary period of three months starting August 8, 2023, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried. Owen said that an evaluation would take place at the end of the probationary period.

Engineering Report – Jake Guzik

Valley Paving - First and final bituminous payment. Jake Guzik reported that we bid for 15,000 feet of bituminous patching but they ended up doing 20,000 square feet. The contractor bid \$47,400, but with the extra square footage the total ended up being \$60,902.03. Jake stated that this is part of the township's five-year plan. We had budgeted \$75,000 for this project. So, we are under the budgeted amount but over the bid amount. Owen Kuhnly asked Jake Guzik if the contractor told Jake Guzik that the square footage paved would be over the bid amount and he said yes. Owen Kuhnly informed Jake that in the future, he needs to let the board know about overage and to get the Board's approval for any changes with a project.

Lee Cartier said that Valley Paving did okay on the project, but it was not the greatest job he has ever seen. Owen Kuhnly asked if there is a warranty in the contract, and Jake Guzik said there was nothing in the contract, which is typical because of the nature of the patching project.

The board discussed potential repairs to 260th. Owen Kuhnly said he hoped we could hold off on that project until 2025 or 2026, because when the bridge construction shuts things down that will be the opportune time to do it.

Quiet Valley Road – the turnaround has been paved and looks great. We will make the payment next month.

Gravel Maintenance Project – The Precon meeting related to schedule and scope of work is at 2:00 p.m. on July 12. Jake Guzik and Sonny Sparby will attend the meeting.

Karen Anderson stated that the total spent for roads this year, so far, is \$438,679.72. We will add to that \$7,000 for dust control and could add \$35,000 to \$40,000 for the gravel maintenance project on 280th. Owen Kuhnly said that since that would put us at about \$480,000 for this year, we need to hold tight and not spend the money for the gravel maintenance project, since we had only planned on spending \$350,000 this year.

The board discussed cutting off access to Bloom Lake Road from Quinlan because of various issues. Owen Kuhnly stated that if we want to do it, we are going to have to spend some money on lawyers.

Maintenance Report – Lee Cartier

Lee Cartier reported that he is mowing ditches and grading "dust." Chloriding was discussed. In addition to chloriding already being done, Owen Kuhnly said to do chloriding on Quinlan from Panola to where Smiley is dumping. Lee Cartier said he is finishing up ditch work south of Olympic.

Lee asked if we are looking at doing a double chip seal on Pheasant Run. Owen Kuhnly replied that we would do it someday.

Lee stated that Quail Ridge needs work. Owen stated we would have to get the residents involved because they will have to pay for some of it. This is a future project.

Skid Steer – Lee Cartier bought a broom for the skid steer from the city of Taylors Falls for \$300. He needs to fix it and will have approximately \$2,000 when finished This saves the township some money because a new broom is about \$9,000.

Treasurer's Report

It was noted that the July 2023 Treasurer's Report showed that payroll checks #13843 through #183848 were being presented for approval. That was incorrect – the actual check numbers being presented were #13843 through #13848. The correction was made. Karen Anderson then presented for approval to the board claims #1985 through #2009 for a total of \$142,214.52 and payroll checks #13843 through #13848 for a total of \$7,249.62. Karen Anderson went through the Treasurer's Report. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve all claims as presented and payroll checks as corrected, and the Treasurer's Report as corrected, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

ARPA CD – The ARPA CD of \$207,199.12 comes due August 17, 2023. Karen will check with the bank to make sure we won't be penalized if we renew it and then take the money out before maturity. The board will discuss this again at the August board meeting.

Audit Report – Karen sent the information on the jump drive containing from the auditor's report for the year ending December 31, 2022, to the Minnesota State Auditor. A confirmation was emailed stating that it was received. Owen reminded the board that the township is required to have an audit done if we have funds on hand totaling more than \$1,000,000.

Signature Card Approval – Karen Anderson said we needed a motion to add Chuck Fitzer to the banking signatures. This motion will be presented at the August board meeting after Chuck Fitzer has been sworn in as the new town clerk.

Upcoming Meetings

Regular Board Meeting – August 8th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

CCATO – August 30th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m., Chisago County Historical Society (downtown Lindstrom).

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Fitzer, Deputy Clerk

Owen Kuhnly, Chairman