

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – September 12, 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 – Clerk

Residents Present

Cameron Novak
Karen Salokar
Jeff Salokar

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 August 8, 2023, Franconia Township Board of Supervisors monthly meeting were reviewed. The sentence "Testing is lined up" was removed from the Engineering Report section and a spelling error was corrected. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Sonny Sparby seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Chisago County Growth Committee – Owen Kuhnly will let the Growth Committee know that we already bought our road salt for the upcoming winter, so we will not participate in the Growth Committee's bulk road salt buy. Owen Kuhnly will also let them know we can't make it to the Growth Committee meeting on September 13.

Questions for September 16 Legal Seminar – Owen Kuhnly asked Chuck Fitzer and Sonny Sparby (who will both attend the September 16 Township Legal Seminar) to find out, from a legal standpoint, what it takes to “Dead End” a road.

Chloride – After discussion, it was decided that it is too close to the end of the year to do any more chloriding this year and that the board will discuss chloriding for 2024 at a future meeting.

Township Grants - Doug Wallis stated that there are township grants available, and that there is an LRIP grant deadline coming up (December 8). Jake Guzik said that we should look into a grant for the Highway 95 roundabout project.

Engineering Report – Jake Guzik

Gravel Maintenance Project – Jake Guzik said the bill would be coming soon for the gravel work. He recommended the township approve the payment request. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the payment request of \$320,218.95, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Jake Guzik sent a letter to Daysprings developer recommending that the developer place \$4,450 in escrow for the borings and inspection of culverts to look for drainage issues. Jake Guzik asked Karen Anderson to let him know if the developers send the township a check.

Maintenance Report – Lee Cartier

Update – Lee Cartier reported that he was getting a jump on the fall tree cutting season, mowing ditches and that the culvert repair work by RE Peterson on Quarry Road was wrapped up, and he told RE Peterson that they needed to put an erosion blanket on the hill.

Lee reported that there was still dirt and concrete in the ditch on 255th and that the resident has been talked to about removing it again. Sonny Sparby said he will also talk to the resident and let him know it has to be done by the end of this month. Lee Cartier reported that the culvert/driveway issue on Q Avenue had not yet been addressed, and Sonny Sparby said he would talk to the resident about it again. For the issues with the two driveways on Franconia Trail, Owen Kuhnly said we will give the residents until spring to address the issues. For the Prior Avenue turnaround, it's hard to turn around with the two pillars. Owen Kuhnly said we need to prove to the resident that the pillars are on township property and that the pillars need to be moved.

Jim Vitalis – Lee Cartier reported that part time maintenance employee Jim Vitalis was doing a good job. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve a \$2.00 per hour raise for Jim Vitalis, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Shop computer – Lee Cartier reported that we have had the shop computer since 2014, and he has trouble using it. Sonny Sparby made a motion for Lee to spend up to \$500 on a new computer for the shop, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Highway 8 Task Force – At this point, no one is going to the Highway 8 Task Force meeting on September 18. Sonny Sparby said he might go.

Clerk Updates – Chuck Fitzer

Permits – no permit update

CTAS Training – Chuck Fitzer is signed up to go to CTAS training on September 21 and Karen Anderson is signed up to go to CTAS training on September 26.

Maintenance Messages – Chuck Fitzer was instructed to make sure to get maintenance-related messages to Lee Cartier.

Treasurer Updates – Karen Anderson

Blacktopping Maintenance Fund – Karen Anderson reported that the township was \$70,716.33 in the hole in the Blacktopping Maintenance fund. Owen Kuhnly made a motion to move \$70,716.33 from the Road and Bridge (MWO) fund into the Blacktopping Maintenance fund to zero out the deficit, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Reports and Claims - Karen Anderson then presented for approval to the board claims #2034 through #2058 for a total of \$377,953.67 and payroll checks #13886 through #13889 for a total of \$6,800.05. Karen Anderson went through the Treasurer's Report. Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve all claims and payroll checks as presented and to approve this month's Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Old Business

Cement by Town Hall – It was reported that we had not yet heard anything from Steve. Sonny Sparby said he will contact Steve.

Hometown Internet/Chisago County ARPA Grant Application – Owen Kuhnly went to the Chisago County board meeting. The county approved a grant of \$200,000 from ARPA. This will be added to the \$100,000 coming from Franconia Township and will be disbursed to Hometown Internet, in parts, as they hit certain thresholds.

Upcoming Meetings

CCATO – September 27th, 2023 – 7:00pm – Sunrise Township

Franconia Township Board Meeting – October 10th, 2023 - 7:00 pm

Township Legal Seminar – September 16th, 2023 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Rutledge City Hall

MAT 4-Corner Training – September 21 and September 26 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – MAT Office, St. Michael

Adjournment

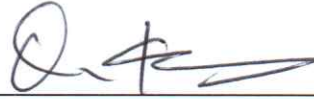
A motion to adjourn the September regular Board Meeting was made by Sonny Sparby and seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chuck Fitzer, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman

Approved October 10, 2023