

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – August 14, 2024
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
Cristina Mlejnek – Engineer
Lee Cartier – Maintenance
Karen Anderson – Treasurer
Chuck Fitzer – Clerk

Residents Present

Donald Anderson
Erika Huffman
Rochelle Ganley
Beth Novack
Brandon Bigelbach
Jeff Jewson
Andrew Olson (Bolton and Menk)

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 amended, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the July 9, 2024, Franconia Township Board of Supervisors monthly meeting were reviewed. Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

New Business

MnDOT Hwy 8 Corridor Project Working Group – Chuck Fitzer was directed to have them send the information to Sonny Sparby, who will represent the township in this group.

Engineering Report - Cristina Mlejnek

Schumacher Panola Drive Property Subdivision – no official update. The property owners will have to deal with the county on this.

Wedding Venue CUP – The township received an email from the wedding venue property owners saying they would not use the approved CUP. Owen Kuhnly said that the county has not responded to his

requests for an update on this issue and told the residents they need to talk to the county to find out what the future of the CUP is.

BMI Costs update – Cristina Mlejnek sent out a report to the board.

Updates and Reports:

240th St. – Construction is scheduled to take place in 2025. The initial estimate for the township's share was \$400,000. A more recent estimate is that the township's share would be \$526,000.

Windstream – Cristina Mlejnek sent out a draft to the board.

Town Hall Site – Cristina Mlejnek presented a map showing the proposed location for an access off Redwing. After discussion, Cristina Mlejnek said she would present it to the county,

291st Street Turnaround – Cristina Mlejnek put together a package on this project and sent it to three contractors for estimates, which will be presented at the September meeting. The goal is to complete this project this year.

285th Street Invoice – Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve a payment to Knife River Corporation for this project for \$184,393.29, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Safety Lines Striping 285th – Doug Wallis made a motion to accept a bid of \$3,475.00 for Sir Lines A Lot to complete the striping on 285th, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Quiet Valley Road – Cristina Mlejnek reported that the contractor was having a hard time getting a double chip seal crew to complete the work, and that the project could be done for approximately the same price with ultra-thin bonded wearing course instead of double chip seal. Doug Wallis made a motion to complete the Quiet Valley Road project with ultra-thin bonded wearing course, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

259th St – Chuck Fitzer was directed to put 259th Street under Old Business for discussion at the September board meeting.

Cristina Mlejnek introduced Andrew Olson, another Bolton and Menk engineer, to stay in the loop for township engineering issues in case Cristina needs to pull back from working on township issues.

Maintenance Report – Lee Cartier

Lee Cartier reported that they have been doing tree work, early brush mowing, grading, Class 5 put down in town of Franconia, cleaned out catch basins, and general maintenance.

Driveway ^{CM} ~~and~~ Q Avenue – no change

29109 Quinlan – Lee Cartier said we should notify the homeowner that he has bituminous hanging out quite a way.

Pillars on Pryor Avenue – are in the right of way and need to be addressed.

Quinlan Avenue – Resident Donald Anderson put a retaining wall at the end of his driveway and Lee Cartier explained that you are not allowed to put fixed objects in the ditch. Mr. Anderson

said he would remove the retaining wall. Mr. Anderson said the township plow sheared off his mailbox four years ago, and Sonny Sparby said that we will get him a new post. Lee Cartier will stop by to see what is needed.

Owen Kuhnly directed Lee Cartier to change the security code for the ~~maintenance~~ ^{town hall} building.

Clerk Updates – Chuck Fitzer

Permits – Chuck Fitzer sent the monthly building permit report to the town board members after he received it.

Primary Election Recap – Chuck Fitzer reported that things went smoothly and Starsha Froberg did a good job as head judge.

Treasurer Updates – Karen Anderson

Reports and Claims - Karen Anderson reported that the checking account is not balanced. Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claims #2306 through #2332 for a total of \$211,504.81 and payroll checks #14146 through #14160 for a total of \$7,667.76. Karen Anderson went through the Treasurer's Report.

Karen Anderson requested that the monthly Federated Coop bill be paid by online bill pay due to timing issues with invoices and statements. Karen Anderson will reach out to Federated Coop for more information and the board will discuss the issue next month.

Doug Wallis made a motion to approve all claims and payroll checks as presented, and to approve this month's Treasurer's Report as presented, and to put a hold on the Federated Coop bill until the issue is resolved, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Owen Kuhnly said that the cutoff for invoices to be paid is the Wednesday before the regular board meeting. Any invoices received after that will be paid the following month. Owen Kuhnly also said that the treasurer's report, draft minutes and draft agenda needed to be sent out to board members by the Friday before the regular board meeting.

Citizen's Forum

Resident Jeff Jewson asked if the township has a scheduled maintenance plan for the roads. Owen Kuhnly responded that the township only has so much to spend each year, follows a five-year plan, makes a plan each year and deals with emergency road issues as they come up. Mr. Jewson was specifically referring to a spot on Chisago Boulevard between Olinda and Olympic that has an eight-inch dip. Lee Cartier said that spot is in Chisago Lake Township, and he will let them know about it.

Resident Erika Huffman wanted to know about a specific condition on the weeding venue CUP and Owen Kuhnly said the residents should contact the county about it.

Old Business

Township Ordinances Update - None

Ditch Cleanup Letter Update – Owen Kuhnly asked Chuck Fitzer to send him copies of the two culvert cleanup letters and the ditch cleanup letter so he can forward them to the township attorneys, Couri and Ruppe.

Sonny Sparby made a motion to give permission to Owen Kuhnly to discuss township issues, including but not limited to the culvert cleanup letters, ditch cleanup letters and township ordinances with the township attorneys, Couri and Ruppe, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

CCATO Meeting – August 28, 2024 - Household Hazard Waste Site, North Branch – 7:00pm

Joint Powers Meeting – Shafer Franconia Fire and Rescue – September 9, 2024 – 7:00pm

Franconia Township Board Meeting – September 10, 2024 – 7:00pm

Doug Wallis made a motion to switch the regular township board meeting to the first Tuesday of each month starting in October, 2024, seconded by Sonny Sparby. Motion carried.

Chuck Fitzer was directed to let Chisago County and Minnesota Association of Townships know about the change in the regular board meeting date so they can update it on their websites.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the August regular Board Meeting was made by Doug Wallis and seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chuck Fitzer, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman

Approved 9-10-2024