

Franconia Township, Minnesota
Town Board of Supervisors Meeting – November 12, 2024
Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail N, Shafer, MN 55074

MINUTES

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

Isiah Bubany
Monique Berntson
Sam Ashkar
Laurie MacGregor
Guillermo Cuellar
Chris DuBose
Zachary Boesel

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 October 1, 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

St. Croix River Bluffs HOA Agreement – There is no cancellation clause in the agreement. Owen Kuhnly said the township needs its attorney's opinion on how to cancel the agreement.

Hometown Internet – Sam Ashkar from Hometown Internet talked about some issues with delays in installation and troubles with connection, but all networks are connected now. 14 Franconia residents have signed up for Hometown Internet. Sonny Sparby asked if they will be able to get service to homes down by the river. Sam Ashkar replied that they could not get a signal down to the river or 260th because of tall trees, and said putting up a tower in the area could fix that issue. Hometown Internet is trying to source land for a tower and needs 25 acres.

240th Street Construction – Isiah Bubany, Project Engineer for the City of Scandia, said that the City of Scandia wants approval for the project by August 2025 to make the project a go in 2026. The plan for payment is that all expenses will be run through the City of Scandia and the City of Scandia will invoice Franconia Township for their half. The project cost estimate will be refined in February 2025 when Scandia bids other work, and we will revisit 240th at that time.

Engineering Report - Cristina Mlejnek

Highway 95 – Representatives from the State of Minnesota will be attend next month’s board meeting to discuss the project.

259th and Oakman - Owen Kuhnly stated that we need to talk to Chisago Lake Township about this issue. This issue needs to be prioritized.

2025 Road Projects – Cristina Mlejnek will send out a list of potential projects for 2025 so we can get going earlier in the spring.

Future Town Hall Site – Cristina Mlejnek said that Ron Allwyn, a surveyor for Bolton and Menk, will put together the exhibit and legal description to enable the township to split off the parcel it plans to sell. Cristina will get an estimate for Ron’s services and email to the township officers.

291st Street – Lee Cartier reported that the project has been completed and seeded.

285th Street – Owen Kuhnly signed the document authorizing the second and final payment for the 285th Street project.

Maintenance Report – Lee Cartier

Security Access Code Change – has been completed and communicated to township officers.

Maintenance Report – Lee Cartier reported that he was waiting for some rain in order to get grading wrapped up for the year. He also reported that he was cutting trees, brush mowing, and stump grinding.

Lee Cartier was directed to change the deadbolt on the front door and get keys for the township board members, Treasurer, and Clerk.

Clerk Updates – Chuck Fitzer

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

Citizen’s Forum

Chris DuBose of the Chisago County Planning Commission reported that the new zoning ordinance would be going before the County Board for a vote on December 4, 2025, and that the Planning Commission would be looking to tweak the ordinance to address wedding venues.

Chris DuBose also reported that the driveway permit requirement process is being tightened up to address the fact that some residents do not follow the requirements properly.

Treasurer Updates – Karen Anderson

Reports and Claims - Karen Anderson reported that the checking account is balanced. Karen Anderson presented for approval to the board claims #2370 through #2394 for a total of \$38,955.03 and payroll checks #14204 through #14207 for a total of \$8,863.31. 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.

Karen Anderson requested a change to the Saturday before the monthly meeting before sending out the draft of the Treasurer's report and the board members agreed.

Karen Anderson will attend a CTAS training class on Monday, November 18.

Old Business

Notification to Brian Greene – the notification that the township land on the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Redwing will no longer be available for agricultural uses starting in 2025 was sent.

Legal Issues Update – no update.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Franconia Township Board Meeting – December 3, 2024 – 7:00pm

CCATO Meeting – December, 2024 – 7:00pm – Amador

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

Sonny Sparby made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:26
p.m.

Respectfully Submitted December 3, 2024,



Chuck Fitzer, Clerk



Owen Kuhnly, Chairman