

SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING

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October 7, 2020

Members Present: **Rick Lutzi**
 Gail Fritts
 Sharon Petersen
 Drew Moessner
 Brian Connelly

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Drew Moessner with the pledge of allegiance.

Drew Moessner asked if anyone had any changes to the printed agenda. A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

The claims presented for payment tonight are as follows:

Claim No. 10566 to 10579 and 10585

Payroll Checks 10580 to 10584

The total for claims presented tonight is \$20,186.89

A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to approve the claims as presented tonight for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

The mail was reviewed by board members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Drew Moessner asked the board members if anyone had any additions or corrections to the printed minutes for September. No changes were made. A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to approve the written minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gail Fritts reported the following:

Beginning Balance	\$178,041.09
Total Receipts	\$ 7.24
Total Disbursed	\$ 5,548.01
Ending Balance	\$162,500.32

Questions were asked about the amount of money coming from the state disaster claim from last year. Rick will follow up on this if we do not receive the money this week.

Questions were asked about how the Cares funds and how funds are accounted for. Sharon Petersen stated that funds are considered spent if the township obligates funds that are eligible expenses. We have arranged for deep cleaning before and after the general election which will be money spent from the Cares funds.

A motion was made by Rick Lutzi and seconded by Brian Connelly to approve the treasurer's report as given.

OLMSTED COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY

The deputy reported a lot of deer hits. The town board informed him that we have had a lot of people dumping on our roads again. The issues of dumping on roads was detailed. There was a reported issue of the possibility that someone had been going thru mailboxes. This incident was reported to the non-emergency number.

Questions about the rules for trespassing were asked of the deputy and whether land must be posted.

TCPA

**Ryan and Jennifer DeCook
Bryce and Brenda DeCook
Section 16**

Dave Meir gave the staff report for this request. The original split on this parcel was 2.19 acres. At this time, he is proposing an additional 12.49 acres to be combined with the 2.19-acre parcel. This will require Ryan to grant an easement of 33 feet to Bryce and Brenda DeCook for access to their property. This will not create any new parcels. The new parcel will become a 14.68-acre parcel. The residual parcel will be 64.84-acre parcel.

Questions were asked about his intentions to combine the parcel. He stated that this will be done in 2021. If the parcel is not combined immediately, it will be stamped non-buildable. The parcels will not combine the parcels until 2021.

After discussion, a motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to approve the Metes and Bounds Subdivision as per staff recommendations with the addition of the requirement for a 33-foot easement for Bryce and Brenda DeCook. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS TCPA MEETING

Rick Lutzi reported on the September 9 meeting. There was discussion about how the CARES funds could be spent on additional elections judges for the general election.

There was discussion about the addition that has been proposed. Questions were asked about the bids and the status of the project. There will be additional meetings coming up. The layout and design have been approved, but full blue prints may not be done yet.

There will be no TCPA meeting in October.

ROADS

The clerk's report was reviewed by board members.

SIGNS

If the board decides to wait until spring, the labor will be the same, but the cost of signs will be whatever it is at the time they are ordered and received. The board will discuss this again after we receive December property tax settlement.

STORM DAMAGE CLAIM STATUS

The claim has been approved and the money should be forthcoming soon.

WILLOW RUN ROAD STATUS

The residents have decided to wait until next year to make any decisions about what is needed for this road.

NEW BUSINESS BYRON FIRE HALL MEETING

An appraisal has been done on the fire hall. The appraisal was for \$975,000.00. Byron stated that they are not prepared to buy this out at this time as the value of the fire hall was greater than they anticipated. There was further discussion about other possibilities. It was suggested that they could look at buying Salem and Kalmar portion of the building down to a lower proportion. It was also suggested that they could look at paying for the fire hall in installments. There will be additional discussion on this subject.

There was discussion about how a buyout would affect our service contract.

63rd AVENUE

Brian Connelly has contacted Dave Carr. Dave Carr has asked that the board pause the request for an SSD due to reservations from some of the residents for this project. He is proposing on re-visiting this in the Spring. Maintenance cost seems to be a sticking point for some of the residents. He personally wants to proceed, but some residents are not on board currently. The attorney fees that we have incurred to this point will be billed to the project if or when this project proceeds. He felt that this was reasonable.

There was discussion on history. Brian Connelly related that the residents were the ones requesting this project. The board is not pushing for this project, it came continue as a gravel road. The residents were the ones asking about doing blacktop. The vehicle for this is an SSD. Brian suggested possible revisiting this in February if they want to proceed so the board can get estimates for the next season.

Brian Connelly asked that this be removed from the agenda until we hear from Dave Carr on this request.

SOLAR FARMS

The Planning and Zoning board will start work on this in October.

ANNUAL POLLING PLACE RESOLUTION

The board reviewed the proposed Annual Polling Place Resolution 2020-8. After review, a motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Drew Moessner to approve the Resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

OLMSTED COUNTY ROAD MILEAGE CERTIFICATION

The board reviewed the report from Olmsted County for our annual mileage certification of 37.41 miles. The mileage has not changed. A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to approve signing the mileage certification documents. They will be signed electronically by Drew Moessner.

RAY YOUNGER CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Rick Lutzi will check with Ray to make sure he still wants the culvert installed. If he does, a culvert will be ordered, and the work will be completed by Todd Bucknell.

OLMSTED COUNTY TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION MEETING

Rick Lutzi and Sharon Petersen attended the meeting. At the annual meeting, the dues for the organization will not change next year. Kevin Torgerson and Mark Ostrom gave extensive reports on issues that have been dealt with about operations during a pandemic.

LEITZEN CONCRETE PIT OPERATIONS

Mark Leitzen was not present due to exposure to COVID-19. Drew Moessner discussed the issues on the pits that are permitted and not presently open. The requirements for grading plan, grading permit and bond was the criteria that was used for Eric DeCook and the same criteria should apply for Leitzen. Drew will follow up with Roger about the procedure if the pit operation does not meet these criteria before the November 21, 2020 deadline. This pit has received the one-year extension last year. The conditional use permits only allow for a single one-year extension that was granted last year. The other unopened pit has not yet gotten an official extension, but it has been requested. The one-year anniversary for this pit is January 15, 2021. He is eligible for a one-year extension that would put the required opening date of January 15, 2022.

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUE

Drew Moessner has contacted MATS about utilities that install equipment in the wrong place and whether the contractor that finds out of place equipment that would exempt the contractor from liability because the work was done improperly. Drew was told that we could pass a resolution, but it would not mean much. We could also look at an ordinance. We have passed a right of way ordinance that deals with current issues but would not cover past issues.

E MAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR RESIDENTS

Dave Meir has put together the mail chip. Dave would like input on if additional information could be added. Sharon Petersen will call Dave Meier about if names addresses and phone numbers can be added.

CARES FUNDING

The board viewed the election booths that have arrived. Drew Moessner will be working on the hand rails for the ramp.

TOWN HALL REPAIRS

Drew Moessner has installed a bat gate on the soffit. The board will be looking for a contractor to work on the stucco areas that need work.

PIT INSPECTION SCHEDULES AND COMPLETED INSPECTIONS

Rochester Asphalt was inspected earlier today and the report for that will be coming from Roger and will be reviewed by the board.

The board set up the following inspection schedule:

The board would like to set up inspection for Fire Lake Pit on October 19 at 3:30 p.m.

They would also like to schedule Daniel DeCook three pits to be inspected on October 26 at 3:30 p.m.

Drew Moessner will check with Roger Ihrke about this and get them lined up.

Brenda was informed that Roger needs a letter from Builders and Bob Braaten and will also need a letter from Bryce and Brenda DeCook saying they are requesting this change.

The board is requesting that these corrections be done before winter. If it is not done before winter the board asked that they keep them updated on where they are with the required changes.

PLANNING AND ZONING VIOLATIONS

Drew will contact Roger about what is needed for the Ross Property status. There was discussion about the rental of a building that is not allowed within our ordinance.

There was not further information on 105th Avenue violations, and the Fuller Pit plan of action and the follow up letter from TCPA.

The board discussed that TCPA has provided good clarity to the violations and the necessary remediations. The work is to be done by November 15, with an inspection scheduled for November 16.

ITEMS BROUGHT UP BY BOARD MEMBERS

Salem Sailors and the Boy Scouts will be doing the fall ditch pick up.

The board felt that we could authorize a third mowing of our ditches in later October.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Dave Rassel felt that the discussion about pits being permitted and not opening. Allowing pit operators to get permits that they do not open for years may leave the township in a position that the conditions are not as stringent as they might be in the future.

Tom Ferris reminded the board that TCPA is our employee and we do not work for them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Drew Moessner
Chairman**

**Sharon Petersen
Clerk**

APPROVED