

SALEM TOWN BOARD MEETING

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November 4, 2020

This meeting was held on “Go to Meeting” virtually.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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. 10586 to 10597

 Payroll Checks 10598 to 10602

The total for claims presented tonight is \$6,952.97

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

Copies of the mail was e mailed to board members.

Brian Connelly asked about bond holders that are coming due in the future.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Drew Moessner asked the board members if anyone had any additions or corrections to the printed minutes for October. 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	\$162,500.32
Total Receipts	\$ 4,202.07
Total Disbursed	\$ 20,186.89
Ending Balance	\$146,515.50

There are two outstanding checks currently.

Gail was asked about the safety deposit box key that needs to be duplicated. That will probably happen in March.

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

TCPA
Metes and Bounds Subdivision
Rick & Char Lutzi

An application has been received by TCPA. Dave Meier was asked for a report for this request. Rick Lutzi has two quarter-quarter section. He presently has a five-acre non-farm dwelling parcel that has not been developed. He is proposing to make their home the five-acre non-farm dwelling with the residual 35 acres being vacant farm land.

On the forty-acre farm parcel he is proposing to subdivide this parcel into a 2.44-acre non-farm dwelling parcel that will include the double wide manufactured home and several accessory buildings. The residual 37+ acre parcel will include the two agricultural buildings. The original stone dwelling and the older of the two double wide manufactured homes on the proposed on-farm parcel will be removed.

He will be submitting a letter requesting that the home-based auto-body repair business that has a conditional use permit will be dissolved.

All the criteria for both requests have been met and the report details this.

There was discussion about the letter from the county about removing an access on CSAH 44. Rick will discuss this with the county if the split is approved.

A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Drew Moessner to approve the metes and bounds subdivisions per the staff recommendations. Voting in Favor: Brian Connelly, Drew Moessner Abstain: Rick Lutzi The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the Hope Ranch conditional use permit which has been inactive for over one year. After discussion, Rick will contact them about the permit and find out if they have any need to continue that permit. They will be asked for a letter to the Salem Town Board to verify their desire to discontinue this permit.

Since the permit has been inactive for over a year, the board could call a public hearing and have the permit revoked.

The clerk will send Rick a copy of the permit.

OLD BUSINESS
TCPA MEETING

There was no meeting last month. At this time, we do not know if there will be in November.

ROADS

There was no clerk's report.

Brian Connelly asked about ditch pick up. The Boy Scouts are close to being done and they will be doing a drive by check soon and inform me about the completion of their part of the ditch pick up.

There has been no communication with the Salem Sailors about their work.

The third ditch mowing has not yet been authorized. Rick will check the road ditch and decide if we need to authorize the third mowing.

TOMMY MALLES

Drew Moessner asked Rick Lutzi to look at the new driveway and see if the slopes to the road look correct.

RAY YOUNGER

Rick Lutzi needs to follow up with Ray Younger about getting the culvert done yet this year.

STORM DAMAGE CLAIMS

Rick Lutzi reported that our claim has been approved, but the State representative is having issues on finding the funds allocated to pay off this claim. Rick will follow up on this again next week.

If we get no answers, we will have to contact legislators to follow up on this.

NEW BUSINESS
SOLAR FARMS

Brian Connelly reported on the last Planning and Zoning meeting. We have the Kalmar Township proposed ordinance. Brian would like board members to attend the Planning and Zoning meeting. He would also like Roger to attend the both the town board meeting and the planning and zoning meeting.

He would appreciate getting input into on what other town board members feel about what items might be included in the proposed ordinance. An option on this issue might be for

the board to explore issuing a moratorium which would give the board time to explore options that reflect what the board and residents want.

There was discussion about possibility of having three solar farms on Bryan DeCook's property in Salem Township.

Brian Connelly feels that a moratorium would be a good idea before we get additional applications.

MEETING DATE CHANGE

Drew Moessner has a conflict with our proposed December 2 meeting date. After discussion, the board decided to change the meeting date to December 9. The clerk will prepare and publish the meeting date change.

A motion was made by Drew Moessner and seconded by Rick Lutzi to change the meeting date to December 9, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

MATS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The board reviewed some of the on-line breakout sessions that will be available on November 20 and November 21 for the annual meeting.

There was discussion about succession planning that is one of break out session.

E MAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR RESIDENTS

This will be an article for the newsletter which will allow us to gather e-mails, addresses and phone numbers to have a data base to be able to contact residents quickly.

CARES FUNDING

Sharon Petersen reported on the status of the Cares Funds.

We have allocated the following:

Money Received	\$28,075.00
Money Spent/allocated	\$11,330.32
Unspent as of 10/31/2020	\$16,744.68

There was discussion about what we could spend the balance of the funds. There was discussion about purchasing I-pads or computers for the supervisors. There was discussion about the electronic posting board to inform residents about current issues.

The board members will be following up with MATS and Rochester Township on what are eligible expenses.

TOWN HALL REPAIRS

The board will look at getting estimates for the soffit and fascia repairs that are needed. There is also an area that is showing a leak that may be growing on our ceiling tiles. This may be coming from the chimney area on our roof. They will be following up on this.

PIT INSPECTION

Fuller Pit

Roger Ihrke and Drew Moessner have inspected the Fuller Pit again. Roger was impressed with the work that has been done since the first inspection. They are working on the berm on the south side. Daniel is seeking a building permit for a building on this property. TCPA will be issuing a building permit. Roger informed Drew today that the building permit was for 10,800 and the maximum size allowed was 10,000 square feet. Daniel will be informed about this. There was an issue with the trees and Daniel stated that Dallas had changed his mind about wanting trees planted on the boundary of the property. Drew Moessner will follow up on this.

The board decided that they will not need to do the schedule inspection on November 16. They will want to do an inspection in late spring or early summer to check to see if the seeding has taken hold.

Other Completed Inspections

We have not received a final report on the Bryce DeCook property or the Rochester Asphalt inspections. It was noted that Roger Ihrke had some additions on receiving current paperwork on permits issued by the State of Minnesota and the DNR. There is also the need for a grading permit for the south pit for black dirt removal. The seeding on these pits was not taking particularly good yet.

There were also some erosion concerns about the Rochester Asphalt pit. The board will follow up with TCPA for these reports.

PLANNING AND ZONING VIOLATIONS

Ross Property

TCPA would like pictures showing vehicles coming and going from the site. We still need to work to complete this request.

The board discussed removing the 105th Avenue and the Fuller Pit from our agenda. On the 105th Avenue we need to get feedback from the DNR. Drew will be responsible for following up with the DNR.

Brian Connelly will be on roads this month.

ITEMS BROUGHT UP BY BOARD MEMBERS

Sharon Petersen reported that Doug Malchow stated that Bucknell had not worked on the area between his two driveways, which is the area he was concerned about because he feels the culvert on the lower end will get full and not work to move water.

Sharon Petersen asked that the board review the filing notice for March township elections. The board reviewed the notice. A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to approve the proposed notice with one correction on a date. The motion passed unanimously.

Gail Fritts announced that she will not be running in March.

Sharon Petersen reported that Salem Township had 738 in person or absentee votes cast in Salem Township out of 783 registered voters registered at the beginning of the day. Sharon Petersen expressed thanks to her election judges for their hard work.

Rick Lutzi will look at the roads and whether we need any additional mowing.

We have been notified that there are stockpiles of rock and dirt on the Koehler property. We need to follow up with Roger to see if these stockpiles are allowed on a home-based business.

Brian Connelly asked about the silt fencing on the Eric DeCook pit. Brian expressed that we must use the same criteria for the Leitzen pit. Our criteria for not sunsetting a permit was having a bond in place, grading plan, and grading permit. We gave Eric an additional two months, so to be consistent we need to do the same for Leitzen. The board has issued a policy that any new pits will be inspected before any sand is removed.

Leitzen has asked for the official extension on the pit on County 15. Brian Connelly stated that Leitzen must be at our December meeting.

A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Rick Lutzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Moessner
Chairman

Sharon Petersen
Clerk