Woodland Township Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Woodland Township Hall, Montrose, MN

Monday, November 11, 2024

7:00 PM

Meeting Attendees: Chair Gene Janikula, Dan Domjahn, Barry Pawelk, Paula LaVigne and Julie Marquardt

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by the chair at 7 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Janikula acknowledged the Veterans who were present at the meeting. Ken Reinert served in the United States Navy from 1973-1977. He served on the east coast on a tender ship. Gene Janikula served from 1963-1969 in the National Guard. He was active duty stateside during his term of service. The Board thanked each of these men and others who have served our country from Woodland Township.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made. MMS by Pawelk and Domjahn. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the November 2024 Minutes. MMS by Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU

Treasurer’s Report

LaVigne reported that $6,443.11was received during the month of July. The approximate ending fund balance as of October 31, 2024, was $411,645.58. We did receive the Agricultural Market Value Credit of $5,248.71.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the Treasurer’s Report. MCU

Claims

Claims in the amount of $22,105.44 were presented to the Board. MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the claims (copy of claims attached). MCU

Clerk Report

Emerson Avenue Culvert: Letter and invoice were sent on October 23, 2024. The letter stated the invoice needed to be paid in full by December 22, 2024, or it would be placed on their property tax as a special assessment.

General Election was held at the Township Hall. There was an adequate number of election judges for two shifts. 648 residents came out to vote on the 5th. 31 of those were new voters or registered. This was a record turnout for our township. The numbers of residents who voted absentee or early aren’t available from the county.

Joint Ditch 4 redetermination of the meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at the Government Center in Chaska.

Recycling: Township residents have requested recycling containers. Additional questions have been received from other residents about the special meeting.

Committee Reports

Janikula attended the Watertown Fire Department District meeting on November 7. Annual dues will be raised $20/parcel. For a total of $289.52

No other committee reports

Conditional Use Permits

Nathan Varner: Property ID 220-000-232100: Would like to put 2 lots on the property. Each lot would be 5.2 acres. Pawelk asked how many building eligibilities are left? Varner replied 4-2 for this and 2 more which will be utilized for his kids.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve two lots at 5.2 acres on 220-000-232100. MCU

Old Business

Recycling Special Meeting with special guest: Matt Herman: Matt Herman is unable to make the Recycling Special Meeting on Monday, November 18. He has asked to present to the Board on behalf of Republic Service-recycling contractor for Woodland Township.

 Matt Herman: 85 % of all recyclables need to be baled and sent to market. Only 9-10% of the recycling is truly trash-diapers and no recyclables. Republic sells them as commodities on the open market. There is a local company that purchases the glass. They refine the different colored glass.

 Statistics are usually global and not state based. Lots of misleading information. The Board can tour the facility in Minneapolis. They no longer use the recycling facility in Delano. Manual labor for $11/hour doesn’t happen anymore. Minneapolis is an automated facility. The current Delano facility is a transfer station.

 Domjahn: “Do you off drop sites?”

 Herman: “We can do that. The concern is that it might not meet curbside recycling according to the state. There aren’t many of those routes in this areas-front load recycling.”

 What are we looking for pricing?

 Herman:” Pricing will be high. We are looking at $10/$11 per household. You currently pay $6.16/household. It will be almost double what you are paying currently. Everything costs about twice as much as when you signed your last contract. Trucks cost twice as much, and labor wages have doubled.

 There is hope though of reducing the cost of recycling. A new program called EPR-Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The program is for the people who made the product and sold it. It will include packaging. Everything that is sold has EPR. The producers or brand owners. They will pay into account due to the packaging they put their product in. The money will be available to get a refund or rebate it.

 This program is still being finalized. The legislation is still being drafted. It starts in 2029 and phased in. The fuds will be used to pay for recycling.

 The fees paid by the producers will pay more bulk. There is an incentive to do better with packaging. It will need to be more recyclable.

 In 2025 an advisory board will be chosen.

The Board thanked Herman for attending and answering questions about recycling. Discussion continued about the Special Meeting.

The agenda for the evening includes Statistics-recycling costs currently and future, Misinformation, pricing option and then ending with public opinion.

Currently the township pays for half of the recycling.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk “increase recycling to $73.92 on the special assessment for 2025.” MCU

Charter Communications-Celeste Flynn and David Larson: Charter Communications received a broadband grant in Wright County from the State of Minnesota. The grant is to bring border to border broadband to rural areas. They applied for two grants, and they were rewards.

Flynn needs Woodland Township to sign a franchise agreement to move forward with the project that is taking place near Fountain Lake on the east side of the township. The agreement is a nonexclusive document. Any operator can come in. They will be servicing 15 locations on the east side of the township.

Questions arose from the Board about the future of broadband in Woodland Township. Flynn and Larson mentioned to the board that the state will get more funds for broadband expansion in the next year. In early 2025 underserved and unserved grant will be finalized. It will be a large sum of money from the feds. Rural counties will be the target of this grant.

Janikula did question if this contract allows other telecommunications companies to come into Woodland Township. Flynn replied that the Federal Cable Law of 1984 has to be non exclusive. One company can’t control the whole area, other companies are allowed into an area.

Marquardt mentioned the importance of contacting residents to know there will be underground being done on their property.

Domjahn also reiterated the importance of bringing faster internet access to Woodland Township residents.

Domjahn moved to approve the Charter Franchise Agreement to the eastern side of Woodland Township. Making sure to include section 2.1 non-compete agreement as part of the agreement. Pawelk seconded. MCU.

NEW BUSINESS

Snowplow Policy: Letters will be sent to township residents where Hilgers will need to turn around due to their road being a dead end.

EMPLOYEE REPORT

Hilgers report the Mac trucks have new tires. He will check on the new truck that has been ordered, along with looking at Watertown Township’s new truck that is currently in Litchfield. He has had to replace a few signs that have been removed from their location. Old Apostolic Lutheran Church is currently just moving dirt. Red Rock has also been hauled in.

With no other business before the Board, meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm. MMS Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Marquardt

Woodland Township Clerk