Woodland Township Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Woodland Township Hall, Montrose, MN

Monday, February 10, 2025

5:30 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 5 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the January 2025 and Audit Meeting Minutes. MMS Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU

**Treasurer’s Report**

LaVigne reported that $6,427.04 was received during the month of January. The approximate ending fund balance as of January 31, 2025, was $582,336.48.

MMS Domjahn and Pawelk approved the Treasurer’s Report. MCU

**Claims**

Claims in the amount of $16,951.45 were presented to the Board. MMS Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the claims (copy of claims attached).

**Clerk Report**

County Ditch 23 needs repair according to the county board. The legal department reviewed the other requirements of drainage law, and it is determined that they need to complete the process of re-establishment of records. The DNR and SWCD need to review before work can begin.

Planning and Zoning did approve the Werner Conditional Use Permit for another two years. If the supervisors don’t take action on a review the county deems that as approval. The County found the Werners to be in compliance.

2024 Taxes have been completed. 1099s and W2s were sent out before January 31. CDS CPAS and Advisors were the firm that we worked with. It was a seamless process.

Tree and Vegetation Control on Dempsey and 80th Avenue can be done, but we do need approval of the landowner, even if the trees are in the right of way.

Landowner was present. The landowner agreed they are looking overgrown He said the trees can be trimmed, the scrub brush could be removed also. Domjahn asked if Hilgers and the landowner could come to an agreement about what should be trimmed. Hilgers recommended using Shorewood Tree Trimming. K. Reinert said trimming on 80th needs to be completed for safety. Dempsey Avenue doesn’t need the trimming. Domjahn agreed he would like Shorewood to look at the trees. Janikula would like the landowner, Hilgers and Shorewood to be present.

A thought was to change the yield sign to a stop sign. This cannot be changed as the signs were placed by the State of Minnesota. The landowner thinks this intersection is dangerous. A crossroads sign should be placed on 80th Street going west, the landowner suggested. Janikula thinks that might be possible. Hilgers will look into this. A yield sign is controlled by the State.

 Community Recycling Day Updates were shared. This year the Township will be reimbursed based upon the weights of what is recycled. The heavier our recycling is that day, the more we will receive from the County. If we would like to make it countywide, we need to let Planning and Zoning know 30 days in advance so they can advertise it to the County.

Paid leave will start on January 1, 2026, this includes elected representatives.

12 Mile Creek Shareholders Meeting is Thursday, February 13 at the South Shore Event Center.

MMS to approve the Clerk’s Report by Domjahn, Pawelk. MCU

**Committee Reports**

Pawelk attended the Waverly Fire Meeting on February 3. The fire assessment for Waverly will stay the same for 2026.

**Variance Permit**

Shane Christian and Zoie Randall: Property ID: 220 000 293300

 They own the former Calvin and Ruth Dietrich Farm on Ferman Avenue. They would like to increase the animal number units from 5 to 15. They have a contract with Johnson who owns the land neighboring their property for a contract to haul the manure.

 Domjahn is not opposed to this. He looked over the information. He was concerned about what if they could no longer haul the manure onto Johnson’s land. Randall said there is secondary plan of neighbor D. Marquardt taking the manure. Another landowner will also be willing to take the manure.

Pawelk stated he has no concerns also.

Janikula also approves of the plan. If the variance does go through the Board would like to put some stipulations on the variance.

**Waverly/Montrose Wastewater Treatment Line**

Waverly City Mayor, Connie Holmes and Council Member, Jim Kittock represented the City of Waverly and Montrose about the new wastewater treatment line that will connect to the Howard Lake Treatment Plant.

Holmes reported that this is all preliminary right now. The earliest this project could start would be in 2026. The current plan is to go down Clementa and 70th Street in Woodland Township.

They are customers of the Montrose Treatment Plant. The current plant in Montrose is nearing capacity. As both cities continue to grow something there needs to be a solution. The two options were either to expand the current one or go with an existing plant that is already regionalized.

The most cost-effective option was to go with Annandale, Maple Lake and Howard Lake. They are expanding and will be able to take product from both cities. They will be utilizing the Howard Lake lift station. They will be using a 10-inch pressurized pipe. They will use the holding ponds in Montrose and then ship to the Howard Lake lift station.

The question was raised about traffic on the roads while the pipeline is being built. Holmes and Kittock don’t believe there will be much. They will ditch the pipe, so just welders will need to be present. Domjahn would like to see how they will maintain 70th Street. Some options would be dust coating or extra gravel.

Gas Lines on the south side and north sides have communication cable. They will go on the north side of 70th, with the communication lines.

As to time frame, there currently isn’t a start date. The project is dependent on PFA Funding from the federal government. Both Howard Lake and Montrose will have hearings. Holmes will let Woodland Township know when they are scheduled. March 10 is Montrose hearing. Kittock mentioned they will be working with EPA as they will be crossing rivers and creeks.

There is no benefit to township residents with this line.

**Old Business**

**Recycling Contract:** Domjahn tried again to contact Mumford’s. He left a message, and no response. Domjahn and Pawelk agreed to stay with Republic for the next 3 years.

MMS to stay with Republic Sanitation for the next three years at 10.50 per month. MMS Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU.

Clerk will invite Matt Herman and Debora Gatz to the next meeting.

**Commissioner Kirby Moynagh:**

Commissioner Moynagh was present at the meeting…Janikula asked him about how the county is handling recycling. Janikula stated the goal was to get garbage out of Wright County the County would pay to incentive recycling. The current board took away funds to pay other bills. We are concerned about recycling and how do we fix it?

Moynagh: He is attending a workshop with other commissioners. He has brought this up. There needs to be a better solution. Cokato and Stockholm Township are no longer recycling. The commissioner will discuss funding. The townships get charged more because of the distance the truck has to drive. Cities have a large customer base and closer distance between pickups. The State is pushing for recycling. Brush does count as recycling at the county level. They County is working on the money portion. There is traction to reverse the decision that was made in 2024.

Moynagh reported that at the Quarterly Township Meeting there will be discussion of a recycling committee, and it would include township officials. The State Statute change they could broker four townships together. They are looking for other solutions to make recycling more affordable for the townships.

The County is currently receiving bids for the Recycling Center. Plans are to tear down and replace with new building. It will include a turn lane also.

The new County Administrator was hired Greg Kryzer. The staff supports him.

The County Commissioners meet with state legislators about county issues. A few issues that were brought up:

 Road Testing: Drivers testing by the county. They would like a testing center in Buffalo.

 Drainage Authority Update: Wetlands 1 or 2. If it rains and gets water, it is considering a wetland. This is based on a new definition.

 Simplify the daycare license. Daycare providers have to be re-fingerprinted every year, their finger prints don’t change. They also need to go to state approved centers.

 Chicken Ordinance: State Statute is currently no chickens, unless a feed lot. Cities can’t allow it. The chicken coop is the problem.

 SCORE Funding: Looking for a solution.

**Crushing Contract**: $8.65 for 2025. Francisco led Janikula to believe it would stay at $6.50. Janikula wonders if he would accept a lower bid. Discussion was had that $8.65 is reasonable. In 2025 crush 11,000 yards. The decrease in the yard amount is due to the pricing increase. Crushing of gravel needs to be kept under $100,000.

Hilgers will also contact someone to spray the piles. We have 70,000-75,000 yards left at the pit. Woodland Township owns it.

MMS to crush 11,000 yards of gravel at $8.76 by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU.

**Election Judge:** MMS to approve election judge list by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU

**Disc Mower**: MMS to purchase disc mower from Schlauderaff Implement for $2,850.00 by Domjahn and Pawelk MCU.

**Annual Meeting:** Same as list as year for reports. Will review at March Meeting.

**Employee Report**

F350: Tires were rotated. It will need new rims. The rims are steel and are getting rusty.

Lawnmower: At Midwest Machinery due to recall.

Ditch Cleaning: 3,900 ft this year. Major ones will be cleaned first.

15 tires were brought to the recycling center.

Pressure Washer: Pump and manifold seals replaced.

Blade: Cylinder is leaking. It has stopped leaking.

A decision needs to be made in the next few months which truck to sell. Do we sell the older one, or the one with the most miles, where or how to sell it. Brad Schmidt is the new Mac salesman, and he is willing to appraise the truck. Domjahn agrees to get it appraised. We can still trade it in if we’d like.

2025 Mac: Will be assembled in late March. 6 weeks to build and then it will head to Litchfield to Tow Master.

Dust Control: Kubasch is $1.22-gal, Quality Propane is $1.37/gallon. MMS to use Kubasch for dust coating for the 2025 year by Domjahn and Pawelk.

Road Restrictions: It was asked for the clerk to send a friendly letter to J. Motzko about upcoming road restrictions.

**Additional Agenda Item**

Meeting Time: MMS to keep the meeting time to 5:30 pm until further notice.

With no other business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Julie Marquardt