Woodland Township Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Woodland Township Hall, Montrose, MN

Monday, March 10, 2025

5:30 PM

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

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by the chair at 5:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the February 2025 Minutes. MMS Pawelk, Domjahn. MCU

Treasurer’s Report

In the absence of LaVigne, Marquardt reported that $34,843.23 was received during the month of February. The approximate ending fund balance as of February 28, 2025 was $600,228.26. MMS Pawelk, Domjahn to approve the Treasurer’s Report. MCU.

Claims

Claims in the amount of $21,474.65 were presented to the Board. MMS Domjahn, Pawelk to approve the claims (copy of claims attached). MCU

Clerk Report

**Conditional Use Permits/Variances:** If the Board would like to put stipulations on permits and variances, they need to be done when the individual comes before the Board. Once we refer them to the County, we can no longer add anything to the CUP. The County approves or tables it at their meeting, if it is approved, we can no longer change it.

**MATIT insurance and Bond Trust:** Our property was reappraised in 2024. Our current insured value is $1,041,415.00. Our deductible is $250.00. Our new insured value is $1,036,924.00. This will decrease our annual contribution to $3,116.00 (a savings of $9)

**Employee Credit Card through elan Financial Services:**  Gloria Janikula has been removed from the credit card. I’ve been made the primary contact. Only J. Hilgers and K. Reinert have a credit card for the Township. I don’t need one. I reimburse myself with quarterly payroll. This has worked out well.

**Letter sent to J. Motzko:** A friendly letter was sent to J. Motzko regarding the spring road restrictions on 2/12/25. They have contacted Hilgers and will let him know if they leave with the heavy equipment.

**Centra Sota Cooperative:** We received our coop patronage from Centra Sota total $439.01. We received their Annual Report which is located in my office.

**Broadband Internet:**  Commissioner Moynagh has been communicating with Meeker Co-op to bring broadband internet to the western part of Wright County. He has asked for the residents to fill out a survey to discuss the need of internet within our county and Township. The information has been placed on the bulletin board, along with the website.

**Watertown Fire Report: There** are currently 21 firefighters, they should have 30. 9 of calls out of 611 were from the Township. The fire department took delivery of a new 108-foot Ladder Truck in May. They attempted to sell the old ladder truck. It was 27 years old, and it was just under 13 feet tall, which is too tall for smaller departments. It ended up being sold to a scrap yard for $9,000. Their capital projects were an extrication tool, radios and apparatus bay improvements.

**Winsted Fire Report**: 25 members in the Winsted Fire Department, full roster is 30 members. They responded to 342 calls during 2024. The majority of their calls are for medical.

Domjahn, Pawelk to approve the clerk’s report. MCU.

Committee Reports

Domjahn reported on behalf of the Board. They toured Republic Sanitation’s Recycling Facility in Minneapolis on Monday, March 10. 85% of products that are taken into the facility needs to be recycled. They are using new AI technology to remove foreign material. The majority of the recyclables stay in Minnesota. Republic sells the commodities to those who are consistent, not always the highest bidders. Residents can tour their facility.

Old Business

Recycling Contract: Domjahn moved to accept the three-year contract at the stated amount for Republic Sanitation. Pawelk seconded the motion. MCU.

Gravel Crushing Contract: Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the gravel contract at $8.76 per yard. MCU.

2026 Levy: Increase the general fund by $20,000 to pay for recycling. The rest of the funds will stay the same as February’s discussion. (Road and Bridge increase of $20,00; New equipment increase of $10,000).

Annual Meeting: Domjahn will discuss the 2024 year and bring residents up to date on projects for 2025. He will also talk about equipment and recycling. Pawelk will discuss dust control, gravel and employees of Woodland Township. Janikula will report on fire dues. Marquardt will do recycling and communication.

New Business

Driveway Requests:

**Tom and Sarah Borrell (Property ID: 220 00 052106):** They are requesting to put in a driveway on their purchased property. Hilgers has been in communication with the Borrells and they are willing to put in an 18-inch culvert, along with the location Hilgers thought was best. The Borrells will also use a licensed contractor to put it in.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the drive request for Borrells to use a licensed contractor, 18-inch culvert and to give Hilgers a week notice of when it will be placed.

**Bryce Barber (Property ID: 220 011 001010):** Barber would like to extend his driveway by 10 feet on Armitage Road. He is not sure if he would like to go east or west with the extension. The current culvert is in the road right away. Domjahn would like a plan to go east. Pawelk requests he talk to Excel Power to get a distance of how close he can be to the electrical pole. The board has looked at his driveway and he could potentially go to the east. Barber questioned when he should clean his culvert. Pawelk suggested to fix or clean the culvert when he extends or replaces it. The Township pays to replace the culvert. He is “grandfathered” in because his driveway was put in before 1977. If he goes over 44 feet, though Barber will need to pay the difference.

**70th Street-Mike Young**: M. Young would like the Board to emphasize ditch cleaning on 70th Street when Montrose/Waverly puts in their sewer project. He would like to see the two cities pay for ditch cleaning, as the Township nor the residents of 70th Street don’t benefit from the sewer line going through. The residents on 70th Street should be compensated for all the work that has been done. There is fiber optics, gas line and poles through this area. Domjahn agreed as township roads are being used, and what do we get back? The cost of cleaning the ditch isn’t too much to ask for. Domjahn asked if we should do both sides of 70th Street, especially as the road will be closed. Young believes Waverly and Montrose should redo the ditch at their cost. Domjahn also questioned how deep the utilities are along the stretch of road. Young stated the fiber optics are on the north side of the road, and not very organized along with phone lines. On the south side of the road are three gas lines. Young questioned what is reasonable. It will cost more to clean 70th Street ditches as there will need to be locators brought out. The residents along 70th can use the gas line, but they can’t use fiber, electricity or sewer as it is high pressure. Pawelk is also concerned with who is responsible for cleanup should the pipeline experience trouble.

**Monthly Meeting Start Time: The** monthly meetings for April and May will start at 5:30 pm. The monthly start time will be addressed at the reorganizational meeting which will be held on Monday, March 17 at 5:30 pm.

EMPLOYEE REPORT

Dust Coating: Quality Propane is $1.37/gallon and Central Minnesota Dust Control is $1.22/gallon. The board agreed to use Central Minnesota Dust Control for dust control.

Gravel Hauling: A bid was secured from Bjorklund for graveling hailing at $11.30/yard. Board agreed to use them for the 2025 year. 70th Street will be split with Waverly.

Mower: It is on order at Schlauderaff Implement in Litchfield. The mower should arrive before May.

Mac Truck: Hilgers received an appraisal for trade in at $10,000. Hilgers believes the bid is too low. The 95 Mac has a good box. Pawelk mentioned switching the boxes on the Macs, especially with the low trade in value. Hilgers will contact Tow Master to see what the cost would be to switch the boxes.

Tree Trimming: Hilgers contacted Matt from Shorewood. To trim 80th and Dempsey will cost around $2,500.00. He won’t haul away the trimmings. The Landowner is okay with cutting the pine tree back. Domjahn and Pawelk both agreed to cutting the pine trees back for safety reason.

Payloader: Rebuild price quotes from Ziegler. Hilgers would like to look into this. The current payloader is low hours and it starts and stops. The new payloaders aren’t built for the amount of start and stops that we do at the pit.

Blade: The cylinders are leaking. Hilgers brought them to Central Hydraulics for repairs.

The new Mac Truck is on the assembly line. It is ahead of schedule. If everything stays on schedule the truck will arrive before the end of July.

Road postings were put on township roads on March 3, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm with no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Marquardt