Woodland Township Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Woodland Township Hall, Montrose, MN

Monday, April 14, 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 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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 March 2025 and Reorganization Minutes. MMS by Pawelk and Domjahn. MCU

Treasurer’s Report

LaVigne reported that $3,021.85 was received during the month of March. The approximate ending fund balance as of March 31, 2025 was $583,831.47. There was a discrepancy of $18.52 . LaVigne will look for where the difference is. Our balance is higher than Citizens State Bank. MMS to approve the Treasurer’s Report with the $18.52 discrepancy by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU.

Claims

Claims in the amount of $87,103.97 were presented to the Board. MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the claims (copy of claims attached). MCU

Clerk Report

MMS to approve the Clerk’s Report as presented by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU.

Committee Reports

Wright County Township Officers Quarterly Meeting was attended by Janikula, Pawelk and Domjahn. Domjahn reported that Sheriff Daringer reported that Wright County is retaining law enforcement. Drug use is a big issue in the County.

Noxious Weed Meeting was attended by Pawelk. Currently in Woodland Township there is only wild parsnip. Hilgers reported that it hasn’t moved. It is in the same location as the past few years.

Resolution City of Waverly-Mayer Connie Holmes

Petition from Gary Bury and Gary Halderson from 2019. Their property was incorrectly annexed into the City of Waverly. There was an error in the survey. In 2019 the lots were de-annexed back to Woodland Township. The process wasn’t completed with the State of Minnesota. This was brought to the City of Waverly in February. The City Council approved in March to finish the process. Mayor Holmes needs Woodland Township to sign off on the petition and the City of Waverly will file with the State.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the petition from Mayor Holmes to de-annex the two properties. MCU

Old Business

Easement-Great River Energy: Dale Aukee, Senior Field representative, was present to answer questions concerning the project. Domjahn questioned what we are agreeing to if we sign the easement with Great River Energy. Aukee stated, that there would be no trucks on the property, the wires will be pulled through in the ditch areas. Any work would be done in the ditch area. There potentially could be a truck to hold up the wires as they cross County Road 30 to the Substation. The poles on the property would be retired and replaced with new poles.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the Great River Energy Easement proposal. MCU

New Business

Solar Farm Amendment: Wright County Planning and Zoning will be discussing an amendment to the Wright County Code of Ordinances section 155 to include Solar Zoning Regulations. The Board asked M. Kaczmarek, former Wright County Commissioner, about the background of this amendment. He stated 3 years ago it cost $805,000 to clean up a solar farm. He believes this is an improvement, no set figure, but instead a sliding scale based upon the size of the solar farm.

MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the amendment to section 155 to include Solar Zoning Regulations. MCU.

Dust Control: Invoices will be sent to C. Bulera before dust control will be applied due to conditional use permit. Emerson Avenue invoice will also be sent with two options to include south driveway north to HWY 12 per their conditional use permit. Another option to go from 70th Street to the south side of the driveway. This will allow Hilgers time to complete the necessary work to prepare the road for dust control.

J. Motkzo will not receive an invoice for dust control at this time. It was recommended that Hilgers place the car counter on both sides of the driveway. This will allow the Board to see if there is increased traffic from Baker Avenue to HWY 25.

Reorganization Tidbits:

MMS to hold our October Monthly Meeting on October 13 on Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day by Domjahn and Pawelk. MCU.

AWAIR: Fire Extinguishers have been inspected and changed. There were no workplace accidents in 2024. MMS by Domjahn and Pawelk to approve the AWAIR. MCU.

Information for monthly meetings: Marquardt asked; “What is transparency for those in attendance at Township Meetings?” Domjahn would like to see Minutes, Disbursements and additional copies put on the table for residents attending the meeting. No decision was made but will be added to the May Agenda for further discussion.

Township Scrapper: It is located at N. Salonek’s. Salonek put funds into the scrapper to make it work. Janikula would like it brought back to the township.

EMPLOYEE REPORT

PUP Trailer-1995: It will pass DOT Certification for 2025. For the following year though it will need new front tires.

Blade: Oil analysis is completed from Ziegler. The oil was contaminated with silicone copper. Filters were changed. All oils will be checked again next winter. Ziegler was at the Township Hall for 8 hours pulling fluids.

The pulley is worn on the alternator. The parts are here. Hilgers couldn’t remove the bolt on the alternator. He called a diesel mechanic for help. He couldn’t change the pulley and belt either. He tried to heat and still couldn’t remove it. Pawelk wonders if a new alternator would be better. The time spent removing the old one, might be too much and a new one would be cheaper. Domjahn agreed with Pawelk to purchase a new alternator in case they can’t remove the bolt from the current one.

Roads are groomed.

G. Reinert would like 4 loads of gravel with the truck and Pup. Domjahn approved when Hilgers has time.

Gravel Crushing: 1st Sample wasn’t correct for Class 1 gravel. The second and third sample was right on. Gravel crushing is done for the year.

320 years of gravel has been put on township roads already. Hilgers has completed the dead-end roads

Car counter is currently out on 70th street. It will be there for 5 days.

Road Postings for the County Roads will go off at 12:01 am on Wednesday, April 16. Hilgers will be leaving postings on 75th Street and Emerson Avenue. Those two roads still have frost heaves.

Old Apostolic Lutheran: Weight restrictions if they are concerned they need to contact Janikula The restrictions will be on for a couple of weeks as the frost is still present. The church needs to build up the road going in. 1 ½ inch clear will help to firm up the road. City of Waverly will receive half of the bill.

New Truck: It will be in Mankato around April 24. Then it will be transported to Tow Master in Litchfield. It will sit there for 3 months, as it waits for other orders ahead of ours. Hilgers would like to set a date for it to go in to be completed with snowplow equipment. He also wondered if it would be better for the truck to sit in the shop at the Township Hall instead of an open lot. Janikula would like it to be in the shed here. Hilgers can bring it to Litchfield when they are ready for it.

Gravels are 55 mph. If there are issues township officials and residents need to call the non-emergency number to report something. If reports are consistent with time of the time or day of the week, we can ask for extra patrols in the township.

With no other business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Marquardt

Clerk