

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 2, 2018

At 7:00 p.m. Chairman William McMullen called this July 2, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting to order and asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Members present were; John Czanstkowski Sr., Stephanie Russek and Renee Olson. Mike Barfknecht is absent

Motion to approve the June 4, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes is tabled to next month since John Czanstkowski was not at the June meeting to second the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Xtratyme General Manager Jenni Luthens and technician Eugene Starnes along with Franklin Township resident Matt Daly are present to discuss some potential new internet options for the Township. Matt Daly has been in the Township, Boulder Woods Development, for 9 years. Luthens was an Xtratyme customer and started working with the company 10 years ago. Daly explains that the commonality in Franklin Township is that we all have very poor internet. He has gone to Xtratyme headquarters in Dassel and visited with top management asking questions about their organization and structure, how they respond to customer service and what their growth plans are. Daly states that internet is not a luxury any more, it is a necessity. He states that we should not have to sacrifice connectivity because we choose to live in the county. Daly explains that Xtratyme is point to point radio waves, connected to the grid through fiber optics connected by a backbone of primary feeder towers. Currently Xtratyme covers 4300 square miles in the State of MN. They have 110 towers with the capacity to serve over 500,000 people. He has spoken with current customers of Xtratyme; new and longtime customers, business users, farmers, landlords, and the overwhelming response is that they are all very satisfied and getting the high-speed internet they have been promised. Luthens explains that Xtratyme has a pay as you go plan by the day, week or month. You can adjust your internet speed based on when you are in your home. Resident Don Atkinson asks how long to crank up the speed, Luthens states 5 minutes with their web-based portal.

Xtratyme has a north, south and central network, Franklin would fall in the central network. Their coverage is expanding by the week. The proposal Daly presents is to have the Franklin Township Hall serve as the "mother" tower. The land sits high topographically. Adding the 130-foot tower would allow greater sightlines and offer other neighborhood towers to be smaller in neighborhoods. Three backbone feeders would feed off the township tower. Technician Eugene states from tower to customer they try to keep the distance under 7 miles.

The mother tower has a one-foot wide triangular base and is 130 feet tall. 200 feet is the requirement for a beacon.

Resident Mark La Page asks if the township gets paid for the service coming off the tower. Luthens states that no financial discussions have happened so far, they are here tonight to see if the Township is interested. She does share that they have revenue

sharing plans and other options available to discuss. Although tower costs have not been determined, Matt Daly says he is paying for the cost for the tower at the township, if the plan proceeds. Luthens states that the average cost is \$100 per foot of tower. La Page asks if the the signal affected by terrain? He lives out by Fountain Lake. Eugene comments that they will not put something up unless it works. Residents ask Daly what stake he has in this, since he is not involved with Xtratyme. Daly is trying to sell his property and his offer is contingent on good internet. He states that one of the main things home buyers look for now is internet speeds. Resident Mel Dykhuizen asks about the cost of the receiving equipment and Luthens states that it is paid for by the homeowner. Luthens states that the range is \$200 to \$500 dollars for initial installation to the homeowner. Monthly average is \$82/month, unlimited data, 10 mgs that is never slowed and never gets restricted.

More discussion about how the towers work. Eugene states the signals are directional. Question if the tower is built, will everyone share with bandwidth from the tower? How many smaller towers will be needed? Luthens states that typically they need 6-10 potential interested customers before they can start the conversation of setting up towers. Don Atkinson asks why Xtratyme wouldn't just pay for all the towers. Jenni said that could be an option, it all depends on the amount of people that are interested. McMullen states if we put up a tower at the Township, we do not lose. After the tower is in place, it is up to Xtratyme to sell the service to the neighborhoods. The closer you are to the tower, the less expensive the service would be to the homeowner. The farther away, the technology changes and increases in cost. Resident Bauman states he has called Direct TV and they will not go into Bauman's area because Frontier has the area. La Page asks if they are licensed, certified, and knowledgeable. McMullen states they know they need to work with Wright County Planning & Zoning on setbacks and all other regulations. Luthens agrees. Luthens, when asked, states that the upload speed is about ½ of the download speed, but there is also an option to build that up.

Matt Daly presents customer references from people he has spoken to. He has had discussions with his neighbors in Boulder Woods; all approve and are interested in the service. A question is asked about the potential max output off the mother tower. Eugene says as soon as it is getting close to capacity, they add equipment to the tower to accommodate the need. Dykhuizen asks what happens if neighbors suck up all the bandwidth? Eugene states that the Xtratyme pipe is wireless, not in the ground, so it can be expanded very easily. Luthens adds that what they choose to pay per month is what they get per month. There is no latency with this, as there is with satellite. Czanstkowski asks what she has seen in terms of opposition in the past. Luthens says opposition has been minimal and once the equipment is installed, there has not been any. She states that most of the "landlords" are a lot of farmers that have grain elevators, water towers, silos etc. They plug into a regular 110 outlet and use radio equipment that uses less than 1 watt. If this is on a property that is sold, then what? Luthens responds that usually it is just part of the purchase agreement and she has never had to take one down in 10 years. The contract is a 5-year re-occurring on towers. Xtratyme owns the tower; it is basically a land lease. As a customer there is no long-term contract. You can cancel at any time. They have a warranty on the equipment. McMullen is confident that we can proceed but not sure we can meet the July 31 target date. McMullen would like to talk with planning and zoning about setbacks required at the townhall and also talk with MN Association of Townships about any liability issues. Dewayne Bauman asks about the sand salt structure on site at the Township for the tower. Is there an advantage to mount even higher? Eugene states

that anything fewer than 20 feet is not a benefit. McMullen sees no extra burden to be the mother tower. Luthens assures the residents and board that they are a very safety conscious company. They have one million in liability insurance and all employees have one million in workman's compensation insurance. Luthens prefers the Township handle the permitting and approval process. McMullen suggests that he contact Sean Riley at Wright County and Russek contact MN Association of Townships to ask the questions we need before proceeding. He also suggests a special meeting in July to keep the process moving forward. Russek will keep all interested parties updated on details and date/time of the special meeting.

In the meantime, Luthens will send Russek landlord references and a generic agreement. A special meeting tentative date has been set for July 19, 4:00 p.m.

Darrow Avenue Culvert Quotes Czanstkowski has asked three people for quotes. He has heard back from Dave Matter with a price of \$600-\$800, if we provide the culvert. **Motion** to accept the quote from Dave Matter for \$600-\$800 for the work to put in the new culvert. Franklin Township will provide the culvert and materials McMullen/Czanstkowski MSC Unanimous. Russek will send Matter a letter of acknowledgement for the work to be completed and Czanstkowski will call to get a date for completion.

40th Street Russek states that she has had no response from Mr. Sobania regarding our rejected SPRA application. McMullen suggests she talk with Marc Mattice at Wright County for some input. Discussion about some potholes on 40th St. that have been repaired. We will be watching closely to keep this road as best as we can while we entertain the idea of applying for a grant again this year.

AWAIR inspection of the workplace Czanstkowski has checked the premises. He found a six-foot culvert standing against the wall and the fire extinguishers need to be updated.

MN State demographer estimates from 2017 state Franklin Township has 2916 residents and 1029 households. Estimates from 2015 were 2881 residents and 1016 households.

Motion to approve; Janet Olson, Catherine Rentz and Helen Schalet as election judges for the August 14, 2018 State Primary Election Czanstkowski/McMullen MSC Unanimous

City of Delano Annual Fire Meeting will be either July 18 or July 25 at 7:00 p.m. July 25th works best for McMullen. If they choose the 18th, Czanstkowski will go. Russek will let the City of Delano know our preference.

Wright County Request for road work this season in the Township. McMullen has responded with the anticipated work.

OLD BUSINESS

Delegated Board Responsibilities McMullen has reviewed the Carver County and Watertown 2040 Comprehensive Plans. He states there is no impact to Franklin Township. **RUSSEK** has spoken with Hoen, Big Woods President. He is waiting to hear back from a landscaper and will keep us updated with forward movement.

OTHER

Greenfield 2040 Comprehensive Plan McMullen will review
Clay Montgomery Public Hearing is July 13, 2018. The Township response form is completed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Neumann asks about road counts. McMullen states it was counting Brighton and the machine malfunctioned, we are starting to count again.

Resident Ed Hermann asks about the hard surface test road. McMullen states that the first lift date is July 23rd and the second date is August 20, both dates are weather dependent. He also asks if the Township mows the shoulders of the road. McMullen states that we do. The Township just got a new mower and started mowing today. Discussion about thistles; if they are in the homeowner's yard, it is the homeowner's responsibility to take care of them.

Resident DeWayne Bauman states on Meridian Avenue small saplings are coming up and need to be mowed. Discussion about how to best go after these areas.

Hermann brings up areas in the Township he believes the trees are overgrown and causing a safety concern. Farmington Avenue and 50th by Moonen's, he states you cannot see around the stop sign and another similar spot by the gun club. McMullen says they are both County Roads. McMullen suggests contacting Virgil Hawkins at the County or the Highway Department. McMullen says we will look at the area on 50th headed east for the overgrown branches.

Mark LePage, resident on Fountain Lake states he has repaired close to 30 tires from wire in the granite on the roads. He would like to know what we are going to do about it. McMullen states we have not used the "problem granite" in over 2 years. LePage says every time we grade the road, it kicks up the wire. McMullen asks what he suggests and LePage believes it should be tarred. McMullen talks about the Otta Seal experiment we are doing now and wonders if that would be a good option out on Fountain Lake. LePage questions why 82nd Street was tarred. The board explains to LePage about the history of 82nd and that the road was already a tar road that needed to be redone. McMullen further explains that the Township did not have enough money to do it all, so we had to address the worst area. Czanstkowski says 5 years ago we tried to fix the base and we could not fix it. 40th, Brighton, Ebersole and 82nd Street were all tarred about 15 years ago. The board at that time made the decision to handle those roads that way. Czanstkowski says the township is gravel by nature. We maintain roads as they are, in the best way we can. LePage would like a counter on his road. He says he is upset about what they get out there. McMullen says the Township will maintain as best we can. Perhaps more granite should be applied to give protection from the wire. Neumann asks how often it gets graded. His suggestion is to run the magnet immediately after grading. DeWayne Bauman believes it would be a good idea to do that treatment on Brighton also. Czanstkowski is going to head this up and talk with our maintenance employees about our thoughts to address these areas better.

Hermann asks after we see how Otta Seal tests, how long would it take to do this in other areas. McMullen believes we need to see it perform for a good 2 years. McMullen also states that we are committed to doing traffic counts throughout the township.

The board discusses vandalism on road signs. A decision that if it is not too vulgar, we live with it until October or November, then replace, to hinder increased vandalism. The new retro reflectivity signs do not wash well. Stolen signs will be replaced ASAP and the defaced ones as practical.

Dust Control has about 8 miles left. McMullen rode with the truck. The new granite got .3% apply rate and the older granite got between .2% and .25% apply rate. We are currently at 103,000 gallons used. The final roads will have a little less width applied, due to a different truck and width size. McMullen reminds Deputy Olson that it is time to invoice the City of Delano for their dust control portion. Same as last year, reflecting price change per gallon.

Motion was made to approve claims #14920 through #14935 total amount claimed \$66,333.36 dated 6-13-2018, to approve claims #14936 through claims #14949 including Delano Municipal Utility ACH total amount claimed \$52,403.55 dated 6-27-2018 McMullen/Czanstkowski M/S/C Unanimous.

At 9:22 p.m. **Motion** to adjourn this July 2, 2018 Regular Meeting McMullen/Czanstkowski M/S/C Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Russek, Clerk/Treasurer

William McMullen, Board Chair