

# FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2019

**At 7:00 p.m.** Chairman John Czanstkowski Sr., called this May 6, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting to order and asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Members present were; William McMullen, Mike Barfknecht, Stephanie Russek and Renee Olson.

**Motion** to approve the April 1, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes McMullen/Barfknecht M/S/C Unanimous.

**Motion** to approve the April 23, 2019 Spring Road Tour Minutes McMullen/Barfknecht M/S/C Unanimous

**Motion** to approve the April 24, 2019 Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting Minutes Barfknecht/McMullen M/S/C Unanimous

### NEW BUSINESS

**Clifton Larson Allen Audit Review** Mary Reedy is present this evening and states there is nothing unusual this year with the audit, no surprises. She walks the board through the audit and balance sheets by fund. She explains that the State recommends 6 months worth of operations to be held in an unassigned fund balance, which we do have. Russek asks about the segregation of duties that is noted in the audit report every year. What could we be doing differently in job duties to eliminate risk? She states that since there are only 2 of us, she feels we are doing the best we can. After final review, the board thanks Mary for coming to review the audit with us.

**Jeff Peterson, 11144 Dalton Avenue** is present this evening with a photo of how he plans to separate two acres at the end of the driveway for his new site. McMullen asks what Wright County has said about only 150 feet of road frontage. McMullen states that generally 300 feet of road frontage is the norm. The board agrees that in this situation, if the County is ok with less road frontage, the township does not have a problem with it. Czanstkowski asks about the old house on the property now. Peterson states it will probably fall over, but will not be used as a residence. **Motion** to accept the proposed lot division as long as it meets Wright County Planning and Zoning requirements McMullen/Barfknecht M/S/C Unanimous.

**Crack Seal Quotes** Three quotes were received for Crack Fill in the Township this season from; Astech Corporation total quote is \$4825, Gopher State's quote is \$5501 and MN Roadways quote is \$6650.

**Motion** to accept the low cost quote from Astech for \$4825 McMullen/Barfknecht M/S/C Unanimous.

**Braun Avenue Culvert** Maintenance employee Butterfass estimates \$6120 for materials and labor for the 40' culvert. McMullen states that what we have on Braun Avenue is water backing up and possible damage to the road. The current residential culvert is too small and something needs to be done. McMullen has spoken with the homeowner and he knows there is a problem. He does not have the funds to do anything about it. Generally the township does not get involved with these residential issues, but the water issues are starting to affect the integrity of the road. McMullen states the larger culvert will also benefit homeowners that are upstream from this culvert. McMullen has spoken with some of the neighboring residents about thinking creatively to address this water issue. The homeowner has given

written permission for the township to replace the existing culvert on his property. Resident Gene Gabrelcik believes it is the townships responsibility. McMullen believes if the people that are negatively affected by the smaller culvert want to take action, they would probably have to sue him. McMullen states that we are looking for a way to amicably solve the water problem. Are the people that will benefit from the larger culvert willing to enter into an agreement with the township to help fix this issue? Resident DeWayne Bauman does not feel the homeowners should have to pay for that. He believes the homeowner should be assessed and that amount put on his taxes. Resident Milo Durbin says the neighbor has stated that the township agreed on the size of the current culvert years ago. McMullen states that another option is to do nothing and see what happens. Jason Franzen is present this evening and suggests a point of sale option that when the property is sold, this assessment would then be paid for. McMullen states that we need to handle this now. Barfknecht asks if anyone is willing to pitch in or do you all feel that this falls on the Township? One way or another it is going to get fixed. DeWayne Bauman asks what it would take to dig the culvert out. McMullen states that we cannot go on his property and change it like that. Resident Pegi Anderson states if the neighbors pitch in, the homeowner needs to pitch in too. Barfknecht thinks the township should just take care of it at township cost so we do not run into issues with the property or the neighbors. Barfknecht talks about the neighbors getting together and cleaning out the ditches. The cleaner it is, the better this new culvert will function. McMullen says if you see more stuff going on downstream, please let soil & water conservation and the Township know. Pegi wonders if what we propose with the culvert is really enough. The residents in attendance believe it is. **Motion** that the township pay for for the materials and labor to replace the culvert on Braun Avenue Reyna residence. Barfknecht/Czanstkowski M/S/C unanimous. Barfknecht will be the point person for this project.

**40<sup>th</sup> Street Options** Barfknecht states that Jeremy with Allied really wants nothing to do with it. He said it is too costly for what they do. Barfknecht also reached out to Knife River and has not heard anything back. At this point we have no answers. Barfknecht will continue to work to find someone to help us on 40th. The swamp is still the problem area. Other than the 1000 bad feet, the rest of the road is in good shape, needing an overlay. Discussion about procedure and options to manage the problem area on that road. Barfknecht will manage this project. Meanwhile, we will get the holes hot patched and taken care of.

Barfknecht also talked with Allied about Otta Seal repairs. His suggestion is to dig out the holes and tar patch them. McMullen does not feel we can promote this kind of overlay until we really know how it is going to wear. The township will address all the issues on the Otta Seal road.

**Cedar Lake PUD** Russek has spoken with Wright County and they have not yet received an application for this development. Wright County states that if all goes well, the time frame is generally one year. Russeks recommends that since this PUD is that far out, that instead of making small changes to the existing Township Developers Agreement, to revise the contract in its entirety. Things like indemnification, bonding procedure, insurance and soil erosion are all things that need to be addressed. Russek feels that revising the contract is the best way for the township to limit risk and make sure the contract includes all pertinent issues and is up to date. Russek will work on the new agreement and then turn it over to Neaton. The board's timeline is to have the new agreement done by the end of summer. McMullen adds that he spoke with our engineer Shane Nelson and he agrees with McMullen's belief that if we up the standard to a 10 ton, the roads would last longer.

**Motion** to approve maintenance employees Vacation and PTO as presented for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter McMullen/Czanstkowski M/S/C Unanimous.

**Beaudry Oil Fuel Agreement. Motion** to accept the lock in contract price with Beaudry Oil.  
McMullen/Barfknecht M/S/C Unanimous.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Delegated Board Responsibilities MCMULLEN** Xtratyme, nothing new to report, he is expecting things to start moving ahead//Health Insurance was not reviewed at the Township quarterly meeting. The mood of the meeting was focused on the new county building//McMullen is still working on 107th Street//There will be road closed to through traffic signs for the 40th Street Detour. **OLSON** Overtime changes have been made to the employee manual. The work week has been defined and overtime has been defined. McMullen asks about an exemption clause if the work week has to shift for the employee. Olson will add that to the policy. **RUSSEK** bought a new township laptop and loves it.

### OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

DeWayne Bauman passes out a petition to bring building the new Wright County administration building to a vote by the people. Bauman is also asking about the frost boils in the road. He feels the boils are because of dust control. He asks if we can try a test road in the township that doesn't get dust control. McMullen says he rode with dust control last year and plans to do the same this year. As far as frost boils, McMullen states that this is the worst year we have seen ever with the roads. This is a very bad spring and we are all feeling it. McMullen says we are going to fix the roads and by July 1st we are hopeful all our roads will be in much better shape. Bauman asks about Brighton Avenue from many years back and the decision to grind it out. Barfknecht asks if tarring roads is really what we want to do? Bauman says he has asked before for a cost analysis of paved vs gravel roads and he has not received it. McMullen says for us to come up with different numbers, when MNDOT has already done the work, what is the point? Bauman says nothing is getting done. Barfknecht says he does not understand Baumans argument. Bauman thinks we need to find a better way to manage the roads because what we are doing is not working. Resident Neumann feels we still need to define what it costs to maintain a stretch of road. There are some high traffic roads and many cut throughs in this township. Czanstkowski gives Bauman the report done by LTAP that defines the cost of roads. Bauman also believes we need to narrow the roads up.

Milo Durbin is present this evening and thanks the board for the help on Braun. He states that all residents upstream will be happier. He also wants us to know that there is a hump on 95th.

Jason Franzen is present this evening and wants to give the rundown of what is going on in Delano. He states Randy's Rentals is breaking ground and the Kwik Trip/Caribou construction has begun. Last week there was a conversation for the purchase of an Ariel truck for the fire department. They have been saving for two years towards this \$960,000 purchase. They are currently looking to purchase in 2021. In 2023, the U12 truck will also be up for replacement. McMullen states that Delano is the most expensive of all our fire protection. He was surprised that the article in the paper did not discuss whether an ariel truck was needed, it only discussed whether to buy new or used. Is this a badge of honor for the chief? Is this about status? McMullen states that we have no say in the Delano Fire Department decision. It is taxation without representation. McMullen believes it is crazy to buy an Ariel truck. Franzen feels it is too much money to spend. McMullen believes the township residents need to know what is really going on. Barfknecht asks if this intended purchase has to do with Delano's growth?

Franzen says that was not discussed at the meeting. Franzen was also at the meeting about the new Wright County administration building. He feels the decisions were made long ago.

Ed Hermann, Rivendale resident, states a few years back Rivendale was seal coated and a lot of rock accumulated on the side of the road. They rented a sweeper and cleaned it up. This last winter he feels like a lot of extra rock was put on the road. McMullen says we do this for traction. Herman asks why we are using rock instead of sand. He cleaned up almost 10 yards of rock. Barfknecht states it is a no win situation. Herman asks if there are any other complaints and the board states there are not. Hermann asks if the township is willing to share the cost of a sweeper and Barfknecht says we would not. McMullen agrees this is part of the residual of winter. Barfknecht says we try very hard to keep our taxes in line. In the last 12 years, we have had a total raise of 3% in taxes. If residents want more services, we need to address that with our levy.

Mark Bauman is present tonight to share his research of the Water Table Report. He states that we have sandy loam. We don't have much gravel, just little pockets. We have very little peat bog. One thing that may be affecting our roads is that the water from the aquifer takes weeks to get to us, instead of days. The aquifers all flow this way to the Mississippi River. Most of the information in the Water Table Report came from the well drillers.

The granite budget is \$90,000. We have about 7000 tons remaining. Buckingham & Brighton Avenues plus Braddock South of Ahern are the highest priorities. Discussion about which areas the independent contractor will do and what we will handle on our own.

**After Board Review, Motion** to approve claims #15287 through # 15291 total amount claimed \$1347.64 dated 4-1-2019, also to approve claims #15292 through claims # 15306 total amount claimed \$22718.19 dated 4-3-2019 and to approve claims # 15307 through #15321 including Delano Municipal Utility ACH total amount claimed \$19,870.04 dated 4-17-2019 McMullen/Czanstkowski M/S/C Unanimous.

At 9:23 p.m. **Motion** to adjourn this May 6, 2019 Regular Meeting McMullen/Czanstkowski M/S/C Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Stephanie Russek, Clerk/Treasurer

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John Czanstkowski Sr., Board Chair