

January 12, 2021

Town Chair Bryce Black called the regular Town Board meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Due to precautions being taken for the Covid 19 virus pandemic, remote attendance for this meeting was an option.

Board members attending remotely were Bryce Black, Richard McDermott, Curt Stine, Donna Juleff and Josh Manor. Also attending remotely were Town Zoning Administrator Dan Fedderly and Plan Commission Chair Don Gisch.

Citizens attending remotely were Debra Fisher and Lily Arbore.

Town Clerk Maureen Manore was present in the Town Hall and was signed into the meeting on-line.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the December 8, 2020, meeting were examined. The minutes stood as submitted.

Financial Report

Treasurer's report for December was read. The ending balance for December was \$305,461.17.

Citizens' Concerns

Lily Arbore volunteered to serve as a citizen member on the ATV Ordinance Review Committee. Josh Manor relayed Susan Hornbaker's request for more crushed rock on Biles Lane.

Discuss Zoning Issue of Grandfathered-in Nonconforming Lot Sizes and New Construction

The Board, Dan Fedderly and Don Gisch discussed the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to building a residence on lots under 10 acres, located in the Ag-Residential District, that were in existence before the ordinance was passed. The sections examined were 17.05 (3)g and 17.11. Dan Fedderly stated that the intention of section 17.05 (3)g was to allow for building on non-conforming grandfathered in lots without creating additional zones. This section refers the reader to section 17.11 which, while it says grandfathered-in parcels "shall enjoy all rights of the District," does not explicitly support building new structures on nonconforming lots. It was agreed that the language needs to be amended to clarify the Board's intention. The Board asked the Plan Commission to take on this task after their completion of the Comprehensive Plan review and revision.

Cemetery Maintenance Update

Bryce Black spoke to Mark Brindle of Timber Ridge Tree Service to inform him that his was the winning bid for the tree removal. Brindle said they had a lot of work lined up and he was hesitant to commit to being able to complete the task while the ground was still frozen.

Black called Justin from Out on a Limb Tree Service to ask him for an estimate for taking down the tree and chipping without removing the wood. He was told \$2,200. Justin noted that the area around the tree had broken and fallen headstones and recommended that they be removed before it snowed and replaced after the job was completed.

Timber Ridge will come out sometime this week to evaluate the tree for soundness for climbing purposes. If it is sound enough, they will commit to a date.

Bryce Black asked the board for permission to contract a different tree service if Timber Ridge was unavailable.

Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to give Bryce Black the authority to go with Timber Ridge or if they were unavailable to go with the next available option. A vote was held by show of hands. Motion carried with no negative votes.

Debra Fisher reported that she and two other volunteers moved the eight fallen headstones, six of which were broken. The spots they were removed from were carefully mapped and marked. Fisher will get back to the Board about replacement and repair.

Report on Other Meetings Attended

No other meetings were attended.

Road Reports

Bryce Black reported that Pepin County Highway Department Commissioner Bob Platteter has resigned. Chis Bates was appointed Interim Commissioner.

Black met with Bates last week and signed the reimbursement agreement for the LRIP grant for the completed Bear Pen Road blacktop project.

Dan Fedderly reported on the Swede Ramble bridge project; he is hoping to set a bid date in March or April. Hydrology tests still need to be done. The Board discussed various possible bridge construction materials. Fedderly said final design will depend on the engineering, but a large sectional metal culvert may be the most cost-effective option.

Approve Payment of Bills

The Chair examined and approved the payment of the January bills.

Motion by Donna Juleff, seconded by Richard McDermott, to confirm the payment of bills paid by check 10970 through 10984, totaling \$226,111.72. A roll call vote was held, the results as follows: Josh Manor – yes; Donna Juleff – yes; Richard McDermott – yes; Curt Stine yes.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Frankfort Town Hall. A tentative Town Board meeting agenda will cover: Town Board Minutes, Financial Report, Citizens' Concerns, Cemetery Maintenance, Report on Other Meetings Attended, Road Reports, Town Website Host, Memorandum of Understanding with Pepin County for the Election Management System and Pay Bills.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Time 8:24 p.m.

Maureen Manore, Clerk