

SCHROEDER TOWNSHIP

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of August 14, 2024

Present: Supervisors Bruce Martinson, Tina McKeever, Cathy Johnson; Treasurer Carla Menssen; Clerk Amy Brugge, Deputy Clerk Anna Green; Fire Chief Phil Bonin; residents of Schroeder.

C. Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Johnson moved to approve the regular July 14, 2024 meeting minutes and the Special Meeting minutes from July 23, July 30, and August 5, 2024. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – reported by Treasurer Carla Menssen, for July 2024.

Disbursement = \$30,463.54 Receipts = \$22,133.97 Total Financial Assets = \$456,511.86

T. McKeever moved to pay check numbers 5844 – 5860 totaling \$4,984.84. C. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Johnson moved to accept treasurer's report as presented. T. McKeever seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

West End Lodging Tax for May = \$3,3039.10

Commissioner Storlie's Report – not in attendance

New Business – Re-zoning of VanDoren Lane: Resident Mary VanDoren presented that she will be going before the county to pursue the re-zoning of VanDoren Lane from a FAR3 to R1 to subdivide land to 2-acre lots. She has come before the township today, in advance of going to the county for the re-zoning pursuit, in hopes of obtaining a letter of support from the Township.

C. Johnson states that she does not think the board should be weighing in as a township on this county matter and instead recommends that board members, as individuals, could provide letters of support directly to Mary VanDoren. B. Martinson also agreed and advised simultaneously obtaining letters of support from neighbors.

Fire Department Report – Some of the fire department's radios had died, but after working with the radio guy all were turned back on. Discussed the recent fire at MN Power Taconite Harbor plant, which required response from 3 departments to fully extinguish. Phil will provide new members' information to Clerk in preparation for upcoming payroll. Reconditioned air packs will be coming soon and may cost around \$10,000 to \$12,000, which will use up the remainder of the department's annual budget. Board discussed how the truck fund (both Money Market and CD), is truly an equipment fund and may be used to partially cover this necessary equipment expense. Also discussed the potential of obtaining a credit card from

Grand Marais State Bank, similar to that of the Town Clerk's, to use for purchasing gas for the fire truck, as there no longer is a viable option for a fuel card through Holiday Gas Station since it transitioned to Circle K Gas Stations. C. Menssen will contact the bank to look into the credit card option.

Received documentation from the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan administered by PERA regarding benefit level for vested members. Current benefit level is at \$1,500 per member annually. There is a surplus with the township's retirement fund, with it being over-funded at 182% last year and this year it is now over-funded at 226%. There has not been additional funding required from the Township for several years.

B. Martinson moved that the Schroeder Town Board increase the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan (administered by PERA) benefit level from \$1,500 to \$2,000 effective January 1, 2025 via Schroeder Township Resolution 2024-3. T. McKeever seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Road & Bridge Report – Curt Laboda has been actively working on the Sugarloaf Road repair. T. McKeever remarked that once the repair work is done there should be additional clearing of brush and weeds from the ditches, and she had reached out to Mickey Brazell of Northland Brushing, who said work could be done in early October. Will re-visit during the October meeting.

It was decided that there is no need to seek new snow plowing bids for this winter. David Sominis is contracted through 2025 and willing to continue with the work. B. Martinson will reach out to David Sominis to discuss the decision to continue with snow plowing.

Cemetery – There is a need for 1 bucket load of gravel needed to repair the road; B. Martinson will obtain 1 bucket load for the repair.

Recreation – There have been a few instances of people attempting to put household garbage in the garbage can. Robert is currently picking up garbage every other day and will be away on vacation from 8/22 – 8/28. Garbage key will be left on the table in the Town Hall office. Phil Bonin volunteered to collect garbage on 8/22 and T. McKeever volunteered to collect on 8/26 and 8/28.

Town Hall - The issue in the men's bathroom was resolved and new urinal gaskets were installed for both urinals. T. McKeever had placed a call regarding furnace issue and is awaiting a response.

Other Business:

Unique Entity ID for FEMA Assistance – Clerk Amy Brugge reviewed the process for obtaining online access as an Entity Administrator for the Unique Entity ID for the federal government. A notarized letter was completed with Bruce Martinson to name the clerk as the entity's online administrator, which will be submitted later this week through the FSD.gov ticketing process. Once online platform access is obtained, it is likely that more documents will be required in order to re-register the existing Unique Entity ID in order to proceed with FEMA. The Board

reviewed the documentation requirements for the re-registration process in anticipation of how to comply with demonstrating evidence of the Township's date of incorporation.

40 Acres owned by MN Power – Carla Menssen asked if there had been any additional correspondence regarding the sale of this land. B. Martinson updated the Board that there has been no progress on sale/purchase of the land. B. Martinson will contact them again.

Correspondence:

Sent – Schroeder Area Historical Society Insurance Coverage

Received – IRS communication regarding physical address vs. mailing address

Public Comments: N/A

C. Johnson moved to adjourn. T. McKeever seconded. Adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Brugge, Clerk