

**Princeton Township Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2020
Minutes**

The August meeting of the Princeton Township Board was called to order by Chairman Gene Stoeckel at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisors attending: Thomas Duden, Dan Hiller, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb, John Wilhelm
Also attending: Zoning Administrator Scott Richards, Clerk-Treasurer Doug Dahl

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum

Joel Minks that the handrail outside township hall be modified to accommodate voters who have difficulty walking.

Jesse Jondahl presented a comparison of fees between Princeton Township and nearby townships. He noted particularly the difference between Princeton Township and Baldwin Township, especially with park-dedication fees. He asked the board to investigate how the fees went up so dramatically from what they were in the early 2000s.

Mr. Stoeckel responded that there is a long-term plan to build a bicycle route from Princeton to Lake Mille Lacs with the township bearing part of that responsibility. To prepare for that eventuality, the township raised its park-dedication fees to \$1,200 five-six years ago.

Township resident Joyce Sproessig reported that an airplane had landed on her neighbor's property. She had spoken with her neighbor about the incident and was assured that the landing was a one-time event. Mr. Stoeckel informed her that any landing facility requires approval from the Federal Aviation Administration. He suggested that if another landing takes place on the property the resident should note the tail number of the aircraft and report it to the FAA.

Approve Minutes

July 21 regular meeting: Bill Whitcomb moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Thomas Duden. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Cash control statement: Beginning balance for July: \$590,253.64; Receipts \$177,735.42; Disbursements \$148,843.46; Ending balance \$619,145.60.
Beginning balance for 2020: \$666, 692.05; Receipts \$301,927.71; Disbursements \$349,474.16.
Investment balance: \$105,817.53. Total cash balance July 31: \$724,963.13.

Clerk-Treasurer noted particularly receipts from:

- Mille Lacs County: \$158,080.51 tax settlement.
- Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB): \$496.00 tax distribution.
- MMB: \$1,318.16 reimbursement for Presidential Nominating Primary expenses.

Large disbursements included:

- Allied Blacktop: \$10,500.00 crack-fill project.
- City of Princeton: \$27,470.00 fire contract.
- City of Princeton: \$32,396.56 sealcoat program.
- Hass Construction: \$44,696.20 for gravel, rock, grading, and packing.

June payroll: Net pay distribution—regular payroll: \$3,394.68; election payroll: \$1,407.50.

Claims for approval: Total claims \$50,024.55.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the financial reports. Seconded by Mr. Duden. Motion carried.

Mr. Dahl reported that the township certificate of deposit is set to renew on August 22. Due to the present world-wide financial circumstances the new rate will be 0.45%. Mr. Dahl spoke with Mr. Oleen of Bremer Bank. Mr. Oleen said he will monitor the situation and notify the township if a better rate becomes available.

Mr. Dahl reported that he had reviewed the township's expenses related to the COVID19 mitigation measures imposed by the Governor's executive orders. He found only three months of GOTOMEETING expenses (\$60) as legitimately related to the virus. Mr. Hiller advocated for submitting a township application for funds available under the CARES act. Princeton Township is eligible for up to \$56,000 in relief funds. He noted several examples of expenses that could be eligible for reimbursement under the act. Deadline for submitting the application is September 15; the township should submit the application, then determine what expenses it would incur related to the virus before the expenditure deadline of November 15.

The Board directed Mr. Dahl and Mr. Stoeckel to complete the application. Mr. Whitcomb moved to appoint a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Dahl, Mr. Hiller, and Mr. Whitcomb to consider how the township's CARES act funds might be spent. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

2020 Audit Pricing: Mr. Dahl reported that he had received proposed pricing for the township's 2020 financial audit from BerganKDV: \$10,000. Mr. Whitcomb moved to direct the clerk to request bids from other firms for audit preparation. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Scott Richards

Final plat—Woods Push Subdivision (TMK Properties): Mr. Richards presented a resolution establishing a finding of fact and resolution of the Board of Supervisors that the request by Tom Saari of TMK Properties LLC for a final plat referred to as Woods Push Lot on County Road 135/70th Street in Section 3, Princeton Township be approved with conditions specified in the resolution.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Duden. Motion carried.

Development Agreement—Woods Push Subdivision (TMK Properties): Mr. Richards reviewed the development agreement between Princeton Township and TMK Properties. He recommended approval subject to final approval of the township attorney.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the Development Agreement subject to final approval of the township attorney. Seconded by Mr. Duden. Motion carried.

Final plat Studebaker Acres two-lot subdivision: Mr. Richards presented a resolution establishing a finding of fact and resolution of the Board of Supervisors that the request by Kirk Studebaker for a final plat referred to as Studebaker Acres at 6588 Alpine Road in Section 26, Princeton Township be approved with conditions specified in the resolution. He noted that no development agreement is required for this subdivision.

Mr. Hiller moved to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Final plat—Lundberg Farms two-lot subdivision: Mr. Richards presented a resolution establishing a finding of fact and resolution of the Board of Supervisors that the request by Jamie and Tanya Lundberg for a preliminary plat referred to as Lundberg Farms at 5314 60th Street in Section 1, Princeton Township be approved with conditions specified in the resolution. The property is on a county road; no development agreement is required.

Mr. Duden moved to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried.

Sketch plan—Scott Moller subdivision: Mr. Richards presented a summary of the sketch-plan application.

Scott Moller has made application for a sketch plan for property in Section 27 on County Road 1/75th Avenue. The Planning Commission has reviewed the plan at previous meetings; its reaction has not been favorable. The developer is requesting comment and direction from the board on the prospects for his proposal.

The plan raises several challenges to existing zoning ordinances covering lot size, frontage, road access and construction, and other contingencies. Mr. Moller is confident he can modify his plan to meet all existing zoning requirements except the 1400-ft maximum road-length requirement for cul de sacs.

Research relating to the plan has exposed various inconsistencies in existing zoning and road requirements. The board agreed to continue researching the issues raised by the plan, and to allow the zoning administrator and engineer to work with the applicant to determine if he can modify his plan sufficiently to satisfy current zoning requirements.

Old Business

Princeton Township re-opening preparedness plan: Mr. Duden presented the preparedness plan template offered by the Minnesota Associations of Townships. He recommended striking the plan's recommendation to hold meetings by teleconference.

Mr. Duden moved to adopt the MAT preparedness plan without the provision for meeting by teleconference, and removing the requirement for employees to wear masks. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-13: No action taken.

Supervisors' Reports

Road report—Bill Whitcomb:

- Reviewed the 911 emergency sign policy with Township Attorney Jason Hill. Mr. Hill approved. The clerk will post on the township website.

- Roadside ditch mowing policy is finalized. The clerk will post on the township website.
- Roadside brush and tree clearing policy is finalized. The clerk will post on the township website.
- Road improvement project on 33rd Street & 82nd Avenue is complete. Final costs are not yet in.
- Sections of roads treated for dust control are holding up nicely. Have not had to grade those sections at all. Has helped reduce wash-boarding and dust. By contrast, similar sections (by traffic count) that have not been treated have required repeated grading. Conclusion: dust control will save money in both grading and road material cost.
- Prepared a dust-control draft policy for the board's consideration.

Ken Henchen presented a list of tools for the garage. Noted that he has been using his own tools; the list he offered amounts to approximately \$1,350. He also noted the need for replacement batteries for the graders (two). Replacement cost is about \$135 each, bringing the total to approximately \$1,500 for garage requirements.

Thomas Duden moved to approve \$1,300 for purchasing shop tools. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Fire Board report—Bill Whitcomb: Princeton Township made five emergency calls in July: one EMS, two medical assists, one for a controlled burn, and one dispatch cancelled in route.

Airport Commission Liaison—Gene Stoeckel

- FAA has run out of money, so the taxi lane reconstruction has been put on hold.
- Runway reconstruction is completed except for minor electrical work.
- Princeton City Planning Commission is finalizing the annexation of the parcel to the public-safety building property.

New Business

Advertise for snowplowing and road-maintenance bids: Mr. Duden moved to advertise immediately for snowplowing bids. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried.

Mr. Stoeckel reported that due to the action by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency removing administration of subsurface sewage treatment systems from Princeton Township based on the inadequacy of the township SSTS ordinance, the request by John Foss for a variance on his non-compliant septic system has been turned over to Mille Lacs County.

Resolution to approve sale of vehicles through Hiller Auction Services: Mr. Duden moved to approve the resolution authorizing contract with an interested officer to permit the sale of two township plow trucks (one 2002 Sterling and one 1999 International) through Hiller Auctions Services. Seconded by Mr. Stoeckel. Mr. Hiller recused. Motion carried.

Other Business

Adjournment

Mr. Hiller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Adjourned 10:00 p.m.

Attendees

Doug Fiala, Nancy Moan, Craig Wensmann, Tanya Lundberg, Kevin Walz, Joel Minks, Jesse Jondahl, Jason Betzler, Marcia Anderson, Scott Moller, Bart Kendall, Nicholas Taylor, Andrea Gerrard.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Dahl, Clerk-Treasurer

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