

**Princeton Township Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Minutes**

The October 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

No business in Open Forum.

Approve Minutes

September 15 regular meeting: Dan Hiller noted one correction: Re-opening plan report by Mr. Duden and Mr. Wilhelm, not Mr. Hiller. Mr. Hiller moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Bill Whitcomb. Motion carried.

October 7 working meeting: Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Cash control statement:

Beginning balance for September: \$558,142.36
Receipts \$85,218.54 – Includes \$56,325 for Coronavirus Relief Fund
Disbursements \$399,508.64
Ending balance \$243,852.26

September payroll: Net pay distribution—regular payroll: \$3,434.85.

Claims for approval: Total claims \$38,490.31.

John Wilhelm moved to approve the financial reports. Seconded by Gene Stoeckel. Motion carried.

Clean-up Day receipts and charges:

Receipts: \$1,931.00
Charges: \$3,846.00 (\$986 to First State Tire; \$2,860 to Jim's Mille Lacs Disposal)
Cost to Town: \$1,915.00

Snowplowing bids: Only received bid from Dahlheimer Trucking & Excavating:

Regular equipment:

Highway plow trucks	\$119/hr
Pickups w/ plows	\$ 73/hr
Salt/sand	\$45/ton + truck

Emergency equipment:

Bi-directional tractor w/blower	\$154/hr
Front-end loaders	\$129/hr
Skidloaders	\$89/hr

Dahlheimer also offered a 5-year bid beginning at the one-year quoted rate with a 5% annual increase. Members preferred not to lock in for five years.

Mr. Hiller moved to approve the one-year contract. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Acquire Bremer debit card: Mr. Dahl requested authorization to acquire a Bremer debit card for expenses that he and Ken Henchen now run through their personal accounts.

Mr. Hiller moved to approve acquiring a debit card with Mr. Dahl as the sole signer. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried.

CenturyLink modem and speed upgrade: Mr. Dahl reported that the town hall Internet had been failing intermittently. CenturyLink technical support narrowed the problem to the modem. A new modem was ordered, but had not yet arrived. In the meantime, the Internet connection had stabilized. Mr. Dahl will work with CenturyLink to determine if the modem is indeed failing, or if other factors may have resolved the issue.

CenturyLink informed Mr. Dahl that the Township is eligible for an Internet speed upgrade from 1.5 MB to 10 MB at no additional cost. Mr. Dahl requested the upgrade.

News & notes: Mille Lacs Association of Townships cancelled its fall meeting. Hofman Oil has been sold. It is now Princeton One Stop. The township account remains valid. Minnesota Association of Townships has announced its annual educational conference and meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Scott Richards

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance amendments: At its September 15 meeting the town board had raised objections to the amendment provision that would remove the prohibition against cul-de-sacs in the River Conservation District. Based on those objections, and subsequent discussions with the Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Richards removed that section from the amendment. He then recommended adoption of the ordinance after the second reading at this meeting.

Mr. Stoeckel moved to waive the second reading and adopt the amendments as distributed to the supervisors in preparation for the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Mr. Stoeckel moved to adopt the resolution approving summary language for publication of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance amendments. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Letter to A-Z Restaurant Equipment: Mr. Richards reported that he had sent a letter to A-Z Restaurant Equipment notifying the company that it is in violation of its conditional-use permit by storing more equipment than permitted, and by storing the equipment outside its defined storage area. Deadline for compliance was given as November 2, 2020.

Resolution to set public hearing on vacation of a portion of 67th Street: Mr. Richards presented a resolution providing for a public hearing regarding the vacation of a portion of 67th Street.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to adopt the resolution setting the public hearing for Tuesday, November 17, 7:15 p.m. at Township Hall. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Old Business

CARES grant subcommittee report: Mr. Hiller, Mr. Whitcomb, Mr. Dahl, and Ken Hennen met October 16 to consider township needs and costs arising from Coronavirus precautions and restrictions. Most critical need is the ability to conduct meetings either partially or fully by teleconference. The group determined through consulting with the MAT attorney that all expenses must be allocated to specific allowed purchases by exact dollar amount, rather than by block funds. Because the spending deadline is November 15, any CARES grant authorizations will require a special meeting.

Mr. Hiller moved to call a special meeting for Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Snow and Ice Control Policy: The Board reviewed the Snow and Ice Control Policy drafted by Township Attorney Jason Hill. Mr. Hiller moved to adopt the policy. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried. Full text of the policy to be filed at Town Hall and posted on the Town's Website.

Supervisors' Reports

Road report—Bill Whitcomb handed out information for the road tour scheduled for Saturday, October 24. The tour will cover only paved roads; will plan to cover gravel roads in the spring to allow for better evaluation of conditions after freezing/thawing and plowing. He emphasized the need to develop objective criteria for evaluating roads and creating a plan for maintaining and upgrading roads year-by-year.

Fire Board report—Mr. Whitcomb reported that the fire department is seeking grants for a two-tub foam trailer that would be available for use at gas stations and the distillery. There is no plan to seek funding from townships for these items. Mr. Hiller noted that the city collects large amounts in taxes from the distillery; he does not want to see any money from the township going to the purchase of a foam trailer.

Mr. Whitcomb reported that Princeton Township had one medical assist call, one dispatch cancelled in route, and one dispatch that found no emergency upon arrival.

New Business

The Planning Commission voted to move its November meeting from November 2 to November 9 to avoid conflicting with election preparations. Mr. Stoeckel moved to approve re-scheduling the Planning Commission meeting. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Mr. Dahl presented six new candidates for election judge: Kristen Duden, Kris Halverson, Kim Hayes, Connie Hennen, Mary Koppendrayner, Sophie Patten. Mr. Whitcomb moved to appoint the six candidates as judges. Seconded by Mr. Stoeckel. Motion carried.

Other Business

No items presented under Other Business.

Adjournment

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

Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Attendees

Nancy Moan, Kenneth Hennen, Andrea Gerrard, Nicholas Taylor

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Dahl, Clerk-Treasurer