

**Princeton Township
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota**

Township Board Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Minutes

The October 19 monthly meeting of the Princeton Township Board was called to order by Chairman Gene Stoeckel at 7:30 p.m. Supervisors attended the meeting in person at Township Hall. The meeting was open to in-person attendance, plus remote participation via GoToMeeting.

Supervisors present: Thomas Duden, Dan Hiller, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb

Supervisor absent: John Wilhelm

Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Doug Dahl, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Gerrard, Township Zoning Administrator Scott Richards, Township Engineer Todd McLouth (via GoToMeeting)

Public in-person attendees: Shannon Brekke, A. Dahlheimer, Brian Dahlheimer, Liz Gerold, Emily Hanson, Ken Henchen, Joel Minks, Nancy Moan, Barry Ramage, Jr., Kathy Stoeckel, Jason Wolfsteller

Online Attendees: Bart & Marcia Kendall, plus unidentified callers.

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum

Shannon Brekke requested additional time to complete the abatement of nuisance and cartway violations as determined by the Town Board at its September 21, 2021, meeting. Mr. Richards noted that substantial progress had been made toward abatement, but that considerable work remained. He recommended that the Board grant her additional time.

Ben Barton, Superintendent of Princeton Public Schools, addressed Open Forum on the topic of the upcoming bond referendum for Princeton schools.

Emily Hanson asked again about a discrepancy she believed she had found between the ending balance of December 2020 and beginning balance of 2021. Mr. Dahl explained that Ms. Hanson had made a mistake in that she was comparing the 2020 ending balance of all funds to the beginning balance of just the General Fund plus the Road & Bridge Fund for 2021. When comparing fund to fund, each fund's 2020 ending balance was identical to the fund's beginning 2021 balance, and the total of all funds was \$447,170.31 in both cases.

Approve Meeting Agenda

Mr. Duden moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Approve September Meeting Minutes

Mr. Duden moved to approve the September 21 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Cash control statement:

General Fund beginning balance for September:	\$85,542.92
Receipts	\$ 5,991.25
Disbursements	<u>\$12,302.61</u>
Ending balance	\$79,231.56
Road & Bridge Fund beginning balance for September:	\$305,731.79
Receipts:	\$ 2,542.23
Disbursements	<u>\$ 80,759.12</u>
Ending balance	\$227,514.90

Mr. Duden moved to approve the September cash control statement. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Payroll:

September payroll:
Gross: \$3,862.50
Net: \$3,141.34

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

Claims for Approval:

Total claims through October 19, 2021: \$13,969.10

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

Zoning Administrator's Report

Nuisance enforcement for 10082 55th Street:

Mr. Richards recommended that the Board grant an extension to Ms. Brekke to complete the abatement of ordinance violations as determined by the Board at its September 21 meeting. Mr. Duden stated that he had also spoken with Ms. Brekke and reviewed photos of the property; he agreed that significant progress had been made.

Mr. Duden moved to grant an extension to November 15 to allow Ms. Brekke additional time to complete the abatement. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Section 27/County Road 1 Land Use and Zoning Amendment—Resolution of Denial

At its September 21 meeting the Board had passed a motion to deny the re-zoning application from Badger Creek Holdings. Mr. Richards offered a resolution to formalize the denial.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to adopt Resolution 2021-21 denying the application from Badger Creek Holdings to rezone properties in Section 27 on County Road 1 from R2, RR, and AC to R1. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried 4-0.

Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance: Setbacks and Accessory Buildings

Board members responded favorably to the recommended setback requirements. However, they raised several objections to the proposed accessory-building standards. Mr. Hiller cited sidewall heights, architectural design, and the relationship of accessory-building size to lot size as regulations that needed further consideration. Mr. Whitcomb suggested establishing accessory-building size based on a percentage of the lot size. Members generally agreed that the standards needed further work by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Hiller moved to refer the language on accessory-building requirements back to the Planning Commission for further review and modification. Seconded by Mr. Duden. Motion carried.

Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance: Sign Regulations, Billboards, Electronic Signs

Mr. Richards presented the draft ordinance of proposed revisions to the sign code as recommended by the Planning Commission at its October 4, 2021, meeting. He recommended passing a motion to waive the first reading of the ordinance and schedule a second reading for the November 16 meeting.

Mr. Hiller moved to waive the first reading of the Zoning Ordinance as it relates to sign regulations, billboards, and electronic signs and schedule a second reading for the November 16 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll: Mr. Duden—Yes; Mr. Hiller—Yes; Mr. Stoeckel—Yes; Mr. Whitcomb—Yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Richards reported that the November 1 meeting of the Planning Commission had been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The discussion of accessory-building standards will be taken up at the December 6 meeting.

Old Business

Review Document: Supplemental Plans and Dead-End Signs

Mr. Whitcomb answered questions about his document clarifying that there will be no additional dead-end or no-outlet signs in the sign-replacement plan.

Review Snowplowing Quotes

The Township received two quotes for snowplowing service for the 2021-22 season: Dahlheimer Trucking & Excavating, Inc., and Top Notch Dirtworks, LLC. Mr. Duden stated that he considered both services qualified as both have plowed the township's roads. Mr. Duden noted that he will abstain from the vote due to his supervisor responsibilities requiring him to work with whichever contractor the Board chooses.

Mr. Hiller noted that he has received many complimentary comments from residents about the quality of the snowplowing done in the past year by Dahlheimer Trucking.

Mr. Hiller moved to accept the snowplowing quote from Dahlheimer Trucking & Excavating, LLC. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried 3-0 with Mr. Duden abstaining.

New Business

Discuss Selling Sign-Post Inventory

Mr. Whitcomb reported that the Township has accumulated about 1,600 feet of galvanized sign posts from the sign-removal project. He has received inquiries about selling/purchasing the posts from other townships. Mr. Duden suggested waiting until after the 2022 Annual Meeting

due to the action taken at the September meeting to place the question of conducting a sign study before the residents at that meeting. Other members agreed. No action was taken on the matter.

Supervisor Training Opportunities

Mr. Whitcomb called attention to several training opportunities available to supervisors. Information about the sessions was included in the meeting packets.

Review Sign Study Request for Proposal (RFP)

Mr. Whitcomb reviewed the draft Sign Study RFP included in the meeting packets. Township Engineer Todd McLouth recommended sending out the RFPs in mid-January with a due date before the February Board meeting. That will allow time to review them before the March 8 Annual Meeting.

2021 Sign Policy Resolution

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve Resolution 2021-20 adopting the Princeton Township Sign Inventory and Replacement Plan as presented at the September 21, 2021, meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Mr. Duden. Motion carried.

Road Report

Road Mileage Certification

Mr. Whitcomb stated that the Township needs to add .53 miles to the mileage certification with Mille Lacs County. Mr. Duden added that the addition comes from Township roads in Silver Lake Oaks.

Mr. Duden moved to add .53 miles to the 2021 mileage certification with Mille Lacs County. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Supervisor Reports

Mr. Duden reported that a review of mowing requirements enabled the Township to remove 7-8 miles of ditches that are being mowed by residents. The Township saved about \$430 because of the review.

Mr. Whitcomb reported that the signs approved at the September meeting have been ordered and are expected to be available within a few weeks.

Mr. McLouth reported that there are still three items on the Silver Lake Oaks punch list. The Township will hold the SLO letter of credit until those items are completed. The developer has until November 2022 to complete the work. Other items from the Developer's Agreement still need to be completed as well.

Mr. Hiller reported on the Fire Board meeting. He noted that it's been another active year, possibly a record number of calls. The department is investigating the possibility of purchasing turnout gear with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. There are other possible uses for ARPA funds that the department is considering.

Mr. Stoeckel reported on the Airport Board meeting. Main topic of discussion at present involves the question of providing a facility to store and sell Jet-A fuel. The issue will be discussed and debated at a joint City Council-Airport Board meeting on November 1.

The Township has applied for ARPA funds. There are no specific plans for using them at present. The funds will be available for three years.

The Princeton City Planning Commission passed a future land-use amendment for the property at the old Shipwreck facility enabling it to be converted to a micro-brewery; also passed a future land-use amendment for the property annexed from the Township for the public safety building.

Adjourn

Mr. Hiller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Dahl
Clerk/Treasurer