

**Princeton Township
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota**

Township Board Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Minutes

The December 21 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: Dan Hiller, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb, John Wilhelm (via GoToMeeting)

Supervisor absent: Thomas Duden

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

Public attendees: Jessica Anderson, Dennis Brown, Brian Dahlheimer, Katia Harnois, Russell Harnois, Jesse Jondahl, Joel Minks, Nancy Moan, Jessica Swanson, Jeremy Wood, Ron Lindberg (via GoToMeeting)

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Meeting Agenda

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

Approve November Meeting Minutes

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the November 16 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Resident Dennis Brown brought a complaint about snowplowing. He is upset that the snowplow is depositing gravel in his yard and on his driveway, leaving him the task of cleaning it out every spring. He asked if the Township could come up with a remedy. Supervisors responded that the roads must be plowed, and that the plow will inevitably mix gravel in with the snow. Mr. Brown was not satisfied with that response, and left the meeting abruptly.

After his departure another resident suggested that the local Boy Scout troop might be willing to help with the spring clean-up. The Clerk will contact one of the troop leaders to investigate that possibility, then follow up with Mr. Brown.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Cash control statement:

General Fund beginning balance for November:	\$81,986.39
Receipts	\$ 5,209.97
Disbursements	<u>\$15,437.93</u>
Ending balance	\$71,758.43

Road & Bridge Fund beginning balance for November:	\$223,479.23
Receipts:	\$ 0.00
Disbursements	\$ 4,937.51
Ending balance	\$218,541.72

Payroll:

November payroll:
 Gross: \$3,805.00
 Net: \$3,019.87

Claims for Approval:

Total claims through December 21, 2021: \$43,625.11

Mr. Dahl noted that the claims list includes payment to the City of Princeton of \$27,545.00 for 2021 fire coverage (2nd half).

Mr. Hiller moved to approve the cash control statement, payroll report, and claims list. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Mr. Dahl noted that he had confirmed the 2021 external audit with Jon Archer of Schlenner-Wenner CPAs.

Zoning Administrator’s Report

Harnois variance and conditional-use permit

Mr. Richards summarized the application: Yekaterina and Russell Harnois have applied for a side-yard setback variance and conditional-use permit to construct an accessory building on a non-conforming lot to allow a 20 x 24-foot pole-barn garage at 2409 75th Avenue (County Road 1). The applicant is requesting a setback of 10 feet from the south property line. The structure will conform to all other setback requirements.

The property is zoned River Conservation – RC-2 requiring a 35-foot setback from side property lines. The conditional use permit is required to allow construction of an accessory building on a lot that is nonconforming in size. The property is guided for River Conservation in the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. The building site of the lot is not within the floodplain.

The Planning Commission, at their December 6, 2021, meeting held a public hearing and voted to recommend approval of the application for a side-yard setback variance.

Mr. Hiller moved to approve Resolution 2021-25 granting the Harnois Variance and Conditional-Use Permit. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll: Mr. Hiller—Yes; Mr. Stoeckel—Yes; Mr. Whitcomb—Yes; Mr. Wilhelm—Yes. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution 2021-25 is adopted.

New Business

Jesse Jondahl request for a reduction in the Silver Lake Oaks Letter of Credit to \$50,000

Jesse Jondahl appealed to the Princeton Township Board for a reduction in the Silver Lake Oaks Letter of Credit from \$137,175.35 to \$50,000 based on the advanced status of the development. Princeton Township Engineer Todd McLouth confirmed that the requested amount is adequate to cover the remaining items on the development agreement.

Supervisor Dan Hiller moved to approve the reduction. Seconded by Supervisor Bill Whitcomb. Motion carried 4-0.

2022 Township Pay Schedule

Mr. Whitcomb moved to revise the pay range for the Township Clerk-Treasurer from \$20-26/hour to \$22-28/hour. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to revise the pay range for the Township Deputy Clerk-Treasurer from \$15-20/hour to \$17-22/hour. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hiller moved to revise the pay range for general maintenance workers from \$19-22/hour to \$20-25/hour. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hiller moved to retain the current pay range of \$25-30/hour for road maintenance workers. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to increase the pay for election judges to \$20/hour and for head election judge to \$25/hour. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisors acknowledged the recommendation of the electors at the 2021 Annual Meeting to increase compensation for supervisors and planning commission members. Electors voted to recommend increasing compensation to \$140/meeting.

Mr. Hiller moved to increase compensation for Town Board and Planning Commission members to \$125.00/meeting, including working meetings, and \$150/meeting for the Town Board Chair. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to retain the compensation rate of \$55/meeting for liaisons. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to retain the compensation rate of \$25/hour for supervisors performing general labor. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

2022 Township Fee Schedule

Mr. Whitcomb moved to remove the \$150 refund provision from the Township culvert permit fee. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to adopt the 2022 Township Fee Schedule as amended. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Schedule 2021 Board of Audit

Mr. Whitcomb moved to schedule the 2021 Board of Audit for February 1, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Supervisor Reports

Mr. Whitcomb

Sign installation is progressing. Also working on shared-road agreements with neighboring jurisdictions. Mr. Whitcomb and Mr. Stoeckel attended Wyanett Township Board meeting to open discussions. Mr. Whitcomb is continuing to search for grants and other sources of funding for road projects.

Mr. Stoeckel

- The Airport Commission meeting reviewed an incident in which a plane slid off the runway.
- The City Planning Commission is processing a re-zoning application for First Bank.

Mr. Hiller

- The Township Planning Commission continued its review of accessory-building restrictions.
- No Fire Board meeting. Fire Department is receiving new equipment purchased with donations. Department has received additional donations. Mr. Hiller will prepare a report of donations and corresponding purchases for the Town Board.

Mille Lacs County Request to Rent Garage Space

Mr. Stoeckel reported that officials from Mille Lacs County Public Works have asked to rent space in the Township's garage for two plow trucks for the balance of the snow season. The County's current garage has been damaged, thus requiring emergency storage space while its facility is being repaired.

Mr. Hiller moved to offer the County space for two vehicles at \$1,000 per month with Mr. Stoeckel authorized to present the offer and negotiate the terms. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Hiller moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Dahl
Clerk/Treasurer