

**Princeton Township  
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota**

**Township Board Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

**Minutes**

The May monthly meeting of the Princeton Township Board was called to order by Chairman Gene Stoeckel at 7:00 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:** Mike Bishman, Dan Hiller, Thomas Duden, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb

**Staff present:** Clerk-Treasurer Doug Dahl, Zoning Administrator Scott Richards, Ken Hennen, Terry Pflieger

**Public attendees:** David Knell, Nicole Lundberg, Jere Lundberg, Nancy Moan, Steve Pflieger, Joan Stearns, Craig Wennsman, Tyler Wiemann

**Online attendee:** Todd McLouth, Unidentified

**Approve Agenda**

Mr. Stoeckel asked to add one item to the agenda: he stated that while the 2024 Budget was approved by the voters at the annual town meeting in February, it was not formally approved by the Town Board at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the 2024 Budget. Mr. Hiller seconded. Motion was carried.

**Open Forum**

Tyler Wiemann of 10838 65<sup>th</sup> St. asked that if the application of the Rum River Reger Acres is approved that the Town consider widening his road from 16' to 22', in consideration of his children and the additional traffic that would be caused by this development. He also asked for continued maintenance of that road.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

**April 18 Monthly Meeting:** Mr. Hiller moved to approve the minutes of the April 18 monthly meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

**Clerk-Treasurer Report**

Cash Control Statement—April 30, 2023

General Fund Beginning Balance	\$ 14,156.94
Receipts	\$116,748.49
Disbursements	\$ 11,686.49
Ending Balance	\$119,218.67
Road & Bridge Fund Beginning Balance	\$294,089.86
Receipts	\$ 0.00
Disbursements	\$ 9,178.05
Ending Balance	\$284,911.81
Total Cash Beginning Balance	\$509,566.24
Receipts	\$123,748.22

Disbursements	\$ 21,904.54
Ending Balance	\$611,409.92

ARPA Fund	\$124,159.69
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Mr. Duden moved to approve the Cash Control Statement. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

April Payroll	
Gross	\$ 6,561.50
Net	\$ 5,397.31

Mr. Hiller moved to approve the April Payroll. Mr. Bishman seconded. Motion carried.

Total Claims to Date	\$63,378.21
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Notes:

- Notable claims:
  - Central MN Dust Control \$14,422.00
  - City of Princeton (Fire) \$26,996.00

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the April Claims to Date. Mr. Hiller seconded. Motion carried

- Auditor search:  
The audit process with Burkhardt & Burkhardt has started. Mr. Dahl uploaded several hundred documents to their portal. Paul Burkhardt says staff is beginning to work on the audit process. Mr. Dahl is keeping the State Auditor posted.
- Clerk-Treasurer search update: Mr. Dahl reported that he had received only one application for the clerk-treasurer position, that from Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Terry Pflieghaar.

**Zoning Report**

- **Lundberg Century Farms** – Zoning Administrator Scott Richards offered an application by Nicole Lundberg for a Preliminary/Final Plat for Lundberg Century Farms on 60<sup>th</sup> Street (County Road No. 19). The subdivision consists of moving a portion of the north property line to accommodate the construction of a dwelling. The two properties affected by this plat are owned by the Lundberg family. Mr. Richards introduced Resolution 2023-9 asking that the request by Nicole Lundberg for a preliminary and final plat for Lundberg Century Farms and a Certificate of Survey on 60<sup>th</sup> Street be approved with conditions.  
Mr. Duden moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-9. Mr. Bishman seconded. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll:  
Mr. Bishman-Aye, Mr. Duden-Aye, Mr. Stoeckel-Aye, Mr. Hiller-Aye, Mr. Whitcomb-Aye. Motion Carried Unanimously. Resolution No. 2023-9 is adopted.
- **West Rum Reger Acres** – Zoning Administrator Scott Richards offered an application by Michael Reger for a Preliminary/Final Plat for West Rum Reger Acres at 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue (County Road 149) and 65<sup>th</sup> Street. The proposed subdivision consists of five lots on a total of 84.67 acres. The Planning Commission, at their May 1, 2023 meeting held a public hearing and recommended that this be approved with conditions. Mr. Richards introduced Resolution No. 2023-10 asking that the request by Michael Reger for West Rum Reger Acres be approved.

The Board asked Mr. Richards to rewrite the Resolution, removing the suggestion for a "Children at Play" sign; adding "add 8 inches of gravel to make road 22 feet wide"; adding "developer consults with County on septic". They also asked that the engineer review the area between Ditch 2 and Ditch 3.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-10 with the above changes. Mr. Duden seconded. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll:

Mr. Bishman-Aye, Mr. Duden-Aye, Mr. Stoeckel-Aye, Mr. Hiller-Aye, Mr. Whitcomb-Aye. Motion Carried Unanimously. Resolution No. 2023-10 is adopted.

- **Recreational Vehicles** – Zoning Administrator Scott Richards introduced Ordinance 2023-1 amending Chapter 300 of the Zoning Ordinance as it relates to allowances for recreational vehicles and campgrounds.

At their May meeting, the Planning Commission held a public hearing for consideration of the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, and recommended that they be approved. Mr. Hiller moved to waive the first reading and schedule a second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-1 at the next Town Board meeting. Mr. Whitcomb seconded. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll:

Mr. Bishman-Aye, Mr. Duden-Aye, Mr. Stoeckel-Aye, Mr. Hiller-Aye, Mr. Whitcomb-Aye. Motion Carried Unanimously.

### Old Business

- The final contract details for Helmin Construction and Allied Blacktop were given by Engineer Todd McLouth. Everything discussed at the last meeting has been finalized, with both contracts being amended with modifications to reduce costs. Mr. McLouth is waiting for some final paperwork from Helmin Construction, and that project will start hopefully prior to July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Chip Sealing by Allied Blacktop will start May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- After some discussion, Mr. Bishman moved that the Town award Ron Kadlec (Jeff), of Mora, MN as the 100<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ditch cleaning project contractor. Mr. Whitcomb seconded. Motion carried.
- To be sure the Township is AWAIR compliant, Mr. Duden moved to approve a ladder purchase from Ken Hennen for \$750 total for 3 ladders (one is 300lb capacity, two are 350 lb. capacity). Mr. Hiller seconded. Motion carried.

### New Business

- Mr. Stoeckel moved to appoint Terry Pflieger to the position of Township Clerk-Treasurer starting June 1 at the wage of \$23/hour. Mr. Whitcomb seconded. Motion carried. Ms. Pflieger asked for a budget for a standup desk riser, an ergonomic chair, and her ex-officio notary stamp. Mr. Hiller moved to give her a budget of \$500 for the chair and the desk riser. Mr. Bishman seconded. Motion carried. Ms. Pflieger also stated she would like the board to consider reducing open hours in the future, since several similar townships have very few or no open hours, and this would give her time to work on projects uninterrupted. She is keeping track of telephone calls and office visits for future analysis.
- Mr. Hiller moved to approve a Special event permit and temporary liquor license permit for Darcy Rylander—Rum River Trails, Outlaw Grassdrags. Mr. Bishman seconded. Motion carried.
- The Board discussed the vacant lot east of Long Siding Station, north of County Road 13. It appears to have no ownership, and could perhaps be used for hosting Clean-Up Day.

### Supervisor Reports

#### **Chairman's Report—Gene Stoeckel**

- Mr. Stoeckel and Mr. Bishman attended the MLCAT meeting.
- The MLCAT is willing to host a page for the Township on their County website.
- The final decision for the Tribal suit will be next spring.
- Sheriff's report: Kathio Township had the most police calls last year. Princeton township had 784.
- We need to review our ordinances on short-term rentals and junk ordinance: will contact Greenbush on how they handle cleanup if offenders don't respond to a letter.
- Andy Backstrom is conducting a Safety Hazard Mitigation the Town Board may consider.
- County Soil and Water had a program where they will ID every culvert in the township.

#### **Airport Commission Liaison—Gene Stoeckel**

- The Airport is completing the AWAS relocation for MNDOT Avionics.
- They are replacing the beacon.
- There is a Fly-In Brunch at the Airport on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **City Planning Commission Liaison—Gene Stoeckel**

- New apartments are going in across from public safety building.
- The City denied a self-storage proposal on Hwy 169.
- Mr. Hiller stated that the City of Princeton is allowing several apartment buildings and may want a ladder truck. They should finance it since they are allowing all the apartment buildings.

#### **Township Planning Commission Liaison—Mike Bishman**

- Mr. Bishman stated that Mr. Richards already discussed most of it.

#### **Noxious Weeds**

- Mr. Duden had to make an animal neglect call to the Sheriff's department this month. They contacted the Humane Society.
- He also stated there is a noxious weeds meeting this month.
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#### **Road report—Bill Whitcomb**

- Resident requests for spring and fall dust-control applications: the Township charges residents township cost for this service (\$0.48/lineal foot, length x 18 feet wide @ a .20 app. Rate). Consider advertising this in the 2024 Township Newsletter with a minimum length TBD. Central Minnesota Dust Control charges the Township, and three residents will be sending checks to the Township for this requested service.
- The first application of chloride has been applied.
- Most of the township were graded a second time in the past month.
- Some gravelling has been completed.
- Six to seven loads of rock will be mixed in to fix several soft spots.
- Spray patching starts May 17<sup>th</sup>. Will do one 7-ton truck at this time.
- Work on 40<sup>th</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> streets start July 10<sup>th</sup>, to end August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Removal of the extra sign bases to be completed this summer.

#### **Adjourn**

Mr. Whitcomb moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hiller seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Levy L. Pflieger".

Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Board June 20, 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eugene Stoeckel".

Eugene Stoeckel, Chairman

