

**Princeton Township
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota**

Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Minutes

The June 18th monthly meeting of the Princeton Township Board was called to order by Chairman Gene Stoeckel at 7:10 p.m. Supervisors attended the meeting in person at Township Hall.

Supervisors present: Dan Hiller, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb, Mike Bishman

Supervisor absent: Thomas Duden

Staff present: Clerk/Treasurer Tandra Langfeld, Doug Dahl, Ken Henchen, Zoning Administrator Scott Richards

Public attendees:

Kathy Stoeckel, Chris Dahn, Joel Minks, Mike Steinbrink, Jim Goetsch, Joss Jondahl, Jason Betzler

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Stoeckel added Town Law center and Annexation proceedings to be added under New Business. A clean up resolution pertaining to 5742 Aspen Road. That will be put under Old Business. Mr. Stoeckel asked if there was any objection to adding those items to the agenda. There were no objections. They were accepted as added.

Open Forum

Joel Minks thought Mr. Hiller had a good idea about mounting the AED outside so the public can use it. He thought we should have one of our security cameras on it in case there was a problem. Clerk Langfeld commented that the AED had already been purchased and was here and she didn't think the cabinet was for outside use. Mr. Minks said it was just something to research.

Approve Meeting Minutes- May 21st meeting:

Mr. Hiller motioned to approve the May 21st meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Cash Control Statement-May 31, 2024

General Fund Beginning Balance	\$299,195.94
Receipts	\$13,766.19
Disbursements	\$51,799.27
Ending Balance	\$261,162.86

Road and Bridge Fund Beginning Balance	\$142,009.49
Receipts	\$38,870.58
Disbursements	\$78,728.83
Ending Balance	\$102,151.24

Total Cash Beginning Balance	\$394,786.12
Receipts	\$22,575.25
Disbursements	\$100,517.04
Ending Balance	\$359,352.02

May Payroll

Planning Commission Payroll

Gross	\$750.00
Net	\$692.64

Gross	\$6,207.50
Net	\$5,192.14

May Total Claims	\$16,096.01
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Mr. Hiller motioned to accept the Cash Control Statement, May Payroll and Claims, Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

Mr. Dahl reported that we are continuing to work on the Audit. Last month the Board approved a second engagement with Burkhardt & Burkhardt. They requested bank statements from all of last year through May of this year and also check copies for that period. The bank account needs to be reconciled before moving into the Audit. When Mr. Dahl was reviewing the bank account by February it was severely off. Mr. Dahl reviewed the statements and discovered that several payments through the statements that had not been recorded in CTAS. Mr. Dahl corrected most of that. There were wages that were paid that were not entered in CTAS. That may require some interaction with the IRS about withholding as explained by CTAS support. Most of the payments that were made we have been able to put them into the accounting system and that brings it closer to reconciliation. We have been granted an extension on the Audit to August 1st. There was a payment made to the IRS with no payroll to support it. Mr. Dahl did quarterly's for the last Quarter of last year and had already withheld for this year he had to go back and correct that and at that time requested a refund from the IRS . That was explained to the Auditor, and they agreed that was the right thing to do. That refund came today.

Clerk Langfeld reported that the AED was here.

New Business

- **Town Law Center**

A letter was received from Township Attorney Kennedy and Graven that Jason Hill was leaving the law firm and starting his own business. The township could stay with them or go with Town Law Center PPLP. Mr. Stoeckel suggested staying with Jason Hill and his new Law Firm. Mr. Hiller asked if they would be billing the same as Kennedy and Graven. Mr. Whitcomb reported that Jason had told him it would be the same as

Kennedy and Graven. Mr. Hiller was concerned about doing that without anything in writing for what the Township would be billed. Mr. Hiller suggested staying with Kennedy and Graven until this fall and then send out RFP' s. Mr. Whitcomb motioned to continue with Kennedy and Graven and transfer some files to Jason Hills new firm but continue to work with Kennedy and Graven. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion Carried.

- **City Annexation of Pontious Property**

Mr. Stoeckel attended the meeting and Hand delivered a letter from the Township Attorney. The letter questioned the City of Princeton's claim that the Cities property abuts the said property. Mr. Stoeckel read the letter at the City of Princeton meeting. They tabled it.

- **Special Event permit for August 23rd & 24th vintage snowmobile swap meet**

- **Special Event permit for September 27th & 28th Snowmobile race & Swap meet.**

Mr. Bishman motioned to approve both permits. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

- **Approve applications for Minnesota Paving & Materials**

Discussion: Mr. Whitcomb reported we can approve the payments, but we cannot pay them until the contractor fills out the IC 144 forms per Todd McLouth with Loucks. Clerk Langfeld reported that per Todd McLouth we are approving the applications.

Mr. Hiller Motioned to approve the applications. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

Old Business

- **Revisit Old Ford for sale**

Mr. Stoeckel spoke with Attorney Jason Hill about the sale of the Ford decided in the previous month. Since then, a few people have heard about it said it would be better if we put it on an open auction and take what we get for it and we would deal with the fireproof cabinet separately.

Mr. Hiller could get ahold of Hansen Auction to see if they would auction it off without a Title. The sale would include the plow. Tabled until next month.

- **Culvert on 80th Ave and 67th Street**

Discussion: Resident Joel Minks reported that the culvert was too short and the shoulders on the road drop off. He went out and cleared out all the weeds and he found out that when they put the new culvert in which was 40 years ago, the new culvert was placed on top of the old culvert. Instead of digging it out they put six inches of dirt over it and put the new one on top of it. What that did was raise the elevation of the drainage by 2 feet. Both culverts are shot. It is his opinion that both culverts should be replaced at the original elevation of the first one. Mr. Whitcomb reported that project will not be done this year.

- **Clean-up resolution pertaining to 5742 Aspen Road.**

Mr. Whitcomb motioned to authorize Resolution 2024-9 and enforcement action regarding the property located at 5742 Aspen Road. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Roll Call: Mr. Bishman- Yes, Mr. Hiller- Yes, Mr. Whitcomb – Yes, Mr. Stoeckel – Yes. Motion is carried 4 to 0.

Zoning Report

Request for Conditional Use Permit from North Country Storage, Kinsella Properties has made this application. Requesting Storage buildings in Section 6 between Highway 168 and 100th Avenue south of 70th Street to be approved with conditions. Mr. Richards reported the Planning Commission held a public hearing; they recommended approval with conditions that you see in Resolution No. 2024-8.

Mr. Hiller motioned to approve Resolution No. 2024-8. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Roll Call: Mr. Bishman-Yes, Mr. Hiller-Yes, Mr. Whitcomb-Yes, Mr. Stoeckel Yes. Motion carried

Sign ordinance amendments: Ordinance # 2024-2

Mr. Richards wanted to note that if there is an order to remove a sign that you allow him to just go ahead and send a letter. The way the Ordinance is written right now Mr. Richards would have to go to the Town Board to have them authorize him to write a letter. That change was made in the ordinance.

Mr. Whitcomb motioned to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2024-2 and schedule a second reading for July 16, 2024, meeting to amend the Zoning Ordinance related to the sign ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richards reported on the property of Gary Jenson with the abandoned vehicles and house falling in. He was sent a letter; he is approaching his 30 days. He called and said he would be taking the 2 abandoned vehicles out on Friday, and he has a contractor lined up to start working on taking the house down.

Mr. Richards reported he spoke with Ron Gensler. He has had an issue with the neighbor with the barking dog. He was concerned about 3 properties on the east side of Aspen Road have Roosters. Mr. Richards asked the Board if they wanted him to send letters to the property owners saying that they are in violation of that ordinance. One property owner claims they have had their rooster prior to the change in the ordinance and it should be grandfathered in. Mr. Whitcomb moved to send them letters. Seconded by Mr. Stoeckel. Motion carried

Road Report

Mr. Whitcomb reported they are done with graveling. The first application of dust control was completed last week. There were several complaints of people wanting it done earlier but there was so much rain. Roadside mowing: First mowing is completed. Brush removal is ongoing. Crack filling and chip sealing has not been started yet.

Shared road agreements: Mr. Whitcomb reported on the June 4th Mille Lacs County Board meeting that Mr. Stoeckel and himself attended. The Mille Lacs County Public Utilities and County Engineer in conjunction with the Isanti County Engineer recommended to do 50/50 right down the middle that would give Princeton Township 2 ½ of blacktop and Wynette Township would have 2 miles of gravel and ½ mile of blacktop. Mr. Whitcomb and Mr. Stoeckel pointed out the inequity in the cost to maintain that. A motion was made and unanimously carried to encourage the townships to engage in mediation for a resolution.

Mr. Hiller suggested bringing them some numbers on how much it has cost to maintain look at their numbers if they provide any. If nothing moves forward for an equitable agreement.

There are a few trees that are kind of big and would like to ask Tom Lundeen if he can get those. Pothole patch was put out by the Moonshine Bar. A to Z is starting to spread out again.

Fire Board Liaison

Next fire Board meeting not until July. The City of Princeton did approve the hiring of a new Fire chief. He still must pass a background check and a physic evaluation. He will be moving to the area.

Airport Commission

July 1st meeting

Township Planning Commission

Mr. Bishman reported they was discussion the storage sheds

Other Business

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tandra Langfeld
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by the Town Board July 17,2024

Eugene Stoeckel, Chairman