

The August Regular Board Meeting minutes were approved on September 9, 2020

MARCELL TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 12, 2020, at 6:00 PM

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Diane Coppens.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present– Chair-Diane Coppens, Supervisor- Sandy Lyytinen, Supervisor- Karen Senger, Treasurer- Dennis Korte, and Clerk-Tracy Chase

Others in Attendance- Tim Hagen, Domanick David, Rob Sjostrand, Terry Snyder, Clif Block, Carrie Johnson, Brian Johnson, and Chuck Ogee

Itasca Business Relief- Grant Program- Rob Sjostrand, Business Consultant with IEDC, discussed two grant programs- the 2020 Itasca Business Relief Fund and the 2020 Itasca Logger Relief Fund. Monies, given to these programs, were made available through Itasca County. The grants are available to area businesses and loggers to help offset the challenges they have faced due to COVID-19. There is 1.5 million dollars available to businesses and \$300,000 available to loggers. These dollars do not have to be repaid.

Center Point Road- Several Center Point Road residents were in attendance to discuss the issues being faced by people traveling too fast on the road. The road is very narrow (one-lane road) and does not accommodate high speeds. After much discussion, the residents will look at purchasing a speed sign and placing it on the Chuck Ogee property. Terry Snyder, County Commissioner, suggested the residents sit down with the Itasca County Sheriff to discuss the road, driver's, and safety. Terry will also reach out to Karen Grandia, Itasca County Highway Engineer, and have her connect with Diane regarding the road. Once Diane has talked with Karen, she will contact Carrie Johnson to discuss the conversation.

Little Turtle Access- The Little Turtle Access was discussed. The board's decision regarding this piece of property was to maintain status quo. The board does not have any intention, currently, to sell this parcel.

Terry Snyder, Itasca County Commissioner, gave an update on what is happening in the area. Marcell Township is eligible, through the CARES Act, for a grant. He gave additional information regarding the grant programs being administered by IEDC. There is a grant for non-profits to tap into in the amount of \$300,000. If the local townships, cities, etc. do not use all their CARES Act dollars, the County will be able to tap into the monies. If the County cannot spend all the CARES Act dollars, the State will be able to tap into the monies. Motion by Diane Coppens and seconded by Karen Senger to allow Tracy to fill out the CARES Act application and submit it. MCU- 3-0. The Department of Corrections (DOC) will be closing their facilities in Togo and Willow River. Terry and Commissioner DeNucci had a conference call with the DOC Commissioner to see if this action could be halted. Having Togo close will lose many jobs for the area. However, at this time, the DOC Commissioner had no intention of changing the action. The commissioners are working on the budget.

July 8, 2020, Regular Board Minutes – Motion to accept the July 8, 2020, minutes was made by Karen Senger and Sandy Lyytinen seconded the motion. MCU- 3-0.

Treasurer's Report -July 31, 2020, reconciled bank balance was \$725,169.68 with no checks outstanding. Dennis gave a breakdown of the fund balances. Regarding the CD's, two will be up for renewal mid-September. Dennis will renew one CD for 24 months and the other CD for 36 months.

Approve & Pay Bills – Motion by Diane Coppens to approve and pay bills with General Checking Acct check numbers 8539 to 8556. Karen Senger seconded the motion. MCU- 3-0. Payroll- \$2,641.22 and Claims- \$21,620.25.

Road Report- T & T had two rounds of regular grading. There continues to be extra grading on the Becker Road due to the high usage. Little Ranier Road and Northwind Road received additional work. T & T have started mowing the sides of the road. Due to storm damage, there was quite a bit of clean-up that was done. The next project will be the West Johnson Lake Road. There needs to be gravel and a culvert placed.

Park Report- Six park benches have been stained, as well as the playground equipment. The Monkey Bars will need to be replaced in a few years. Domanick has also put up the signs, fixed the metal roof, dealt with hornets, and emptied garbage. Karen will contact Keller Fence to see about the tennis court fence. Dennis will see if he can find any railroad ties.

Hall Report- No updates

Cemetery Report- Bruce Ramstad and Dennis met Ronette at the cemetery and staked the corners of the plots. Sandy and Dennis looked at the tree situation. If 9 trees are removed, the cemetery will gain 168 sites. A discussion took place regarding who to get to remove the trees, grind the stumps, and clean up the area. Sandy will check into this. Dave and Ronette picked up the new fencing.

Old Business –

Community Garden- Diane handed out an application agreement for the Community Garden. Discussion took place. Diane will reach out to Steve Lowney, Keisler Wellness Center, about raised beds. She contacted Blackduck Co-op regarding fencing and posts and talked with Tim Johnson regarding grants/funding. At this time, there are eight people involved in the garden with more showing interest. Motion by Karen Senger and seconded by Sandy Lyytinen to give \$2,000.00 from the General Fund to the Community Garden Fund and to have Diane reach out to Tim Johnson regarding grants. MCU- 3-0.

Elections- Forty-eight people came to the polls to vote. There were twenty-six absentee ballot voters. For a Primary, the turn-out was wonderful. Two new people registered to vote. We have a total of 333 registered voters now.

New Business-

Community Facebook Notices- Tim Johnson emailed the township letting them know that the township could post community events/ announcements on the Living in the Edge Facebook page.

District 11 Meeting & Election Notice- The District 11 Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 26th.

Committee Reports –

There were no committee reports to give.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM was made by Diane Coppens and Sandy Lyytinen seconded the motion. MCU- 3-0.

Chairperson

Date

Clerk

Date