

Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - December 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chairman, John Wesely. Others present were Supervisors, Pete Steen & Heidi Kroening, Treasurer, Ron Mossberg, and Clerk, Scott Danelski.

CLERK'S REPORT :

The Clerk's November 2019 report was read. Motion made by Steen, second by Kroening to approve the Clerk's November 2019 report as submitted. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

TREASURER'S REPORT :

Treasurer's November financial report was read. Motion by Steen, seconded by Wesely to approve the Treasurer's November 2019 financial report as submitted. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

PUBLIC INPUT :

None.

OLD BUSINESS :

STURGEON ISLAND BRIDGE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE :

Nothing new to report.

ISLAND LAKE BOX CULVERT :

Tabled until a later meeting.

HIGH-WATER LEVEL ISSUES :

The high-water levels of Windemere Township lakes were discussed. The Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 6 PM to discuss the topic. State Senator Jason Rarick, Minnesota State Representative Mike Sundin, Pine County Board of Soil & Water, Pine County, and the DNR to have been invited to the meeting to discuss the high-water problems and try to find both a short-term and long-term solution to help alleviate the high-water issues.

HARMONY LANE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (TP 19-01) :

The Harmony Lane Improvement Project was discussed. The Board requested Pine County Engineer, Mark LeBrun, to inspect the final plans and the engineers estimated cost for the project. The County Engineer recommended placing the project out for bid. The Board then requested Erickson Engineering to let the Harmony Lane Improvement Project (TP 19-01) out for sealed bids.

PALON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (TP 17-01) :

The Palon Road Improvement Project (TP 17-01) was discussed. The Board will set a special meeting with the township attorney to discuss the next steps that need to be taken to address the good-faith disputes with vendors, Casper Construction and Erickson Engineering, after the township inspection of the Palon Road Improvement Project (TP 17-01) identified areas of the project that were not completed to final plan specifications. Chairman Wesley to contact the township attorney about setting up a meeting.

2020 WINDEMERE TOWNSHIP BUDGET :

The 2020 Windemere Township budget was discussed. The Board held a second special meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 to discuss the township's 2020 budget. It was determined that some of the 2020 capital projects and also some future capital projects are expected to cost more than what were originally estimated in the 2019 budget. Due to the unexpected increase in capital costs for 2020, the Town Board is recommending setting the 2021 levy at \$500,000.00, a 25% increase over the \$400,000.00 2020 levy set by the electorate at the 2019 Annual Meeting held March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Motion by Steen, seconded by Wesely to set the proposed Windemere Township Budget at \$1,064,210.00. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

NEW BUSINESS :

MOOSE LAKE WINDEMERE SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT (MLWSSD) :

The expiring Windemere township member term on the Moose Lake Windemere Sanitary Sewer District (MLWSSD) was discussed. Motion by Wesely, seconded by Kroening to re-appoint Henry Gretsfield to the Moose Lake Windemere Sanitary Sewer District (MLWSSD) as a Windemere township member for a term which will expire on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

PLATTING WINDEMERE TOWNSHIP ROADS :

The surveying and platting of Windemere township roads were discussed. Supervisor Steen requested a proposal from Ben Anderson of Straightline Surveying for costs to survey, plat, and record Windemere township roads. The township also prioritized a list of township roads to be surveyed which all recently have had funds spent on them in capital improvements. Township roads on the priority list are: Palon Road, Birchview Road, Island Lake Road, Twilight Lane, Warloe Road, Parkview Drive, Majestic Pine Drive, and Rush Blvd.

CHARITABLE GAMBLING APPLICATION :

A charitable gambling application was discussed. Motion by Steen, seconded by Wesely to approve gambling application LG240B (Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo) for the organization Kiwanis Club of Moose Lake which will be held at YMCA Camp Miller on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

CONTRACT DISCREPANCIES & WAGES :

Road Maintenance Employee Mike Buetow was present to discuss the topic, contract discrepancies and wages. Buetow also requested the Board to hold a special-closed meeting with the Town Board, Clerk, Treasurer, and the Road Maintenance Employees to further discuss the topic. It was later determined that the meeting could not be a closed meeting and a special open meeting was scheduled for Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 6:15 PM.

LEGAL PAPERWORK :

Road Maintenance Employee Mike Buetow was present and requested Chairman Wesely to contact attorney Flaherty & Hood, P.A. and request all of the documents and legal paperwork pertaining to his investigation and leave of absence. Chairman Wesely will contact Flaherty & Hood for the documents.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OTHER :

A special-closed meeting for union negotiations strategy was set for Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 6 PM.

ROAD UPDATE :

Road Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Buetow gave the monthly road update. The Maintenance Department has been busy with snow removal due to recent heavy snowfall and the township 2005 International plow truck needed some repairs made on the hydraulics that run the wing plow.

ZONING UPDATE :

Zoning Administrator, Phill White gave the monthly zoning update. The Zoning Department handled 16 contacts with questions and issued 2 permits since last month for a total 77 permits issued thus far for 2019. Supervisor, Kroening to contact Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P. regarding the zoning violation which is a conflict of interest for the township attorney to handle.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

The 2020 meeting schedule will be posted at a later date.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

No update this month, Chairman Wesely unable to attend the last Fire District meeting.

CLAIMS :

November 2019 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Steen, seconded Kroening to approve the November 2019 claims as submitted. EFTs – 19-32 through 19-34, Checks - 12469 through 12492 & Direct Deposits - 1201 through 1206 for a total of \$75,697.24. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

Township mail was opened and reviewed.

Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Steen to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Motion passed, 3 Aye – 0 Nay.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Scott Danelski

Chairman, John Wesely