

COTTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the township office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor Will Deyo, Supervisor Ken Meinke, Supervisor Jamie Bowden, Treasurer Debbie Leppala and Clerk Sandi Nelson. Resident and guest present were Jean Magney and Ann Kieffaber.

The clerk read the minutes. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to accept the September 15th meeting minutes as read. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The treasurer presented the cash control statement.

GENERAL FUND: receipts \$100.00; disbursements \$3,515.94; total \$3,447.99
NON-LEVY REVENUE: receipts \$1,412.23; disbursements \$0; total \$76,833.95
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: receipts \$250.00; disbursements \$4,201.50; total (\$-1,735.64)
CHRONICLE FUND receipts \$458.00; disbursements \$1,232.42; total \$9,078.19
CEMETERY\OLD FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$219.58; total \$6,859.12
CEMETERY\NEW FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$11,417.23
PARKS & REC FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$698.98; total \$7,711.45
FIRE FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$22.33; total \$7,524.07
FIRE TRUCK FUND: receipts \$56.14; disbursements \$0; total \$4,910.86
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: receipts \$80.00; disbursements \$0; total \$11,813.35
TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$2,356.37
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$9,890.75
BALANCE ON HAND: 9/30/09 \$137,860.57

INVESTMENTS: CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS

NON-LEVY REVENUE FUND: CD current value \$28,408.48

Jamie Bowden motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Treasurer presented the claims list. Discussed Rodda Grading hours, township roads and gravel. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to approve and sign the claims list for claim #14335 through #14365 and debit #1009-1 claims totaling \$16,856.20 and approve debit 1009-2 to pay the Bills For Payment. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

S. Strand Lake Road: Ann Kieffaber would like to wait to see if the VP of the fire dept. arrives before she discusses the dry hydrant. Bob Rodda called the office and requested gravel on S. Strand Lake Road where the stop sign was replaced. Jean Magney stated that the road is very wash-boardy and all sorts of circles from 4-wheelers making it very rough. It was suggested to call the DNR conservation officers or St. Louis County Sheriff's Dept. Call Tracy Excavating to drop gravel on S. Strand Lake road and ask what it would cost to move the class 5 gravel.

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Cotton Town Dump Project: Will Deyo stopped at Coldwell Banker Properties in Virginia and talked to Don Underhill regarding a market analysis and Underhill needs the parcel code number for the property. Clerk gave the parcel code number to Deyo and he will contact Underhill. The Board approved the updated letter to DEED – Brownsfields and Redevelopment Unit regarding the challenges in these economic conditions in developing the land in the grant project.

Lakeland Recreation: Debbie Leppala contacted Petersen Well Drilling but they could not give a cost to install a shutoff valve because it would require an electrician besides Petersen's. Leppala talked to Helander regarding draining the line and he says he plans on being in the building. Ken Meinke motioned supported by Will Deyo to have Petersen Well Drilling and an electrician come in and locate the water line and put in a shutoff valve. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk presented an update of state and county funds received to-date.

Have not heard back from the U.S. Postal Service regarding the Post Office lease.

CONTINUUM

Community Center: Debbie Leppala requested the floors in the hall be professionally stripped and waxed. The ice rink has been leveled and plastic attached to the sides. The ice rink should hold the water much better this year. Now that the rink has been worked on the Board would like to be notified before any sand would be placed in the rink for volleyball. Leppala will put out applications for rink attendants. Leppala will pick up new netting for the hockey goals.

Roads: Discussed S. Strand Lake washouts again. Ann Kieffaber suggested seeding, matting or rock on the sides where the washouts are occurring. Kieffaber also suggest if the town is placing a load of gravel where the new stop sign is located perhaps a second load could be placed down from the pit where it is sandy. Clerk will call Bryan Tracy and have him call Ken Meinke.

Meetings: St. Louis Cty. Assoc. of Township Officers Meeting – Will Deyo, Ken Meinke, Debbie Leppala, and Sandi Nelson. MN Assoc. of Townships District 10 Meeting – Ken Meinke, Jamie Bowden, and Sandi Nelson.

Ann Kieffaber gave an update on information gathered on dry hydrants and underground tanks for S. Strand Lake road. Jean Magney and Ann Kieffaber met with Les Miller, MN DNR; Ken Meinke, Cotton Town Board; and Bob Skafte, Cotton Fire Dept. on September 29, 2009 to visit sites for possible dry hydrant or water storage tank placement. Cotton Fire Dept. and the DNR preferred having lake access providing unlimited water and the preferred site of the three was Lot 2 Jingwak Beach First Addition if there was an access. The road to Lot 2 has some challenges such as it is a private road and is too narrow for the county to plow at this time, it would need a turn-around at the end and all property owners would need to agree on an easement. Ann Kieffaber presented two letters for the town board chair, Will Deyo, to sign to Keith Nelson, St. Louis County Commissioner and Craig Engwall MN DNR. There was much discussion on the letters. Jamie Bowden will edit the letters for the town board to be able to give support of this project.

NEW BUSINESS

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RESOLUTION # 09-63

SUPPORT OF MnDOT J-TURNS

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one-fifth of America’s population resides in rural areas, yet three-fifths or more of all traffic fatalities and serious injuries occur in rural areas; and WHEREAS, the U. S. Congress directed State highway departments to develop strategic highway safety plans to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) hired CH2M Hill to perform a Safety Audit on Trunk Highway (TH) 53/County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 52 intersection in Cotton, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, data presented in the audit stated with 15 crashes in 6 years, the intersection in Cotton is clearly the most at-risk intersection in this segment of TH 53. As a high percentage of the crashes were “right-angle” collisions in which drivers stopped on CSAH 52 and pulled out in front of vehicles on TH 53 the improvement strategy suggested implementing geometric revisions that would create indirect turns (J-Turn) which have been 80-90% effective; and

WHEREAS, the J-Turn solution is a new federal safety standard, would be the first such intersection in Minnesota and MnDOT presented this project to U.S. Representative Jim Oberstar, chair of the House transportation committee; and

WHEREAS, MnDOT proposes to improve the TH 53/CSAH 52 intersection through the use and construction of J-Turn geometric design features with funding approved and scheduled for March of 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cotton Town Board of Supervisors approves and supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s use of J-Turn geometric design features for improvement of TH 53/CSAH 52 intersection.

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to adopt and sign resolution #09-63 Support of MnDOT J-Turns. A copy will be sent to Robert Egge, MnDOT. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Will Deyo not to sign the resolution in support of ISD #2142 restructuring plan. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Registration for the 2009 MN Association of Townships Educational Conference & Annual Meeting November 19-21, 2009 in Rochester, MN. There will be a bus going to Rochester. Debbie Leppala and Sandi Nelson confirmed they would like to attend; Jamie Bowden will have to check her calendar; Ken Meinke and Will Deyo are unable to attend.

Clerk gave the supervisors information concerning wages.

As there was no further business, Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Will Deyo that the meeting be adjourned at 7:48 p.m. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk

Approved:

Town Chair

Date