

COTTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. in the township office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor Terry Nelson, Supervisor Will Deyo, Supervisor Ken Meinke, Treasurer Debbie Leppala and Clerk Sandi Nelson. Residents and guest present were Jean Magney, Sally Meinke, Jeff and Jamie Bowden, and Ann Kieffabler.

The clerk read the minutes. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to accept the February 12th meeting minutes with corrections 1) Ulland Brothers have not heard anything regarding their bid for the work on Hwy 52 and 2) a combination smoke-carbon monoxide detector will be purchased. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The treasurer presented the cash control statement.

GENERAL FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$5,246.07; total \$8,088.33
NON-LEVY REVENUE: receipts \$10,266.81; disbursements \$50,262.54; total \$81,755.56
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$295.00; total \$8,619.66
CHRONICLE FUND receipts \$1,148.80; disbursements \$1,147.93; total \$11,549.25
CEMETERY\OLD FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$7,072.48
CEMETERY\NEW FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$11,417.23
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$220.18; total \$2,164.31
PARKS & REC FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$467.33; total \$4,828.40
FIRE FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$7,262.05
FIRE TRUCK FUND: receipts \$33.69; disbursements \$0; total \$19,554.18
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: receipts \$50.00; disbursements \$39.20; total \$8,952.36
CPSSD FUND: receipts \$50,246.74; disbursements \$0; total \$0
TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$61,746.04
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$57,678.25
BALANCE ON HAND: 2/28/09 \$171,263.81

INVESTMENTS: CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS

NON-LEVY REVENUE FUND: CD current value \$28,036.79
FIRE TRUCK FUND: CD current value \$25,793.86
TOTAL INVESTMENTS: CD's current value \$53,830.65

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

The Treasurer presented the claims list. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to approve and sign the claims list for claim #14101 through #14125 and debit #309-1, claims totaling \$5,685.06 and debit #309-2 to pay the Bills For Payment. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

Jean Magney talked to Jason Meyer, St. Louis Cty. Land Dept. and he has no objection to a sign being placed on S. Strand Lake road so Jean made up what may be an acceptable sign: "SNOWMOBILERS AND ATV's Please do not ride on shoulders of the road, as doing so will

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destroy erosion control mats and new plantings” and a notice put in the next issue of the Chronicle. Ken Meinke also spoke to Jason Meyer and Jason said go ahead and put up your sign. The county was not going to pay for the sign or put it up so it would be up to the township to do it. The township will have to call and get a price for the signs and check on the regulations. Will Deyo stated he is opposed to this because it is saying to take the ATV’s and snowmobiles on the road and that is an unnecessary liability. There was much discussion. Another suggested sign: “Keep Off Erosion Mats and New Seeding”. The Board will contact the MAT attorney regarding putting up signage. Terry Nelson will contact the county on sign regulations and costs.

Jean Magney would like to strongly suggest that Lowell Lund not be an election judge because Pat Meyer is running as a write-in.

CONTINUUM

Community Center: The contractor is set-up for the first week in April and the insulators are coming in the second week in April. The old rolled insulation can be put in garbage bags and Norland Sanitary will take them. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Ken Meinke that senior citizen residents get the rental for a Birthday party for \$25. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. **ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Roads: Still have not heard anything from Ulland Bros. A culvert on S. Strand Lake road is frozen between # 8619 and 8699. The township must contact the county to steam the culvert.

Rink: Leppala said she is getting information together for the annual meeting showing the cost of keeping the ice rink open for the past two years. Someone was on the rink with a car.

Meetings: Discussed the MAT Short Course in Grand Rapids and Tower. Deyo and Leppala plan to go to Grand Rapids. Meinke and Sandi Nelson plan to go to Tower. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Will Deyo to approve a check for the MAT Short Course. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. **ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.** Andy Plesha, Cotton local assessor, will be attending the April town board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A new township fund was created by the State 2008 legislature for townships in the taconite relief area. The Taconite Municipal Aid for the township fund will be paid in two checks in 2009.

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to approve check #14126 for \$1,500 to the Meadowslands Ambulance. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. **ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to donate the hall use for a May 3, 2009 benefit for Ed and Loretta Janzen after the loss of their home in a fire. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. **ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

A Local Board of Appeal and Equalization training will be held March 18, 2009 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Cotton Community Center. Cotton Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting is set for May 6, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

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Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to continue the MN Benefit Assoc. Group Life Insurance and issue check number #14127 for \$405. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussed the U. S. Census Bureau Complete Count Committee Guide packet.

Discussed the annual township election and meeting. At this time there is a snow storm warning for March 10th. If the polls are opened they must remain open until the 8:00 p.m. closing. The clerk is to poll the supervisors regarding the cancelation of the election and meeting if the weather gets bad. Suggested that if there is a cancelation, a phone campaign to residents could be done.

Debbie Leppala had a request for breakdown of annual wages for hours, meetings, education and travel for the clerk and treasurer. According to the Privacy Data Act all the township is obligated to give is the annual gross income. The annual income, travel and education spent are on the annual report, how much time would the Board like the treasurer to spend to put the added information together. Jean Magney feels if the decision is to make these positions, appointed positions, the electors should know what they are paying for and any benefits and if wages will go up.

MnDOT public meeting to discuss the Cotton intersection will be March 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cotton Community Center.

As there was no further business, Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Will Deyo that the meeting be adjourned at 4:23 p.m. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk

Approved:

Town Chair

Date