

**BIRCHDALE TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, August 29, 2017 – 8:00 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Chair Jim Carstens called to order the regular meeting of the Birchdale Township Board at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at the Birchdale Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Supervisors Dale Ahrens, Jim Carstens, Arnie Berscheid, Marc Brinkmann, Larry Bebus, Treasurer Marlene VanHavermaet and Clerk Jackie Bauer. Also in attendance were Erv Herdering.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Bebus, and unanimously carried to approve the July 25, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes as amended.

**4. Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer VanHavermaet presented the July Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Supervisor Brinkman, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens, and unanimously carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

- a. Possible transferring balance in Township Savings Account to an investment – Treasurer VanHavermaet and Clerk Bauer have recommended that the amount that is in the Township Savings Account be moved to an investment account. The current balance is \$100,009.52. These funds had been transferred to a savings account so that they were accessible for the township to use for the repair of Angler Drive when it was damaged in flooding and before the funds were reimbursed by FEMA. All funds have now been collected from FEMA and we may be able to earn more interest by moving the funds into an investment account. Supervisor Brinkman asked if it would be a much higher rate and Treasurer VanHavermaet stated that no, it would not but it would still be higher than a savings account rate. A motion was made by Supervisor Carstens, seconded by Supervisor Bebus, and unanimously carried to move the current balance from the Township Savings Account into an Investment Account earning a higher rate for one year.

## **5. Approval of Bills**

Next presented was the list of bills for the month of August to be considered for payment. It was noticed that the brush cutting vendor, Cutting Edge Tree Service, charged \$140.00 per hour on his invoice however his quote was for \$60.00 per hour. Clerk Bauer will contact him to inform him that we can only pay the \$60.00 per hour rate and will need to make this change and pay the invoice at the September meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Brinkman, seconded by Supervisor Berscheid and unanimously carried to approve payment of the bills (except for the Cutting Edge Tree Service LLC invoice) in the amount of \$29,345.32 (See attached list of bills).

## **6. Resident's Comments**

- a. None.

## **7. Reports/Requests/Presentations**

- a. Birchwood Loop and Birchwood Drive – At last month's meeting, residents who live along Birchwood Loop and Birchwood Drive attended the meeting with concerns that the owner of Birchwood Resort had installed natural speed bumps along the road (which he owns). During the winter months, he closes the resort and leaves. But the residents who live along this road stay year-round and have the road plowed. They are concerned that these speed bumps will make it difficult for the plower. Super Ahrens did view the road and the speed bumps are there however these are not township roads so that township would not be involved. The residents will have to work together to resolve this issue.

## **8. Township Road Report –**

- a. Supervisor Berscheid was contacted by Resident Ryan Dolenz who stated that the culvert on 275<sup>th</sup> Avenue is not working correctly. The west end of the culvert is tipped up and the water which runs from east to west is collecting in the ditch. Supervisor Berscheid and Mr Herdering will view this culvert and Mr. Herdering will repair the culvert if needed.
- b. Supervisor Berscheid brought up the vendor for our brush cutting, Cutting Edge Tree Service. He stated that although the work was done in Birchdale, Grey Eagle Township was having trouble with this company completing the work but still billing the township. They are not paying the invoice and have asked the company to attend their next meeting. The work in Birchdale was completed but the wrong rate was charged. A note will be made in the brush cutting file regarding this vendor.

- c. The Supervisors felt that ditch mowing could be done again. They asked that Clerk Bauer contact Leland Bucholz, our vendor for ditch mowing, and ask him to make 2 passes again after September 15<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Bauer will do this.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

- a. Morning View Addition/Johnson BBL Legacy Preliminary Plat – Supervisor Carstens gave an update on the Morning View Addition/Johnson BBL Legacy Preliminary Plat. The residents are pursuing the legal process in order to close the existing road and create a new private road so that they are all able to access their properties. These are not township roads and are not roads listed with the county so they need to pursue the process through the court system and platting process.

## **10. New Business**

- a. Chair Carstens then opened the sealed quote received for Snow Plowing for the 2017-2018 Season. The quote was from Herdering, Inc. and included the following:
  - o Single Axel Truck with Snowplow - \$95.00
  - o Tandem Axel Truck with Snowplow Equipment - \$95.00/Hour

The quote information had also been sent to Mayers, Inc. Melrose, MN; however a quote was not received. A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens, and unanimously carried accepting the quote and awarding the work to Herdering, Inc.

- b. Fire Extinguisher Check - Supervisor Ahrens will contact Fire Fighter Detect Alarm Company and schedule a time for the fire extinguished located in the Town Hall to be checked for the 2017-2018 year.

## **11. Informational Items**

The Board then reviewed the following informational items:

- a. Minnesota Association of Townships Notice of WC Dividend Check – Clerk Bauer presented correspondence including a dividend check in the amount of \$409.00 which is a result of savings within the Minnesota Association of Townships Agency Worker’s Compensation Program.
- b. Notice from Minnesota Department of Revenue regarding 2018 Township Aid Notice – Clerk Bauer presented correspondence received from the Minnesota Department of Revenue regarding the 2018 Township Aid Notice. Birchdale Township will receive \$3,957.00 which will be paid on July 20, 2018 and December 26, 2018.

- c. Special Assessment Information Requests (3) From:  
Main Street Title & Closings LLC  
(Todd Fuechtmann, Donna Fuechtmann, Michael Zirbes, Karen Zirbes)  
(Micah Neal and Laura Neal)  
(Michael Reding, Mary Reding, Kimberly Evans and Douglas Evans)  
Hometown Abstract & Title (Stephanie Austing, County 6, Grey Eagle)  
Home Town Title LLC (2010168 Pirkl)  
Clerk Bauer responded to all of the above as there being no assessments from Birchdale Township.
  
- d. Correspondence received from MN Department of Natural Resources regarding Angler Drive – Clerk Bauer presented correspondence received from the Minnesota DNR regarding the re-surfacing project for Angler Drive scheduled for 2019 in partnership with Todd County and Grey Eagle Township. The Minnesota DNR is requesting a specific improvement to the Hunter’s Bay public access and a wider bituminous should or apron along the access site. This information was also shared with Loren Fellbaum, Todd County Engineer. He stated that this would increase the cost of the project and he believes that the township should ask that the DNR assist with funding for this additional repair work. The Board to discuss this correspondence. The Minnesota DNR referenced that the project would be completed in 2018 however this project is not scheduled until 2019. Clerk Bauer will reach out to the Minnesota DNR contact and inform them that the project will not be started until 2019 and also that the Township would like to partner with the DNR to assist with funding for this possible additional work.

**12. Officers Comments**

- a. Supervisor Bebus mentioned that the Big Birch Lake Association may be requesting that the Hunter’s Bay access be closed early due to heavy weeds.
  
- b. Supervisor Ahrens stated that crack filling is all completed and Carr’s Tree Service has completed tree trimming and weed spraying on thistles.

**12. Adjournment**

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Brinkman, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jackie Bauer  
Birchdale Township Clerk