

**Nessel Township
49205 Acacia Trail
Stanchfield, MN 55080
(320) 396-2702**

**MINUTES: 14 February Regular Board meeting
Presented for approval at March 15 Board Meeting**

February meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by John Sutcliffe with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisors present include, Michelle Meis, Branden Mell, John Sutcliffe, Betsy Rising and Tom McKenzie. Also present was Clerk, Stan Iskierka and Treasurer, Mary Dillner.

Agenda (Additions or Changes)

Motion by Meis seconded by Rising to approve Agenda. Carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Meis seconded by McKenzie to approve January Minutes. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Motion by Rising seconded by Meis to approve Treasurer's Report. Carried.

Bills

Motion by McKenzie seconded by Rising to approve paying bills. Carried.

Maintenance Report

- Snowplowed and salted roads.
- If possible, will grade the roads that are ruff, Clover Trail, Basswood Ave and any other roads that may need grading this week.
- 510th St and Almond Ave. has ice and need to be sanded.

Variance

- **Ron Green** – Requesting a variance to build a garage closer to road then the normal setback.

Motion by McKenzie seconded by Mell to approve the variance to build garage with 10 ft. setback. Approved.

Alpine Ave. North Subordinate Service District

- Greg Anderson, of Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc, will be the project engineer for the paving of Alpine Ave. North. Based on field observation and recent bid prices, he prepared an estimate to pave Alpine Ave N with three inches of bituminous pavement at generally a 22 foot wide surface with one foot gravel shoulders. Estimating the cost at \$177,000, there would be a cost of \$5300 for bore testing of road and engineer cost of \$17, 500 that would involve bid documents as well as assisting the Township with bidding and observing the paving of the project.
- Bore testing could be done in a couple of weeks and it may be possible to start the project in June.
- Iskierka will call Ehlers, the finance advisors, and notify them that we are proceeding with a new Subordinate Service District and will need help with the finance of the Alpine Ave. project.

Motion by Mell seconded by Rising to hire Short Elliott Henderson Inc. to engineer, design and assist with the bid documents and observe the paving of the Alpine Subordinate Service District. Approved by all Board Members.

Open Forum

- District State Representative (Ron Johnson)spoke about what is happening at the state capital:
 1. Sherco Power Plant shut down two coal power plants and will replace them with one gas powered plant. This gas power plant is behind in construction because of the permit regulation. The legislatures are trying to help push the construction at a faster pace, with less regulations.
 2. Legislators are working on a budget.
 3. Health Care: There were 125,000 people unable to get health care. In Milaca County no individual could buy health insurance. There is a fund set-up to help pay for health insurance.
 4. Legislators are working on using surplus state funds to repair roads and bridges.

Road Committee

- **Anchor Ave** - Chisago County is transferring ownership of Anchor Ave. to the Township. The County engineer spoke to Sutcliffe about paving Anchor Ave. and asked if the Township would be willing to do cost share. The County would pay for the engineering and preparing the road and the Township would pay for the paving. Estimated cost to the Township would be around \$135,000. After some discussion between the Board Members, there was no definite conclusion. The Board will wait to see if the County would agree to pay for their share of the paving, and we would have to use our reserve funds to pay for our share of the paving project. The road now has a coat seal and that is the way the Township would receive the road if it is not paved.

Policy Committee

- **Brushing Policy** - Mell drafted Policy 4.3 stating that the Board will advertise its intent to preform brush clearing 30 calendar days in advance and the residents will have 30 calendar days to contact the Board with their brushing concerns.

Motion by Rising seconded by Meis to approve Policy 4.3 concerning brush clearing. Approved.

Old Business

- **Firearms Ordinance** – Months ago a group of residents came to the Board Meeting with the complaint of discharging of firearms at all hours of the day. They are requesting an ordinance to limit the time of shooting and the amount of rounds fired. The Township attorney suggested that at the Annual meeting, the Board could ask the residents for the authority to adopt an ordinance to regulate the discharge of firearms within the Township. It was noted that the Board has the authority to write the ordinance now without the resident’s authority. The Board decided to ask the residents for the authority to regulate discharge of firearms at the Annual Meeting.

New Business

- **Audit Minutes** - Iskierka read the Minutes of the Audit report for 2016 Budget that was held on February 14, 2017 and asked for approval of the Minutes.

Motion by Rising seconded by McKenzie to approve the Minutes of the Audit report of the 2016 budget. Approved.

- **Gravel Bid** – Iskierka is asking for the approval to place an ad in the paper for 7000 yards of gravel.

Motion by Sutcliffe seconded by Rising to approve placing an ad in the paper for 7000 yards of gravel. Approved.

- **Board of Appeal** – Iskierka announced that the Board of Appeal will be held at Nessel Township on April 18, 2017 at 9:00am.
- **Short Course**- Short Course to be held at Black Bear in Carlton on April 7, 2017.
- **Newsletter** – Meis constructed a Newsletter to be sent to the Township residents and will need approval.

Motion by Rising seconded by Meis to approve Newsletter. Approved.

- **Annual Meeting** – March 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Meis seconded by Rising to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Carried.

Chairman

Clerk

Date