Marion Township meeting

June 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Baier at 7:30 pm. Present: Baier, Roger Bjerke, Joel Messmer, Janet Hoffmann, Debra Raduenz, Bill Volkmar and 5 guests. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Agenda adopted per M/M/S by Bjerke/Messmer.

The Clerk’s minutes of May 11, 2021 were approved as read per a M/M/S by Bjerke/Messmer.

Treasurer reported: Saving - $ 645,402.24 – Checking – $18,022.78 – Total - $663.425.02. Approved per M/M/S by Bjerke/Messmer.

Claims and payroll –8112 – 8113 and 8130-8139were approved to pay per M/M/S by Bjerke/Messmer.

Applications: None

Roads – Blacktopping has not been done yet. Jim Johnson from Bargen, Inc looked at our crack fill list from our road check and thinks we would be better off doing $50,000 worth of crack fill rather than any sealcoating. Jim will follow up.

Patching – M & M gave us a proposal for patching per board request for about $75,000. M & M will be asked to break this down by item rather than a lump sum so board can maybe pick some to be done. A meeting will be set up with Mike from M & M to review. Joel will follow.

Roger talked with county – County will replace signs and straighten some bent sign posts.

Some brushing needs to be done especially at Maple Ct and Maple St. Joel will follow up with Doug Wigham.

We are on the list with mowing. Jim will follow up with Barth or Carr about some brushing along 75th St.

Storm Water Permit – Bill is following up on the ordinance. Has sent an email to Anna and Jeremy at MPCA with some questions. Has not had a reply. Jeff Broberg was also present and permit was discussed with some minor clerical errors that he fixed and will continue to get that in. Jim has been in some communication with Bill from SEH. Nothing firm yet. As soon as we get census report that information will be sent to Bill and Jeff.

Jeff will send some forms to Joel and Janet for recording information on inspections.

Street Vacation hearing – Present for this were the 5 board members, Attorney Bill Volkmar, Terri Jensen (representing the Winslow’s), Larry Jensen, Art Friedrich and Joe Kuhl. A couple of months ago Baier met with the MNDot rep and Canadien Pacific RR rep who requested the closing of the RR crossing at 60th Avenue and Highway 14 connecting to 10th Street. Those reps felt this crossing was substandard and unsafe. Especially in light of supposedly more train traffic and at faster speeds. At this hearing neither entity was represented.

Terri Jensen spoke on behalf of the Winslow’s who would become landlocked with this vacation. At this time the Winslow’s have a license but not an easement from the RR. This is a secret issue and info on this license is not available to the Board or its attorney. There appears to be a lot of issues here – the landlocking, road is a township road by maintenance and boundaries are not clearly defined. There is no map, no survey, no clear indication where the Winslow access is and the Board cannot clearly define what can be vacated. Part of this may only be able to be vacated by the RR. Attorney Volkmar sent emails to both MNDot and RR reps but has not heard back from either. Therefore, a M/M/S by Messmer/Baier to continue tonight’s hearing two weeks from tonight on June 22, 7:30 pm at the Town Hall.

No further response from Rochester Public Schools on any plans for extending parking lot and changing access.

Dog bite issue again – Bolanos vs Williams. No action taken at this point. Will file the sheriff report.

Peoples Energy will begin work in August.

Correspondence – none of importance

M/M/S to recess to the continued meeting on June 22nd at 9:37pm by Bjerke/Messmer. Public hearing will reconvene on June 22nd at 7:30pm.

The meeting reconvened on Tuesday, June 22 at 7:30 pm. Present: Baier, Bjerke, Messmer, Hoffmann, Raduenz, Attorney Volkmar and 3 guests. The sole purpose of this meeting is to act on the closing of a portion of 10th St and the railroad track. Mr. Volkmar contracted via email reps from MNDot and the Railroad (both entities were involved with the request to close off this intersection) and there was an agreement with MNDot, the RR and Marion Township to close this section to the public. The township will receive a lump sum of $75,000 for the closure. Following discussion of the closure, a M/M/S by Bjerke/Messmer to close the hearing at 8:15pm. A M/M/S at this time by Bjerke/Baier to proceed with the vacation of 10th St and 60th Ave as mentioned above. 3 yes votes

Questions arose on how we would close off 10th st, with a bulb, make this minimum maintenance, a gate or something else. These were questions that will be worked on at an upcoming meeting. A copy of the agreement with MNDot and RR and the Street/Avenue vacation is attached to the Clerk’s minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 per M/M/S by Messmer/Bjerke.

Jim Baier, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Janet Hoffmann, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_