



**Attending,**

- ❖ Board members: Chair Brian Kolbinger, Vice Chair Brad Wilkening, Luke Babler, Robin Boros, Joe Danielson, Treasurer Tanya Danielson, Deputy Clerk Fran Seeley, Clerk Lucinda Messman
- ❖ Absent: none
- ❖ Others: Sgt. Frank – Sherburne County Sheriff’s Department, Wes Davis – Twp. Engineer (online), Damien Toven – Twp. Attorney, Mary Roe – Planner, City of Becker (online), Michelle Moen – Sherburne County Assessor, Mark Kolbinger – *The Patriot*, Roger Wilson, Tony Wruck – Twp. Contractor
- ❖ Zoom platform was available for anyone who wished to call in virtually.

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Meeting called to order at 7 pm. Quorum verified by Chair Kolbinger.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Request to removal ARPA Resolutions from Consent Agenda. Three items removed.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS APPROVED**

- Minutes
  - December Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
- Upcoming electronic fund transfers/automatic payments approval
  - City of Becker – water/sewer
  - Xcel Energy – gas/electric
  - Ace Disposal – Twp maintenance
  - Advanced Disposal –container at Town Hall
  - Midco Business – phone and internet
  - Upcoming EFTS related to payroll: Federal taxes, State taxes and PERA - mandated rates
  - State of MN for building permit surcharge fees
- Correspondence/Information
  - Center Point Energy – Natural Gas Rate Increase Public Hearing Notice
  - Xcel Gas Rate Increase Notice
  - Xcel PUC Notice/Order for Public Hearing – Gas
  - Xcel Energy Rate Information
  - Xcel PUC Notice/Order for Public Hearing – Electric
  - Xcel Rate Request Notice
- Approvals/Signatures
  - Resolution 2022-02: Appointing Election Judges
  - Resolution 2022-03: Appointing the 2022 Absentee Ballot Board
  - Resolution 2022-01: A Resolution Temporarily Closing Certain Town Roads During Winter Months
  - Certificate of Payment of Bounty on Gophers 2021

**Motion to approve consent agenda as listed above by Babler. Second by Danielson. Motion carried all voting in favor.**

**Motion to approve a regular agenda, by Babler. Second by Boros. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**

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**Sheriff's Report – Sgt. Frank**

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- 177 Calls for service
- 31 Traffic stops
- 12 Accidents – speed related. Asking people to slow down.
- 6 Thefts
- 3 Fraud

**Michelle Moen – Sherburne County Assessor**

- Brought information (attached) regarding Assessment outlook for 2022.
- Highest time adjustment she has seen in over 20 years
- 15-16% increases expected due to a very aggressive market.
- Wanted to be sure Townships are aware what will be occurring now rather than waiting to present information at the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization meetings.
- Q: if value of home increase, taxes “stay” the same rate as before – correct? A: Yes, everyone shares equally in the increase.
- This aggressive market is being experienced state wide

**Sherburne County Public Trail**

- County requested some feedback from the board
  - The idea is good, but the cost is pretty high. Not sure how the cost can be justified by the township.
  - Would like to see joint effort going into building this trail
  - Struggle with the third access going into the park as we have a lot of roads already
  - In summary – interested in the idea, more information on making this a joint project with the City of Becker and other funding avenues. Exactly how this could be funded differently should be explored.

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**Residential Open Forum**

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**Linda Meyer – Carefree Variance Request presented by Wikstrom**

- Currently they have a deck on the lakeside
- It is 18’ from the Ordinary high water level
- Setbacks today are 150’
- Applicant wants to build a roof over the deck to shade so she can use the deck
- Nothing closer to the water than the current deck
- No need for different footings
- Applicant stated she is learning this process is quite the procedure
- Sun is on the west and applicants wants protection from the sun so she can be outside
- Town Supervisors Recommendation to Sherburne County Planning Commission
  - Nothing out of ordinary, this is a standard request for this area
  - No issues noted
  - Favorable recommendation

**PLANNING COMMISSION/JOINT PLANNING BOARD UPDATES – Wikstrom reviewed.**

- No public hearings this month
- Working through revising home occupation ordinance due to changes brought on by covid

- Land Use Permit (issued by Sherburne County) fee has increased
  - Used to be \$100, now \$150
  - In the past, the Township has rebated \$100 on their permit applications. Should we increase that rebate to \$150 to match the current fee?
    - Permits operates at very close to zero. Township does not make money on issuing permits, fees are just covering costs.
    - Treasurer and Clerk recommend not increasing the rebate as it would likely create a loss in permitting that would need to be covered by taxpayers.
    - **Motion to leave the rebate at \$100 by Wilkening. Second by Babler. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**
- When looking at fees, it was noted that the County charges \$150 for Ag Building Permits. We do not charge for these, only require the Ag Building Certification Form be filled out and submitted. Does the board wish to match this fee?
  - Q: do we have a lot of these? A: not really
  - Directive – continue process as it is now, do not add a fee.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** - Davis

- Partial Payment certifications (Retainage) for 164<sup>th</sup> and 142<sup>nd</sup> submitted to the board.
  - **Motion to pay the partial payment for 142<sup>nd</sup> Street SE in the amount of \$7,902.10 by Boros. Second by Danielson. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**
  - **Motion to pay the partial payment for 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE in the amount of \$11,357.25 by Boros. Second by Wilkening. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**
- 157<sup>th</sup> Street SE
  - At this time, leave as is.
- 97<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Draft plans and specs presented to the board
  - Some meetings are coming up to finalize the plans
  - Final draft is expected the end of August
  - Then off to the State for sign off
- Reminder – Bid opening for the four projects this summer on Friday, February 4, 2022 at 11 am at Township Hall.

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**Supervisor Reports**

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**Fire Board – Supervisor Babler**

- Nothing out of the ordinary.

**Central Mississippi River Regional Planning Partnership – Supervisor Kolbinger and Planner Sanders**

- Restructured for the new year
- Committee Reports are coming back
- There should be more to do as committees meet

**Roads – Supervisor Boros**

- 67<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Becker Township says the portion between County Road 11 and Highway 23 is a road. Documentation agrees with this. We do mow the route in the summer as it is minimum maintenance.
    - Commercial business there that uses the road

- Private residence there (and there are more coming in we have heard) on the Santiago side of the township that use the road for access to their home(s).
  - Santiago Township says it is not a road – at least that is what we have read in the papers. Clerk has not received any information from Santiago saying this officially.
  - Gravel section of road – that was budgeted to be upgraded last year. We agreed to let Santiago Township take the lead on this section. Bids were approved, nothing happened.
    - Santiago says they are going to bid the project again this spring it will be done.
    - Have been told by bus drivers that the gravel section of this road is not getting plowed routinely.
    - It is in the contract that it is Santiago’s year to plow.
  - Cul-de-sac portion
    - Still in works
    - Clerk has submitted copy of agreement between the two townships to do the work to Sherburne County.
- GPS for Plow Trucks
  - We currently have an item in the snowplowing contract that the Town Board can require GPS in the trucks. Road Supervisors would like to activate this clause
    - Provide positive proof to Sherburne County we are maintaining the roads we claim in our yearly certification via GPS rather than just saying which sections have certain roads.
    - Verify when snow is being cleared so we know if the truck was by when calls come in.
    - Increases records accuracy.
    - **Motion to activate the GPS clause in the Snow Plowing and Sanding Contract by Boros. Second by Danielson. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**
- Fire Signs
  - Pictures of signs shown to board members
  - Supervisor Danielson has requested various quotes for the signs – plan to have next month.
- Mailbox Standards
  - Current mailboxes were ordered to have the longer post, didn’t realize the flap was not there.
  - Reviewed standards desired by the Township – the metal plate/flat piece is needed.
  - Go back to the old style swing-away with the plate for the mailbox for future orders.

## Town Hall

- Options cleaning service agreement presented to the Board. **Motion to approve using Options, Inc. services for Town Hall cleaning and authorize chair to sign the agreement by Danielson. Second by Boros. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**
- Small shed on concrete pad
  - Lumber to be ordered through Country Lumber
  - High School kids to build the shed this spring

## Other

- Sherburne County Broadband Proposal
  - The dollars per house does not sound like responsible spending
  - Proposal does not make sense
  - Map does not help
  - At this time, the answer is no, the Township will not participate
- Score Grant
  - Discussion of setting things up similar to Silver Creek
  - Push to February meeting for approval

- Supervisors to check into possibility of going on own rather than with the city in order to add trash service. Residents still pay for disposal, but having it available has been a request.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report as presented by Babler. Second by Wilkening. Motion carried, all voting in favor.**
- Supervisor Danielson abstaining from voting on payment of warrants as his company has presented an invoice.
  - **Motion to approve payment of Warrants 15334-15368 and PO's 1422-1431, in the amount of \$165,315.38 by Wilkening. Second by Boros. Motion carried 4-0-1, all voting in favor.**
- ARPA funds – current balance shown is prior to any bills this month.

### **Other**

- Tri County – services to be discontinued. Not sure why they sent another contract.
- Board of Audit set for Wednesday, February 23 at 6 pm at Township Hall.
- March 8, 2022 is Township Day (Elections and Annual meeting).
- Clear Lake picture – image of corn binders used at Freedom Days celebration is in Front of Clear Lake Town Hall (incorrectly labeled in History Center Archive). Board consensus to give to Clear Lake Township.

Meeting Adjourned 8:02 pm.

  
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Brian Kolbinger, Chair

  
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Lucinda Messman, Clerk