

# Regular Meeting Agenda

## Hybrid meeting

### June 14, 2022

Chairman Sandy Hagan led the pledge of allegiance, then called the hybrid zoom meeting to order. Roll call was taken with all board members present at the town hall. Minutes of the last meeting were read with Harlan Bellin making a motion to approve them, and Sandy Hagan seconding the motion. Following the clerk's report, Peggy gave a treasurer's report. Mike Miller made a motion to approve the report and Harlan seconded the motion.

#### **Roads**

1. MSA updates – James Watters was unable to attend this month's meeting but will update us on grant status next month
2. Letter of Understanding regarding road maintenance on 245<sup>th</sup> with Linwood township- no update.
3. Oxford township road maintenance bid decision. Mike Miller brought up that he might have a conflict of interest since Rick Keller does a lot of work for Mike, so he would feel better not contributing to the vote. Sandy stated that he has also had Rick do work for him. Susan Morris was present at our meeting and mentioned that she can shed light on the conflict of interest topic as this has come up during her time as commissioner. A person has to demonstrate financial gain in order to demonstrate conflict of interest. That said, all members of the board are able to weigh in on the township road maintenance bids. Mike brought up a concern that in October of 2020, fuel prices were going up and Oxford township agreed to pay Rick Keller more money at that time. Gas is even more expensive so Mike is questioning why his bid is so low. Sandy also remembers how the meeting went in 2020 and is concerned as well. Rick Keller's response is that he feels like these prices will not last, and he is comfortable with his bid. The board also discussed that Rick has been doing this for a number of years. Bart is new, has added the tracking device and he does have

experience with us, so the decision is difficult because both bidders have equal footing. Sandy would like to see a new person doing it so we are not backed into a corner again like in 2020. Harlan feels that Rick has done a good job for a long time, and voted the contract is awarded to Keller Excavating. Sandy said that Rick has done a lot of good, but wants to try someone new, and voted that the contract go to Shermik (Bart). Mike brought up that Rick's bid is cheaper than Bart, so if the township goes with the lowest bid, it will be Keller Excavating. However, Mike would like to make the stipulation that if at any point in this contract, Rick decides to raise the rates for any reason that will void the contract, and Oxford will go with the next bid (Shermik). The board agreed that this is a tough and they would like to see someone new maintaining the roads. However, Rick's bid is lower so the contract was awarded to Rick/Keller Excavating. It was mentioned that in future, it would be helpful to know what the board uses as criteria for deciding on the bid. This will be helpful for any contractor that will take the time to put together their information.

4. Tiffany Determann replied to Oxford's question about whether or not EcoInfrastructure Dust suppression is more ecofriendly. She said that from the information provided, it does seem better than the chloride based products. An Oxford resident at the meeting stated that he has been living on Potomac for 25 years, and is curious as to why all of a sudden, everyone has a problem with the dust. He feels the township is spending a lot of money to keep the dust down, and it seems silly to him and that it's a lot of money to control a problem that only a few people have. This resident wanted to know if the person that has the problem with the dust is paying to cover his portion of the road. Mike stated that Oxford township is paying to place the soybean oil product on 1 mile of Potomac and on Baylor. Bart also mentioned that he pays taxes too and does not want to pay for other people's road treatment. More than half of our township lives on tar roads and those individuals have no benefit from the grading or dust suppression monies spent. Mike stated that the dust suppression

application was approved at our last meeting and we will be going ahead with Potomac and Baylor. Rick Keller mentioned that these products also help hold the road together and preserve the road over time. Potomac and Baylor are both high traffic and high speed. Mike also stated that the last time we did dust control was many years ago, and we are willing to try again this year with hopefully a better product. However, the township is expecting feedback from residents on if it was worth it or not. Bob Kollmer then asked if Rick Keller been awarded the road maintenance contract officially. Mike replied that the vote was 2:1, and yes, Rick Keller was officially awarded the contract.

5. Mike asked Bart if he is willing to trim our ditches next month, and also the trees on 259<sup>th</sup> still need to be taken care of. Mike make a motion to have Bart mow the roads in July, and trim the trees on 259<sup>th</sup> that need to be taken care of. Sandy Hagan seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
6. Bart asked the board who is in charge of our weed control. Mike mentioned that we have Darrick Wotacheck come out to inspect if we have questions. Bart mentioned that he also has a commercial license for applications, and that he may be interested in weed control for our township. Sandy asked if he would target more specifically than Central Applicators has in the past. Bart replied that he does target specifically. Supervisors passed a motion for Bart to be in charge of weed control in our township.
7. An Oxford resident asked if Oxford plans to asphalt any roads this year. Mike's answer was no, but that we have applied for a grant again this year since we can't afford to pave our roads without additional funding. The question was asked if it make sense to hire a professional grant writer, and Mike replied that MSA is helping us with the grant applications. MNDOT awards the grant money, and MAT has lobbied very hard this year to get a township person a seat on the board. Hopefully this will help with how the funds get awarded to the 1800 townships in MN.

8. Another resident asked how long are the roads supposed to last once they are graded. It seems like the roads are in such bad shape only a few days after they are graded. The board mentioned that when they took over the roads 30 years ago, there was no gravel on any roads. In the last 30 years, they have added gravel and proper ditches as well as other improvements. They have done what they can with minimal improvements so they are all passable now. This resident is advocating for not going for the cheapest cost and trying to be progressive. Will a new road maintenance person have new ideas? Is the lowest bid always the cheapest? Sandy Hagan mentioned that some of the washboard is caused by the people traveling on the road that are driving too fast. We went to the more expensive gravel so the roads would stand up better.

#### **Old Business**

1. IAJFD updates- Harlan reported calls for last month decreased 8% from last year. Al Jankovich also reported that there is not an emergency ID sign for 26575 Potomac. Sandy will get it ordered, and installed.
2. Final County Redistricting Plan/map from Isanti County
  - a. Oxford is in District 5 with City of Isanti P-2, Isanti township, and North Branch Township
3. Mailbox replacement resolution
  - a. Linnea still working on, and she asked if she should also put together our snowplow resolution and file both at the county at the same time? The board replied that they would like Linnea to file both resolutions at the same time. She will be working on finalizing both resolutions for final approval.
4. SLFRF reporting update
  - a. Peggy requested that we put all rescue plan money under roads. Mike Miller makes a motion that our SLFRF funds will be moved into the road and bridge fund. To be transparent, Mike let everyone know that the government gave money out based on the

population of each township, and Oxford got just under \$100,000. If the township decides to leave this in an individual fund, we have to account for every dollar. If we place the money in our road and bridge fund, we are already accounting for the money spent. Harlan Bellin seconded. The motion passed. When the next check comes, Peggy will put in the roads and bridges fund.

- b. Email dated May 16, 2022 : **Treasury urges state and local governments to continue to use SLFRF funds to confront the most pressing challenges that our economy and communities face:**

- expanding the workforce and providing competitive wages,
- expanding access to affordable housing, and
- keeping our families and communities safe.

Our board reiterated that we are putting the money into one of our more pressing challenges, and are using it for road improvement.

### **New Business**

1. Election judge training
  - a. All townships received Election Judge party lists from the major political parties that have been provided to the county office. Oxford's list had only 2 names on it, and Linnea Lentz was one of them. Jen will sign up, Paula Benson also volunteered. Barb Snee also a potential. Peggy will reach out to everyone and give them the training dates. See Appendix A for details.
2. Oxford Lakes Water Monitoring contract. Mike Miller made a motion to accept the water monitoring contract for 2022. Sandy Hagan seconded the motion. Motion passed. Linnea will send signed copy to Tiffany Determann.
3. Oxford township received a Weed Monitoring email from Darrick Wotacheck:
  - a. "It is that time again to start surveying for problematic noxious weeds; the first of which is [leafy spurge](#) blooming now". He provided maps that identified problematic locations and which have seen some

treatment efforts with decent results. Mowing alone; doesn't control leafy spurge since it reproduces by rhizomes

4. Two individuals that are running for County Commissioner were at our meeting - Kristi LaRowe and Susan Morris. Kristi LaRowe spoke to the township first. She introduced herself and her husband as farmers that appreciate the environment, and feel strongly about cleaning out county ditches and going through the process of having all of them evaluated. Kristi4isanti.com is her website and we can read about what her platform is. Susan Morris spoke next, and was able to share some things she has been working on in Isanti county. She talked about the accessory dwelling topic and creating a task force to ask the tough questions. She was happy to report that we now have an accessory dwelling unit ordinance in the county. She also mentioned that they just got word today that ECE is willing to partner to be our internet provider.

Mike Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sandy Hagan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted  
Linnea Lentz  
Oxford Clerk  
June 14, 2022

## Appendix A

### **Online Training**

The online Election Judge training will be available to those who have served as an Election Judge in the past. The online training is an option for regular Election Judges and Head Judges. The course is a web based training made up of lessons, videos, and quizzes. It is designed to be completed by each judge at their own pace.

We will ask for the following information from each judge as they call:

- Name
- Email address
- What City/Township will you serving in?
- Phone #
- Will you be serving as a regular Election Judge or Head Judge?

A link to the online training will be emailed to those that have signed up by July 1st.

**Please have your judges call our office at (763) 689-1644 to sign up for the online training.**

## **In-Person Training**

For those that prefer in-person training, we are back to offering those sessions this year as well.

The following are the dates and times of the regular Election Judge two-hour training sessions:

Tuesday	June 28, 2022	6:00 – 8:00 PM
Monday	July 11, 2022	2:00 – 4:00 PM
Thursday	July 14, 2022	2:00 – 4:00 PM

In addition to the regular Election Judge training sessions listed above, we will be holding in-person Head Election Judge training sessions.

The following are the dates and times of the Head Election Judge three-hour training sessions:

Wednesday	June 29, 2022	2:00 – 5:00 PM
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Wednesday	July 13, 2022	6:00 – 9:00 PM
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**Please have your judges call to register for an in-person training session by calling our office at (763) 689-1644.**