

Oxford Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020

The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order by Sandy Hagan. Roll call was taken with Sandy, Mike, Peggy, and Linnea present. Minutes of the last meeting were read with Sandy approving them, and Mike Miller seconding them. Peggy gave a treasurer's report with an itemized list of bills paid. Mike made a motion to accept, and Sandy seconded it. Peggy mentioned that she is almost out of single signature checks and asked the supervisors if she should order more. Mike recommended waiting for Friday's announcement from the Governor to see what recommendations will be made at that time.

Roads

1. Mike Miller asked James Watters to put together an estimate for continued paving north on Danube. Additionally, Sandy would like James to also look at what the road to the west of Danube needs in the future. James thinks we may need to do a boring or two where the road runs through a swamp. He can look at ways to remediate that, and when we have the funds to fix it, Oxford can move ahead with the project. Mike estimates that it could take 4 years to get the whole road paved. James and Mike will meet separately to discuss specifications that will help James with his estimate. Mike made a motion to have James start on the Danube project and Sandy seconded the motion. Mike asked James to drive up and look at the road to get an idea of what the scope of the engineering costs might be in time for the June 9th regular meeting.
2. Update on Typo Creek Drive from James Watters- not much has changed since the April 14th meeting. There has not been more material brought in, and the latest pay request is around \$50,000. Once approved, we can email to MSA and they will get it to the county. Dressl is having trouble keeping people off the new work area with just cones, so there is now construction tape to prevent people from driving on it.
3. Rick Keller- roads are already dry, but holding up well as there is a lot less traffic. The fact that school buses have not been running really saves on road wear and

tear. Mike talked to Steve Kingsbury about the fact that Pigeon Loft has had more traffic lately, especially 4 wheelers.

4. There is garbage west of Danube that needs to be picked up.

Old Business

1. Isanti Area Joint Fire District update- Harlan and Vicki did not attend the virtual meeting, so there was no fire district update.
2. Sandy gave Nate Sondrell permission to put together a list of what he needs to get Oxford township signs updated. Sandy will talk with the sheriff about residents from Whispering Pines not using our swing away mail boxes or the emergency ID signs, and if there is something that can be done about it.

New Business

1. Property tax waiver feedback
 - a. Isanti county is reaching out to some of the taxing districts to gauge the potential impact on cash flows or finances. It's difficult to estimate how many (or which) taxpayers will take advantage of the waiver, so the exact financial cost is not known. They expect most large corporate taxpayers and escrowed residential properties to still pay on time, but could see many residential properties and small businesses taking advantage of a penalty waiver. This may create a delay in an undetermined portion of the settlement from early July until December. The county reached out to ask all the townships if this will create cash flow concerns. Our supervisors are not concerned because financially Oxford township is in very good shape. In addition, the supervisors believe that Oxford will have a smaller number of delinquent taxpayers as compared to the rest of the county.
2. Presidential Nomination Primary Reimbursement forms have been filled out and Linnea submitted the appropriate paperwork to the county. Oxford should be getting back about \$1400.
3. At the May 14 Board of Adjustment meeting, there is an Oxford township request for variance for solar panels utilizing new technology:

The request of Todd Martin, 25809 Virgo Street NE, Stacy, MN 55079 & Blue Horizon Energy LLC, 171 Cheshire Lane Suite 500, Minnetonka, MN 55305, to install a solar energy ground mount system exceeding the maximum height restriction. Legal description is the W ½ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 17, Township 34, Range 22, Oxford Township.

This property is on Virgo and 259th. The county did not ask any of the board members to come to the meeting, however all of the surrounding neighbors were sent notice of the public hearing.

4. Isanti county sent the township information on plans to improve high speed internet access in rural Isanti County. For anyone who would like to learn more about the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, the National Association of Counties is offering a free webinar on May 20 on the RDOF funds. All information will also be posted on Oxford township's website. Mike Miller mentioned that the legislature approved a 20 million dollar grant for broadband, but the money is spread out state wide. The cost for Isanti county to get fiberoptic to all houses is around 80 million dollars. The COVID19 situation has been a wake up call, because many places do not have enough band width to support virtual meetings.
5. There is a conversation scheduled tomorrow with the governor to give input on how things are going. Mike will send out the information to everyone and Linnea will post on our website.
6. Upcoming elections were discussed and we need to be prepared and keep our judges safe. We need to invest in hand sanitizer, disinfectant, masks, and gloves. Linnea has access to PPE and will start collecting now to be ready for the election. The supervisors will look into remote temperature sensors and creating plexiglass shields for each station.
7. Mark Faust contacted Mike Miller to say that the dust on his road is unbearable and wants to advocate for expedited paving of his part of the road. Peggy lives on the same road and said that the trucks hauling dirt are tearing up the road, and it's become very rough. Mike is going to talk to North Branch township to see what they are using to spray the roads for dust suppression.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linnea Lentz

Oxford Clerk

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