

Oxford Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

The virtual Zoom meeting was called to order by Sandy Hagan. Roll call was taken with Sandy, Mike, Harlan, Peggy, and Linnea present. Minutes of the last meeting were read with Mike approving them, and Sandy Hagan seconding them. Peggy gave a treasurer's report with an itemized list of bills paid. Mike made a motion to accept, and Harlan Bellin seconded it.

Roads

1. Typo Creek Drive update
 - a. James Watters reported that the culvert was replaced last week, and Sandy said that they did a great job. Next step is to take another reading from the surcharge in May. Once the Geotech engineer approves removal of the surcharge, they will start building the rest of the road. Pay request #5 should be ready for approval at the May meeting.
 - b. Mike Miller has asked MSA for some help with planning services, so James invited members from their planning department to be on the call. Kate Goodman introduced herself as part of the planning and design studio at MSA. She is an expert at planning and design with a fiscal responsibility focus. She is also familiar with the dual authority that townships share with the county and understands the balance of cooperation and local control. Mike said that in the near future, our township will be adding 24 houses. For comparison, our census to date has been under 400 houses. We are dealing with challenges that we haven't had to deal with before and we need to be more forward thinking with better long term planning. Mike feels there is room for improvement with new development and that we could use MSA's services to help us improve with respect to development. Ultimately we want to have conversations with the county on our vision and about how to retain local control. We would also like help in developing our own ordinances to

start as a discussion point with developers. Kate and Claire said that there are a few things they can do to help with ordinances or to advocate for us at the county level. They will work on having a document ready for Oxford supervisors to review in May.

- c. James said that the state will not be awarding the LRIP grants until the June timeframe and that this is the first time they have ever been overwhelmed by applications.
2. Sandy and Steve cut down trees on Pigeon Loft last week. They did an excellent job of cleaning up a total of 4 dead trees on the north end of Pigeon Loft. There are other trees that need to be removed or trimmed and Shermik Tree farm submitted an estimate for this work. Mike Miller made a motion to accept Shermik Tree Farm's estimate, and Sandy seconded the motion. STS labor is no longer available, and George is officially retired. Harlan also approved the estimate after some discussion as to what the work involved.
3. During the annual meeting, concerns over 259th from County Road 12 going to the east were raised. In addition, Peterson road (253rd) also needs gravel work. Bart Perkins can get limerock that will cover a mile for \$79,000. The Peterson road is 0.6 miles and that will cost an additional \$46,000. Mike Miller made a motion that we get that done as soon as the road restrictions are off. After some discussion about further improvements to the ditches and the road crown, Sandy Hagan reiterated the motion to improve both roads once the road restrictions are lifted, Harlan seconded the motion.
4. There are more trees with dead branches on Pigeon Loft, so Mike Miller has asked Bart to look at the trees and see if his new tractor can trim back the dead branches without hurting the aesthetics. Mike mentioned that although Steve, Mike, and Sandy did a great job with the trees they cleaned up, Steve's yard is totally torn up. Mike thinks it is better to hire a professional for tree work in the future.
5. Mike asked Sandy to get the GPS tracking reports from Rick. Pigeon loft is still bumpy even after grading, so Mike wants to see the GPS results. Lee Setter commented that it seems that the road grading isn't being done as well as it used

to be. As an example, he said that on 253rd one of the neighbors actually graded the road with their own equipment. The supervisors are looking to gather information about why this might be, and to make the road situation better in the future.

Old Business

1. Fire District update. Harlan reported they had 69 runs in Feb and training at station 3 in March. He also said that the joint powers agreement discussion will be on April 21 at station 1. The Fire District would like to get something decided at that meeting.
2. Broadband resolution
 - a. Mike was at a broadband discussion meeting involving Chisago county. He is not sure what our township is getting for the next CARES, but we should consider dedicating it towards broadband that is viable and sustainable in our area.
 - b. Linnea discussed the broadband info she has and read the resolution from the April minutes. Mike Miller made a motion to approve the resolution, and Sandy Hagan seconded the motion. We had some discussion regarding line of sight broadband. Some telecommunications companies have their own towers, some have used water towers. Bob Kollmer mentioned that the water tower will be reconditioned next year and all of the telecommunication has to come off of it. Bob has also talked to Frontier about the station at Baylor and 249th. Frontier has fiberoptics to that branch, then copper wires from there. Linwood township went through this last year with one of the providers. Linnea will call Linwood and ask about their strategy for providing residents with quality broadband service.

New Business

1. Tiffany Detterman sent the new 2021 Water Monitoring Contract with Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District for approval. Mike Miller made a motion to accept, and

Sandy Hagan seconded the motion. Steve asked if there is someone interesting in finding out what's going on with West Twin Lake. Tiffany will be at an upcoming meeting to discuss last year's results, and Linnea will ask her to see if there is someone interested in looking at what may have happened to West Twin Lake starting in 1965 and why it is still impaired today.

2. Peggy brought up a billing issue with regard to last minute bills being submitted the day of regular township meetings. To make things more efficient for the township, Mike feels that bills submitted the day of the meeting should be paid at the next monthly meeting. That said, Mike made a motion that any bill to Oxford township must be submitted 24 hours before the scheduled meeting to be paid at the current monthly meeting. Sandy seconded the motion. Peggy asked for clarification on payment for the gopher bounty. Mike replied that checks for gopher feet should be issued the following monthly meeting.
3. Sandy mentioned that the Century Link cable is still not buried. Peggy will call Century Link to get it buried. She also called ECE to change the billing date as we used to get the bills right after each monthly meeting, and were consistently paying late fees.

Harlan Bellin made a motion to adjourn and Mike Miller seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Linnea Lentz

Oxford Clerk

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