

**BIRCHDALE TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, June 28, 2022 – 8:00 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Chair Jim Carstens called to order the regular meeting of the Birchdale Township Board at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at the Birchdale Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Supervisors Jim Carstens, Larry Bebus, Dale Ahrens, Joe Ostendorf, Arnie Berscheid, Treasurer Marlene VanHavermaet, and Clerk Jackie Bauer. Also in attendance was Erv Herdering.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Ostendorf, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Bebus, and unanimously carried to approve the May 31, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes.

**4. Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer VanHavermaet presented the June Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Supervisor Ostendorf, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens, and unanimously carried to accept the June Treasurer's Report.

An 18 month investment in the amount of \$105,965.35 which is currently held at First State Bank in Sauk Centre is coming due for renewal on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The current interest rate on the investment is .6%. Treasurer VanHavermaet asked the Board whether she should renew the investment for 12 more months. A motion was made by Supervisor Ostendorf, seconded by Supervisor Carstens and unanimously carried to approve Treasurer VanHavermaet renewing the investment for 12 more months. She will contact a number of financial institutions and will renew the CD for another year at the highest rate that she is able to find.

**5. Approval of Bills**

Next presented was the list of bills for the month of June to be considered for payment. A motion was made by Supervisor Ahrens, seconded by Supervisor Bebus, and unanimously carried to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$60,529.75. (See attached list of bills).

## **6. Residents Comments**

None.

## **7. Reports/Requests/Presentations**

a. None

## **8. Township Road Report**

- a. Tree Trimming Ditch Work Update – Supervisor Ostendorf gave an update on the tree trimming and brushing work that has been ongoing in the township. He stated that with some of the storms that we have been getting, some trees have come down but mostly on landowners’ properties and not in the road right-of-ways. Right now, MBC Drainage has not been doing much for tree trimming in the township as they have been busy with other work. Supervisor Ostendorf will keep checking in with them to make sure that they continue the township work soon. Supervisor Ostendorf stated that he did check into the cost of renting a Diamond Mower to cut smaller trees. His friend does this work for Glenwood Township and charges \$30.00 per hour. To rent the mower, it costs \$3200.00 per week and this cost does include delivery and pick-up. The mower runs approximately 4 to 6 mph and it takes typically 1-2 weeks for most townships to complete the work. Supervisor Ostendorf wanted to gather the information in case this would be something that Birchdale Township might want to consider for future maintenance of the road ditches.

Supervisor Berscheid also came across another vendor who does tree cutting and brushing from Swanville. The company’s name is D & K Tree Service, Dave Kuhl. The Board is interested in finding out how much this company would charge for services so they asked Clerk Bauer to send a quote request to D & K Tree Service for Birchdale Township. Clerk Bauer will do this and ask that it be returned for the July monthly meeting.

Supervisor Berscheid also stated that he didn’t think that much blading had been done yet in the township or dust control had been applied. Mr. Erv Herdering had not yet arrived for the meeting so was not there to ask. Supervisor Berscheid felt that the roads were getting a little bit “wash-boardy”.

Crack Filling – Supervisor Ahrens and Supervisor Berscheid reviewed the paved roads that had crack filling done. They felt that they looked okay however some of the problem spots did not look as good. Angler Drive was okay. In Ward Springs, it was observed that the company doing the work was using compressed air was requested.

Supervisor Ahrens reported that the mower contractor, Mr. Buchholz hit a road sign while ditch mowing. Supervisor Ahrens will contact the county and pick up a new sign.

- b. Kandota-Birchdale Township Road Maintenance Agreement for Bayview Drive & Bay Loop and 231<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Bittner Avenue – Kandota Township has drafted a new agreement between Birchdale Township and Kandota Township which outlines shared maintenance services for Bayview Drive, Bay Loop, 231<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Bittner Avenue. These roads fall within both townships and the prior agreement was somewhat confusing in how it was written. There are now new supervisors on the board for Kandota and they would like the agreement to be written differently. Supervisor Ahrens stated that one of the issues that could make this tricky is that each township uses a different contractor for plowing and the resident who lives on Bayview Drive does not want Kandota's contractor to do his plowing. Supervisor Ostendorf asked if reviewing this agreement could be tabled for the next meeting as he really has not had a chance to really review the agreement. The Board also agreed so this will be tabled until the next month's meeting. Clerk Bauer will inform Kandota Township's clerk that the Board is tabling reviewing the agreement for one month.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Herdering arrived. The Board asked Mr. Herdering about dust control. He stated that it has been difficult to get the product. Rail cars full of dust control product have not been arriving in the Twin Cities. They are just starting to arrive now so he is hopeful that he can start soon. He has to time this and do the graveling, then blading and then dust control so he will begin this work very soon. Supervisor Berscheid asked Mr. Herdering if he could add some graveling to Angler Drive and Alcott to help with shouldering and heavy rain run-off down to the lake. Mr. Herdering stated that he has done this in the past and can do his best to try to shore up areas or trouble-spots.

Clerk Bauer asked Supervisor Berscheid if he was contacted by the paint striping contractor and he stated that he was not. A follow-up may need to be done. Clerk Bauer did send them a quote award letter with Supervisor Berscheid and Supervisor Ostendorf's contact information.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

- a. Denial of Resolution #2022-08, Granting in Part and Denying in Part the Vacation of Two Portions of Platted Right of Way – At last month's meeting, the Board denied Resolution #2022-08, which refers to a section of road located next to Resident Cynthia Wren-Gray's property. Resident Wren-Gray has constructed a shed in the road right-of-way and was seeking a vacation in order to keep the shed where it is located. However,

it will now need to be removed. Resident Wren-Gray did email Clerk Bauer to state that she would not be appealing the Board's decision and would be relocating the shed. Clerk Bauer did send this information to Attorney Gilchrist. Attorney Gilchrist stated that at this time, we would wait until the mandatory 40 day appeal window which would bring us to the end of August. He stated that I should let Resident Wren-Gray know that I would pass along her message to the Board. But, he advised the Board to just wait at this time until the end of August.

- b.** Nuisance Letter Regarding Debris in Road Right-of-Way – Clerk Bauer was directed to send a letter to Resident Scott Weber by Supervisor Ostendorf. As road ditch clean-up work has been progressing, it was found that there is a large pile of wood in the road right-of-way in front of Resident Weber's home. Supervisor Ostendorf did stop and speak with him to ask him to move the wood however he failed to do so. After sending the letter, Mr. Weber contacted Clerk Bauer. He apologized and stated that he is an older single man and will try to do his best to move the wood out of the township road right-of-way but it might happen slowly. Clerk Bauer cautioned him that this was hazardous for drivers. He understands but stated that he does not have any assistance so he will try to move it as fast as he can. Clerk Bauer reported this to the Board. For now, this will be monitored.
- c.** Supervisor Bebus reported on the new blinking speed sign equipment received from the vendor for Angler Drive. Supervisors Berscheid and Bebus installed it and it is still not working completely correctly. So, the company is going to send out another brand new unit. Payment for the company will be held until the equipment arrives and is working properly.

## **10. New Business**

- a.** Resolution #2022-09, Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the August Primary and General Election – See attached proposed resolution. A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, Seconded by Supervisor Ahrens, with Supervisor Bebus Abstaining and unanimously approved adopting Resolution #2022-09, Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the August Primary and General Election.
- b.** Storm Siren on Sauk Lake Near Diamond Point – Supervisor Carstens stated that when the siren test was run for June 1<sup>st</sup>, the siren on Sauk Lake located near Diamond Point did not operate and subsequently for a storm alert, it did not work as well. REA is reporting that it has power, but residents are reporting that it is not working. Supervisor Carstens is going to take a closer look at it. Some municipalities and entities have “Red Alert” warnings that they post on their social media sites instead of a siren and the Board wonders if a siren is an outdated form of warning for

storms. Supervisor Carstens will check the equipment to see why it is not working.

## **11. Informational Items**

The Board then reviewed the following informational items:

a. Special Assessment Search Requests Received:

Steve Ball & Associates

1. Steven Moening, 25588 State Highway 28
2. 12123 Alcott Drive, (Legal: Lot 1, Block Birchwood Shores & Sauk Lakes Estates)

Clerk Bauer informed Steve Ball & Associates that there are no pending or levied assessments for this property.

Main Street Title & Closings, LLC

1. Adam's Vacation Rentals, LLC, 11005 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
2. Paul Patrick McDaniel, 11769 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378
3. Brian Zales, Sheana Robischon-Zales, 12159 Alcott Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Clerk Bauer informed Main Street Title & Closings that there are no pending or levied assessments for these properties.

- b. New Mileage Rate – Clerk Bauer to update the Board that the Federal Government is increasing the Federal Mileage Rate as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 from .585 to .625
- c. Correspondence Received From Minnesota State Demographic Center – Clerk Bauer has received correspondence from the Minnesota State Demographic Center stating that for Birchdale Township, the April 1, 2021 population estimate is 934 and the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 household estimate is 378.

## **11..Officers Comments**

- a. Supervisor Ostendorf stated that he heard through a friend that Sauk Centre Township said that Birchdale Township would allow VRBO's without any permits in their township. He shared this because we just had a request like this last month and immediately referred this to the county which definitely requires a permit.

- b. Supervisor Ahrens stated that the residents who live by Long Lake would like to talk to the Board again about possibly dropping the lake level through a different plan. So, they may be asking to come to one of the upcoming meetings.

12. **Adjournment**

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Ostendorf, seconded by Supervisor Berscheid and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jackie Bauer  
Birchdale Township Clerk