

**BIRCHDALE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, September 27, 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, September 27, 2022 at the Birchdale Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present were Supervisors Jim Carstens, Dale Ahrens, Arnie Berscheid, Joe Ostendorf, Larry Bebus, Treasurer Marlene VanHavermaet and Clerk Jackie Bauer. Also in attendance was Erv Herdering, Bart from MBC Drainage, Randy and Linda Willhite.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Supervisor Bebus, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens, and unanimously carried to approve the August 30, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes.

4. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer VanHavermaet presented the September Treasurer's Report. A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Bebus and unanimously carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

- a. Consider Renewal of Investment that matures October 5th, 2022 – Treasurer VanHavermaet state that an investment in the amount of \$106,822.91 will mature on October 5th, 2022. A motion was made by Supervisor Ostendorf, seconded by Supervisor Berscheid and unanimously carried authorizing Treasurer VanHavermaet to roll this investment over for another 12 months at the highest rate she is able to find.

5. Approval of Bills

Next presented was the list of bills for the month of September to be considered for payment. A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and unanimously carried to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$78,663.26 (See attached list of bills).

6. Resident's Comments

- a. None.

7. Reports/Requests/Presentations

- a. None.

8. Township Road Report

- a. Brushing/Tree Trimming Work In The Township Update – Supervisor Ostendorf gave an update regarding the tree trimming work that is being done in the township. Supervisor Ostendorf stated that 80% of the work is done. Some basic clean-up work will need to be done. MBC, the contractor, will wait until the corn crops are harvested before finishing up. Supervisor Ostendorf stated that the roads look good. There is good daylight coming through the canopy which will be better for winter and keeping more of the ice off of the road.
- b. Beaver Dam-Cedar Lake Road – Supervisor Ostendorf was contacted by a resident who stated that there is a beaver dam constructed along Cedar Lake Road. He viewed the area and it is not affecting the road yet but water is backing up on the Round Prairie Township side of the road and draining through the culvert very slowly. Supervisor Ostendorf will contact Supervisor Roger Hendrickson from Round Prairie to let him know about the water back-up.
- c. Driveway Approach on Blue Spruce Road – A resident who lives along Blue Spruce Road contacted Supervisor Berscheid as she is installing an approach. She filled out a driveway/culvert permit form and Supervisor Berscheid viewed the site and approved it.
- d. Ditch Mowing – Supervisor Berscheid advised the Board that he feels the ditches should be cut again. He will contact Mr. Buchholz, our ditch mowing contractor, and ask that he perform a second ditch cutting.
- e. Shouldering – Supervisor Ostendorf asked Mr. Herdering if he could go out and work on some of the shoulder corners along Alcott Drive. He has been receiving some complaints from residents.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Storm Siren Located Near Diamond Point – The storm siren that the township operates near Diamond Point is not operating. Supervisor Carstens stated that there is power going to the storm siren. Resident Randy Willhite, who was in attendance, stated that the siren has not been working. He believes that the motor on top of the tower is probably not

working. He stated that the siren has been serviced by Jay Eckle from Eagle Bend in the past, when the Sauk Lake Association owned the siren. Mr. Willhite stated that he thought in the past, the cost of repair for the motor was around \$750.00. He will contact Mr. Eckle and have him contact Supervisor Carstens and himself to discuss taking a look at the equipment to find out what might be wrong with the siren.

Supervisor Carstens stated that it may be time to discontinue using the siren especially as it may be outdated technology. Mr. and Mrs. Willhite believe it is important to keep the siren operating especially for people who are on the lake or using the resorts and may not have access to the emergency app on their phones. Some of the Board members agree with discontinuing operating the siren and saving the expense of the electricity and any repair costs of maintaining the siren. However some members also agree with Mr. and Mrs. Willhite and believe that the siren should be kept in service. Supervisor Carstens asked Clerk Bauer to put this on next month's meeting for discussion. Clerk Bauer will do this.

10. New Business

- a. Seek Proposals for Snow Removal at Town Hall - (Copy of proposed Snow Plowing of Town Hall quote information and proposed quote form is attached). The Board to:
 - Review the information and make any recommended changes.
 - Consider action on approving the quote information and quote form and authorizing seeking sealed quotes until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at which time the quotes will be opened.
 - Direct the Clerk to send the quote information and quote form to at least two individuals. In 2021, the information was sent to Lonnie Ritter and Chad Frieler. Only one quote was received from Mr. Ritter.
 - Direct the Clerk to post the quote information and quote form on the Township website and Town Hall bulletin board.
 - A motion was made by Supervisor Ostendorf, seconded by Supervisor Ahrens and unanimously approved sending the Proposal For Snow Removal Quote Form to Chad Frieler and Lonnie Ritter.

- b. Resolution No. 2022-10, Resolution Re-Adopting Snow and Ice Control Policy for Birchdale Township and Policy Review and Update Snow and Ice Control Policy - See attached proposed resolution and policy. The Board to review the Snow and Ice Control Policy and consider any possible changes. Clerk Bauer reviewed the Policy and will report on any recommended changes. The proposed Resolution is the same as the one approved for 2021. A motion was made by Supervisor Bebus, seconded by Supervisor Berscheid and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-10, Resolution Re-Adopting Snow and Ice Control Policy for Birchdale Township.

- c. Resolution No. 2022-11, Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the General Election – See attached proposed resolution. The Board has adopted Resolution #2022-10, Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the Primary and General Elections for 2022. This past month, a new judge volunteered to serve in the township for the general election. This resolution is being adopted in order to add the new judge to the Resolution. A motion was made by Supervisor Ahrens, seconded by Supervisor Ostendorf and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-11, Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the General Election. Supervisor Bebus abstained.

11. Informational Items

The Board then reviewed the following informational items:

- a. Correspondence received from Minnesota Association of Townships regarding training dates and locations that will be offered. The training will include Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Training for Supervisors and End of the Year Procedural Training for Clerks and Treasurers. Clerk Bauer will be attending the training in Grand Rapids but as a representative of Minnesota Association of Township as she will be one of the trainers for the day.
- b. Correspondence received from Todd County Auditor/Treasurer's Office regarding a notice of the General Election to be held on November 8th, 2022 with the polls opening at 7:00 AM and closing at 8:00 PM at the Birchdale Township Hall. Clerk Bauer will post this notice on the Township Bulletin Board and on the website.
- c. Correspondence received from Todd County Planning & Zoning Office regarding a public hearing to be held on Thursday, October 6th, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Todd County Courthouse regarding Arnold Gruenes, Section 29, Birchdale Township, 10625 241st Avenue – request to revise an existing conditional use permit for a feedlot to increase animal units from 450 to 999 in AF-1 zoning and Kenneth and Pamela Zehrer, Section 29, Birchdale Township, 10964 241st Avenue – request to revise an existing conditional use permit for a feedlot to increase animal units from 650 to 999 in AF-1 zoning. Supervisors Ahrens, Bebus and Ostendorf are planning to attend this meeting to find out more about this request.
- d. Reminder – Clerk Bauer is just reminding Supervisors of the Higgins Long Lake Planning Meeting that is scheduled for October 4th at 10:00 AM at the Todd County Courthouse. Supervisor Ostendorf and Supervisor Bebus are planning to attend this meeting.

12. Officers Comments

13. Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Bebus by Supervisor Berscheid, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Bauer
Birchdale Township Clerk