

COTTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 13, 2008

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. in the township office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor Dennis Olsen, Supervisor Terry Nelson, Supervisor Will Deyo, Treasurer Debbie Leppala and Clerk Sandi Nelson. Guests present were Arrlette Krog, Jan Jackson, Commissioner Keith Nelson, Dave Sipila, St. Louis Cty. Assessor's office.

The clerk read the minutes. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Will Deyo to approve the January 10th meeting minutes as read. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The treasurer presented the cash control statement.

GENERAL FUND: receipts \$1,661.42; disbursements \$4,252.30; total \$8,545.40
NON-LEVY REVENUE: receipts \$1,240.56; disbursements \$6,476.22; total \$124,361.80
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: receipts \$1,176.12; disbursements \$107.48; total \$23,686.42
CHRONICLE FUND receipts \$2,195.04; disbursements \$2,537.08; total \$12,911.20
CEMETERY(OLD FUND: receipts \$50.41; disbursements \$0; total \$6,319.94
CEMETERY(NEW FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$11,417.23
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND: receipts \$37.81; disbursements \$0; total \$6,978.17
PARKS & REC FUND: receipts \$37.81; disbursements \$202.61; total \$5,424.01
FIRE FUND: receipts \$773.09; disbursements \$24,513.00; total \$6,863.92
FIRE TRUCK FUND: receipts \$27.70; disbursements \$0; total \$13,172.39
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: receipts \$100.83; disbursements \$5.30; total \$4,865.40
CPSSD FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total (\$-87,873.71)
TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$7,300.79
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$38,093.99
BALANCE ON HAND: 1/31/08 \$136,672.17

INVESTMENTS: CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS

NON-LEVY REVENUE FUND: CD \$26,700.20; interest \$339.06, current value \$27,039.26
FIRE TRUCK FUND: CD \$24,544.20; interest \$311.93; current value \$24,876.13
TOTAL INVESTMENTS: CD \$51,264.40; total \$ \$650.99; current value \$51,915.39

Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Will Deyo to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to approve and sign the claims list for claim #13667 through #13699, claims totaling \$8,527.10 to pay the Bills For Payment. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Arrlette Krog, Cotton Civic Club president came to discuss the fiddle contest and festival and asked if the township has an interest in taking over the festival. Discussed CC Riders giving funds to the township and if they could be used for the contest and festival. Clerk will talk to Kim Larson, CC Riders, for more info on donations. There will be a civic club representative at the Cotton annual meeting. Clerk reviewed State Statute 365.10, subd. 17 What Electors May Do At The Annual Town Meeting – To grant the town board authority to provide for a specific activity within any of the following categories: (5) the benefit of residence, trade, and commerce. State Statue 471.941 Appropriation For Artistic Activities – organization or group of persons to participate in the appreciation of artistic activities which include music, dance, craft art etc.

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Assessor: Jan Jackson wanted the Board to know she is interested in the local assessor position. Dave Sipila, St. Louis Cty. Assessor's office, explained that the Cotton 2008 is deficient and by state statute the county will take over until Vidmar's contract is up June 30, 2008. Cotton will need to contract with an assessor for 2009 contract. The county has tried to meet with Vidmar to do an audit to find out what work has been completed but Vidmar stated he unable to meet with the county due to his bad health. What happens in 2008 is dependent on what Cotton would decide to do in 2009. If Cotton would choose to have St. Louis County do the assessing, SLC would only do maintenance work for the 2008 contract period which would cost less. If Cotton would choose a local assessor, SLC would do the quintile (1/5 the township) and the maintenance which would cost more. The charge for the County for the 2008 contract period was \$13,888. Commissioner Nelson discussed local and county assessed.

Highway 53 Intersection: Discussed the letters sent regarding the intersection and the letters received by MnDOT and St. Louis County Public Works. The letter from MnDOT stated, this year they will be replacing the current intersection warning signs on Highway 53 with larger and brighter signs that feature flashing lights and revised median signing as part of our regularly scheduled highway sign improvement plan. Commissioner Nelson discussed MnDOT and the County regarding the intersection. Commissioner has asked for a car count. It is hard to place signing on the County road from the west because of the service road. Commissioner Nelson wants the Town Board to know that he works for Cotton and will keep trying to do what Cotton wants him to do.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Assessor: Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to hold Vidmar's check and have St. Louis County do the quintile and maintenance for the 2008 contract period. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. Terry Nelson will call Dave Sipila, St. Louis Cty. Assessor's office, and inform him to do the quintile and maintenance. The Board requested the clerk contact Don Ketola and Andy Plesha to ask them to attend the March town board meeting.

Cotton Intersection: Debbie Leppala has been working on a list of all accidents the first responders have been at for this intersection. Clerk and treasurer would like to put together a packet of information on the intersection for the clerk to take to the State Capitol to distribute to state legislators and to have if a meeting is set-up in the future.

Community Center: Hall rental will be discussed at the March meeting. The groundskeeper said that the sidewalk around the flag pole is low and water stands and ice forms and he said he could dig it out and replace. Tabled to a later meeting. The Board approved to purchase four ultrasonic pest repellents and a laminator.

Roads: Discussed signing on township roads. Deyo has talked to Kent Lunda, St. Louis Cty. Public Works, regarding Town Road Sign Replacement Program. Cotton must talk to the county engineer to get on to the county replacement program. Someone is cutting trees down along the Cemetery Road. A notice will be put in the Chronicle. Discussed gravel permits. Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to raise the price of class 5 gravel to \$8.00 a yard. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. Leppala will type up new gravel permits and get them printed.

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Meetings: St. Louis Cty. Township Officers; Will Deyo and Sandi Nelson. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Dennis Olsen that the March town board meeting be changed from Thursday, March 13 to Wednesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. At the annual town meeting Terry Nelson will talk on the cemetery and the fiddle festival; Sandi Nelson will talk about the Chronicle; Debbie Leppala will talk about Parks & Rec; Dennis Olsen will talk about CPSSD; Will talk about S. Strand Lake Road.

Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Dennis Olsen to approve Doris Dedina, Janis Wendell, Delores Randall, Connie Lippitt, Cathy Peterson, and Debbie Leppala as election judges and alternates for the town election March 11, 2008. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Terry Nelson that Sandra Nelson be approved to go to Lobby Day February 25th. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board did not renew the IREA membership dues.

Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to give \$100 to the Alcohol & Drug Free Graduation Party and take the funds out of the Community Development Fund. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

As there was no further business, Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Terry Nelson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Dennis Olsen aye. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk

Approved:

Town Chair

Date