

COTTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. in the township office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor Will Deyo, Supervisor Ken Meinke, Supervisor Jamie Bowden Treasurer Debbie Leppala and Clerk Sandi Nelson. Residents and guest present were John Okstad, Andy Plesha, Constance Johnston Janis Wendell, and Craig Kinsley.

Reorganization was conducted. Oaths of Office have been taken by the newly elected, re-elected and the appointed board members. Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden that in keeping with past practices of rotating the position of board chair, that Will Deyo be chair of the Town Board for the next year as it is the last year of his term. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. Will Deyo abstain. MOTION CARRIED. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden that in keeping with past practices, Ken Meinke be vice-chair of the Town Board for the next year. Will Deyo aye. Jamie Bowden aye. Ken Meinke abstain. MOTION CARRIED. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke that the designated depository and investments for Cotton Township be kept at American Bank located 8401 Unity Drive, PO Box 415, Mountain Iron, MN 55768. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. When published notice is required, the designated papers are Mesabi Daily News in Virginia and Cotton Chronicle. Meeting posting places are: the township bulletin board outside the Community Center, the Wilbert Café, and Cotton SuperAmerica. The Cotton Volunteer Fire Department 2009 contract was signed. Signed the MAT Officers List. Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to appoint Will Deyo to the cotton Planning Review Board. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. Will Deyo abstain. MOTION CARRIED. The AWAIR plan is on file. A meeting schedule was presented. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to change the Regular Board meeting time from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. Wage and Expenses Schedule was presented. Ginger Kinsley was appointed as deputy clerk and Linda Tuhkanen was appointed as deputy treasurer. Committees and boards served on by the Town Board members: Will Deyo – road supervisor, Cotton Planning Review Board, Cotton VFD Fire Fighters Relief Assoc., investment committee; Jamie Bowden – building supervisor, AWAIR supervisor; Debbie Leppala – investment committee, Parks & Rec, Cotton Chronicle; Sandi Nelson – Cotton VFD Fire Fighters Relief Assoc., Cotton Chronicle, Parks & Rec, investment committee Vice-president of St. Louis County Association of Township Officers.

The clerk read the minutes. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to accept the March 9th meeting minutes as read. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The treasurer presented the cash control statement.

GENERAL FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$6,490.39; total \$1,597.94
NON-LEVY REVENUE: receipts \$1,531.23; disbursements \$0; total \$83,286.79
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: receipts \$4,792.52; disbursements \$0; total \$13,412.18
CHRONICLE FUND receipts \$670.80; disbursements \$1,090.45; total \$11,129.60
CEMETERY(OLD FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$7,072.48
CEMETERY(NEW FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$11,417.23
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$100.00; total \$2,064.31
PARKS & REC FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$325.50; total \$4,502.50

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FIRE FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$7,262.05
FIRE TRUCK FUND: receipts \$37.37; disbursements \$0; total \$19,591.55
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$8,952.36
TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$7,031.92
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$8,006.34
BALANCE ON HAND: 3/31/09 \$170,289.39

INVESTMENTS: CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS
NON-LEVY REVENUE FUND: CD current value \$28,036.79
FIRE TRUCK FUND: CD current value \$25,793.86
TOTAL INVESTMENTS: CD's current value \$53,830.65

Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Will Deyo to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Treasurer presented the claims list. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to approve and sign the claims list for claim #14129 through #14161 and debit #409-1, claims totaling \$6,639.14 and debit #409-2 to pay the Bills For Payment. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

John Okstad had a few questions regarding the town phones.

Correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

The clerk e-mail Eric Hedtke, MAT attorney, regarding the town placing a sign in the right-of-way on S. Strand Lake road. Hedtke replied he recommend against allowing any structures within the ROW because of the potential for injuries.

Ken Meinke motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to issue check #14262 for \$25.00 to Craig Kinsley for moderating the annual meeting. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Craig Kinsley, Cotton VFD Chief, discussed the rescue rig they have purchase and requested \$44,000 from the Fire Truck Fund. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to issue check #14163 for \$44,000, from the Fire Truck Fund, to the Cotton Volunteer Fire Department for the fire rescue rig. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. The Fire Truck Fund will run in the red until the CD matures and is cashed out.

CONTINUUM

Community Center: The contractors have most of the old insulation out of the Community Center and R-Tech will come in next week to spray the foam insulation. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to issue check # 14164 for \$600 to Jim Lippitt and check #14165 for \$600 to Troy Schiefelbein for the work done to date removing the old insulation. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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Roads: Problems on S. Strand Lake road with a frozen culvert and standing water. A letter has been sent to St. Louis County Public Works in Virginia requesting they thaw culverts as needed on township roads and bill accordingly. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to set the Road Review for May 1, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Andy Plesha, local assessor, discussed the work he has been doing in Cotton township. There has been a big sale of over 1000 acres at a very low price and it will affect township taxes. Many corrections have been done and there are new classifications. Long term goal is to get everything equalized in the township. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to issue check # 14166 for \$2,950 to Andy Plesha, local assessor. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to accept the Rodda Grading and Excavating contract for grading the township roads. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to accept the Tracy Excavating contract for gravel and road work. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Meetings: MnDOT Public Meeting - Will Deyo, Ken Meinke, Debbie Leppala, and Sandi Nelson; Township Officers – Ken Meinke, Jamie Bowden, Debbie Leppala, and Sandi Nelson.

NEW BUSINESS

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to approve check #14126 for \$1,500 to the Meadowlands Ambulance. Terry Nelson aye. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to grant the renewal of the 2009-2010 Combination On-Sale/Off-Sale and Sunday On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor Licenses for Wilbert, Inc. d/b/a Wilbert Café & El Toro Lounge, Cotton, MN. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussed the closing of the Cotton School. Discussed a request for a donation for the Class Reunion for classes 1931-1965. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke to donate Cotton videos, cookbooks, canvas bags, post cards, and two history books. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board discussed the donation request for the St. Louis County Fair, request denied.

At the MAT Short Course it was suggested, by the State Auditor, to have all the town funds in the checking account. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Jamie Bowden to close the town savings account and transfer the funds to the checking account. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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As there was no further business, Will Deyo motioned, supported by Ken Meinke that the meeting be adjourned at 5:57 p.m. Will Deyo aye. Ken Meinke aye. Jamie Bowden aye. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk

Approved:

Town Chair

Date