

COTTON TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the township office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor Terry Nelson, Supervisor Dennis Olsen, Supervisor Will Deyo, Treasurer Debbie Leppala and Clerk Sandi Nelson. Residents and guests were Norm Peterson, Dave Stark, Ann Kieffaber, Jean Magney, Mark & Janice Magney, Dave & Melody Swenson.

The clerk read the minutes. Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to approve the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The treasurer presented the cash control statement.

GENERAL FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$8,757.88; total \$(-21,132.55)  
NON-LEVY REVENUE: receipts \$2,736.70; disbursements \$0; total \$94,958.65  
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$7,562.05; total \$24,403.91  
CHRONICLE FUND receipts \$520.65; disbursements \$1,003.56; total \$9,944.01  
CEMETERY\OLD FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$217.25; total \$6,042.57  
CEMETERY\NEW FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$11,417.23  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$6,878.17  
PARKS & REC FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$4,551.13  
FIRE FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$6,863.92  
FIRE TRUCK FUND: receipts \$24.55; disbursements \$0; total \$13,299.01  
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$5,005.40  
CPSSD FUND: receipts \$0; disbursements \$0; total \$(-50,246.74)  
TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$3,281.90  
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$17,540.74  
BALANCE ON HAND: 6/30/08 \$111,984.71

INVESTMENTS: CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS

NON-LEVY REVENUE FUND: CD current value \$27,339.25  
FIRE TRUCK FUND: CD current value \$25,152.12  
TOTAL INVESTMENTS: CD current value \$52,491.37

Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to approve and sign the claims list for claim #13831 through #13861 and debit #3337, claims totaling \$26,903.55 to pay the Bills For Payment. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Residents: Dave Stark asked if there was the township election results were not in the Chronicle. The clerk apologized for the error and said they will be put in the August Chronicle. Stark asked if there is any intension to put in a culvert by Evergreen Lane as he suggested. Chair Nelson stated after talking to the road contractor it was decided to wait. Nelson will talk to Bryan again.

Jean Magney stated the write-in candidate did receive 15 votes at the township election, is there a procedure that the Board follows to replace Dennis Olsen if he resigns what state statues governs that? The clerk looked up the state statute and read 367.03 Sub.6 stating that if a supervisor resigns, a new supervisor is appointed by the two remaining town supervisors and it is the one time the clerk votes. Jean Magney would like to suggest Ken Meinke be appointed.

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Dave & Melody Swenson have a problem with a noisy seasonal neighbor and presented the Board with a letter, pictures, and cd. The Swenson's would like help with the St. Louis Cty. Sheriff's Dept. There is a problem with the four wheelers late at night and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July it was fireworks being shot off toward Swenson's property. Swenson has been calling law enforcement but the response time can be up to an hour. We pay the same taxes but do not get the coverage they get in Pike Lake or Canosia Township. Swenson's would like the Board to contact Commissioner Keith Nelson and Sheriff Ross Litman to help get this issue straighten out. Swenson's would like to see the Board take the lead in the issue of north/south and who in the Sheriff's department is suppose to cover Cotton. The deputy's have all been very professional, courteous, kind but the issue is that no one wants to take care of Cotton. Cotton should consider law enforcement if it wants to develop or grow. Are there other townships that have the same problem with the response time from the Sheriff's Department. The Board will write a letter and attach the information from Swenson's to Commissioner Keith Nelson and Sheriff Ross Litman.

Correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

S. Strand Lake Road: It was suggested to go through the Tracy estimate. The clerk reviewed the notes from the viewing of the road on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Reviewed Tracy Excavating estimate: This is for the area that has been logged off ; Removing high bank areas of material and filling in low areas with this material. Soil erosion would be maintained as best as possible. Straw matting and or fencing will be installed to help reduce erosion. Reviewed a letter sent from Victor Lund, St. Louis County Public Works Dept.; identified one site that may justify a guardrail. Noticed 25 mph speed limit signs, I recommend removing these signs as they are not authorized by MnDOT.

Discussed road budget and ways to pay for the project on S. Strand Lake Road. St. Louis County will help with advice and information not in a monetary way. A plan needs to be put together.

Dennis Olsen would like Commission Keith Nelson to be asked about the railroad crossing on Comstock Lake Road.

CONTINUUM

Community Center: Leppala received one estimates on foam insulation. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to approve Teffani Glew and Megan Borich as security persons for the July 19<sup>th</sup> wedding. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Roads: Rodda Excavating sent a town road mowing estimate. Dennis Olsen feels the town roads should be mowed more than once. Will check if there is a date that mowing can start. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Will Deyo to approve the Rodda Excavating estimate for \$900 for town road mowing. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Discussed replacing road signs on S. Strand Lake Road and Kauppi Lake Road. Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to put the suggested signs on Kauppi Lake Road and hold off on S. Strand Lake Road until a plan is put together. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. The calcium chloride has been placed on one road and they will be returning. Discussed the grading schedule. Clerk will contact Rodda to grade Cemetery Road one more time during this season. Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to place gravel on North Strand Lake Road towards the landing as staked. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. The gravel pit will be open to the public July 19<sup>th</sup>, with Bryan Tracy available to load and haul for people. A notice was in the Cotton Chronicle. The Board asked Norm Peterson to walk the fence line of the gravel pit to check the fence.

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Meetings: Will Deyo motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to change the time for the regular town board meeting to 5:00 p.m. beginning September, 2008. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

St. Louis County Local Water Management Plan: The county is in the process of forming a task force to assist in the revision and update of the water management plan. Clerk will contact Barb Leuelling to see if she would be interested in this task force. Jane Kieffaber suggested Tom Zeisler may be interested in this task force.

Chronicle: Discussed increasing the circulation of the paper. Will Deyo motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to increase the circulation of the Chronicle to include Zim, Forbes and all of Makinen. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Fiddle Contest: Will Deyo motioned, supported by Dennis Olsen to continue with advertising in the fiddle contest booklet. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Discussed the signs that the Civic Club put up for the Fiddle Festival. MnDOT has informed Terry Nelson that this type of sign is not allowed. The Civic Club will get a warning and next year the signs will just be taken down and the Civic Club will get a fine. Dennis Olsen motioned, supported by Will Deyo to clarify the motion of the annual meeting that Cotton will match Cotton Township businesses donation to the Civic Club. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Dennis and Laurel will be putting on a volleyball tournament at the fiddle festival.

Discussed township roads and yearly costs. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Will Deyo to have a South Strand Lake Road planning meeting Thursday, July 24, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Dennis Olsen presented his official resignation as a town board supervisor. Dave Stark recommended that Ken Meinke be appointed as supervisor.

As there was no further business, Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Will Deyo that the meeting be adjourned at 8:39 p.m. Terry Nelson aye. Dennis Olsen aye. Will Deyo aye. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Town Clerk

Approved:

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Town Chair

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Date