**ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP MEETING** March 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM in the Ellsburg Town hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present were: Chairman Beth Caple, Supervisor John Upton, Treasurer Scott Streitz and Clerk Cindy Brown. Vice Chair Kevin Davidson was absent.

Guests present were: Dale Wick, Elaine Wick, Lee Voigt, Arrlette Krog, Heidi Yokel, Loren Mesedahl and Steph Upton.

Clerks’ minutes for 2023 March Annual Meeting were read.

Treasurer Report for February 2023 – N/A, was reviewed at March Annual Meeting.

**CONSENT**

* Motion to approve-
  + March Annual Meeting Minutes
  + N/A
  + Bills for payment
  + Payroll

Supervisor John Upton made a motion to approve consent agenda items, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Correspondence was reviewed, no action required.

**RESIDENTS AND GUESTS:**

* Arrlette Krog shared that the fire department is looking at a better security system which will cost about $1600.00. They will request a future discussion with the board on who will pay for this system. She also suggested holding a discussion soon to finalize interior plans for the new building.
* Heidi Yokel reported they had one call which was an Apple watch calling 911, who then contacted the fire department. The call as eventually cancelled as it was an accidental call from the watch. They are working with Fire Wise on the prevention of wild fires and will be working with the township and area residents on clean-up activities for their properties. Grants are available to cover costs. This led to a good discussion on wildfires.
* Loren Mesedahl shared that the fire department is not able to access the underground water tank at the Melrude Fire Hall due to the fire hall not a big enough breaker to run the pump. This will be added to the new building discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Road and Bridge:** 
  + Chairperson Beth Caple has reached out to Vic Lunda regarding the inspection of the bridge on Cemetery Road.
* **Buildings:**
  + Supervisor John Upton shared that he will be meeting with Economy Garages as soon as his contact returns from vacation.
* **Cemetery:** Nothing new to report.
* **Noxious Weed:** Nothing new to report.

**REORGANIZATION**

1. Beth Caple was selected to remain the Chairperson and John Upton as Vice Chair. Supervisor John Upton made a motion to approve, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.
2. 2023 Schedule of the Town Board Meetings – Chairperson Beth Caple made a motion to approve the schedule with one change, move the Oct 31 Meeting to Oct 24, Supervisor John Upton second, motion approved.
3. Official Newspaper – Chairperson Beth Caple made a motion to keep the Mesabi Tribune as our official newspaper, Supervisor John Upton second, motion approved.
4. Compensation for town officers and employees – After review of suggested wage changes from Clerk Cindy Brown and a discussion on the importance of paying all township officers at desirable pay in order to attract and retain people the wages will be increased this year as follows:
   1. Supervisor $25/hour
   2. Clerk $30/hour
   3. Deputy Clerk $25/hour
   4. Treasurer $25/hour
   5. Deputy Treasurer $25/hour
   6. Election Judge $25/hour

Supervisor John Upton made a motion to approve, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.

1. Motions made for designation of supervisors as below.
   1. Building & Playground Supervisor – John Upton
   2. Road & Bridge Supervisor – Kevin Davidson
   3. Cemetery & Noxious Weed Supervisor – Beth Caple

Supervisor John Upton made a motion to approve, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.

1. Designated bank as town depository – Supervisor John Upton made a motion that our banks remain the same (Northern State Bank and Miners Bank) and the below as signatories for both banks, Chairperson Beth Caple, motion approved.
   1. Signatories: Cindy Brown, Scott Streitz, Beth Caple, John Upton and Kevin Davidson. Elaine Wick and Aubreanna McKeever will be removed as signatories.
2. Inventory training and reference materials - Reviewed by clerk, all in order.
3. Review town resolution book – Resolution book is up to date and was on the table for review.
4. Confirm town financial reporting form has been completed and returned to the state auditor office – Retired Treasurer Elaine Wick confirmed that the report has been completed and submitted.
5. Identify upcoming training opportunities – Spring Short Courses will be held at the DECC on April 7th.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Meadowlands Ambulance submitted a donation request. Supervisor John Upton made a motion to donate $750.00, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.
2. Chairperson Beth Caple and Supervisor John Upton requested the clerk change the May 9, 2023 LBAE meeting as John is out of town and Beth is not certified this year which leaves no back up if Vice Chair Kevin Davidson cannot attend for an unexpected reason.
3. Chairperson Beth Caple made a motion to hold the Annual 2023 Road Review at 1:00 pm Thursday, April 27, Supervisor John Upton second, motion approved. Supervisors will inspect the roads and buildings separately prior to the meeting.
4. A request was made by a resident at the March Annual Meeting to have the township pass a resolution to ban nuclear weapons in Ellsburg Township. A copy of the Duluth resolution, that was not passed, was read by the supervisors and Chairperson Beth Caple made a motion to not pass a resolution, Supervisor John Upton second, motion approved.
5. Supervisor John Upton made a motion to pass a resolution making Ellsburg Township a Minnesota Mining Friendly township, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved. This resolution will be shared with our state representatives.
6. Clerk Cindy Brown requested authority to call a handyman when needed throughout the year for misc. repairs and maintenance. Supervisor John Upton made a motion to approve the request up to $500.00 a month ($1000 in the case of an emergency), Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.
7. The EVFD requested that we move the March 29 EVFD Financial Review to May 3 at 5:00 pm. An updated meeting notice will be posted.
8. The McDavitt Fire Contract for 2023 was read and Supervisor John Upton made a motion to approve, Chairperson Beth Caple second, motion approved.
9. District Meeting Update – Chairperson Beth Caple and Supervisor John Upton gave a short report on the March 22 SLCAT Meeting. They learned of upcoming railroad crossing closures, this will not affect Ellsburg Township.
10. Supervisor John Upton reported that he has been selected by MAT as one of two supervisors for Minnesota to attend NATaT (National Association of Towns and Townships) in Washington D. C. on May 9. This is a great honor for John and Ellsburg Township!

As there was no further business, Chairperson Beth Caple made a motion to adjourn, Supervisor John Upton second, motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

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Cindy Brown, Clerk Beth Caple, Chairman

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Date