

**ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP
1767 MELRUDE ROAD P.O.BOX 308
MELRUDE, MN. 55766**

Regular Board Meeting
December 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Musburger at 5:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Board members present: Vice Chair Keith Fulcher; Supervisor Kevin Cavanaugh; Treasurer Shell Stallcop; Clerk Annette Millsop and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Debbie Leppala. Guest: Bob Rodda.

Clerks Minutes: Read, corrected and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Shelly reported:

Beginning Balance:	\$64,782.95
Receipts:	\$274.69
Disbursements:	\$4,365.08
Total Ending Balance:	\$60,692.56

Motion was made by Keith to accept the treasurer's report; seconded by Kevin Cavanaugh; motion carried.

Correspondence: Paper found in office for road specification's will be filed with all the road papers. The MAT meeting will be held on January 27th at Cotton at 7:00pm. Received a Thank you from MAT for our donation for the annual conference at Rochester. The e-mail we received from Chris Boerner about Lein Road 6629. The clerk answered and it was taken care of on November 25, 2009.

Old Business:

Road and Bridges: We will discuss it when Bob Rodda gets here.

Web Site: Keith talked to Karolyn and she will be willing to help with the new clerk free of charge in the coming year as she didn't do very much this last year and will also help with the other web issues with Keith. Jeff said he would like to add the Poker at the Pub and any other events here in Melrude people may be interested about our township. Keith said he would like to keep fresh ideas for anyone who reads the web site.

Cemetery: Jeff said he would like to have Ray Leppala do the crosses for installation in the spring. Discussion followed and Kevin said he would like to have something different like a plaster casted oval and installed in the spring. Jeff said he knows someone who could possibly make name tags for them. Discussion to continue in the next meeting in January. Kevin also would like to have a cemetery meeting next month to get the Plot map done and Stan Peterson's book copied so we have a second one for the cemetery.

Melrude Fire Hall: Jeff said he didn't do anything about it. Keith said he still hadn't heard from Jim Lippitt, but did talk to Fire Chief Brady Miller at the meeting and they do have suggestions which we will continue at the next meeting.

Roads: Jeff said he would like to discuss with Bob Rodda about lighting on his grader because of the hazard from being out late at night and not being seen by other drivers. Discussion about the difference in the amount between the cost from St. Louis County and Bob Rodda. The difference was: \$1,643.94 for St. Louis County and \$9,327.50 for Rodda. Keith said that Bob virtually rebuilt the roads and did a good job. Debbie said we need to have a schedule for Bob Rodda and should coincide with Pioneer Lake Road. She also said we need to specify hours he should spend on the roads. Jeff said Mink and Blackburn should be done more often because of the higher amount of traffic. Jeff also said the grass was a problem and he went with Bob and watched and that is very hard on the cutter. Debbie also said the things that need to be done will be decided at the road review and it would be good to take Rodda along to see what we can do. Jeff also said we should talk to Bob Rodda about a back-up driver in case of illness or accident and we would need to have something done on the

roads. We also will have the Calcium Chloride put on the roads to bring down the dust. Jeff asked about the contract for the roads with Rodda and discussion followed. We will wait with the contract filing.

New Business: Jeff asked Annette to make a posting for the boards which would include all the months from January through March. The Meetings for January are:

January 26th: Board of Audit 1:00pm.; Budget Meeting after that; and Regular Board meeting at 3:00pm.

February 23, 2010 Regular Board Meeting at 3:00pm.

March 9, 2010: Election 10:00am-8:00pm. Count and Board of Canvass at 8:20pm.. Annual Meeting at 8:30pm.

March 30, 2010: Reorganizational Meeting at 3:00pm. Swearing in of new officers. Finalize budget and wages for the year. Regular Board Meeting to follow the Reorganizational meeting.

Shelly said she would like a copier and stapler for her use at home. Debbie said she found one on line. Kevin made a motion for Shelly to buy them on her township card and Keith seconded it. Motion carried with the amount up to \$200.00.

Debbie and Annette will do the workers comp papers for the Audit from MAT.

Jeff went to Cotton meeting where wages were discussed and also checked with other townships and we are in the middle with our wages. It was agreed that we will stay where we are with the same ones.

Bob Rodda: Jeff spoke to Bob about the lighting on his grader and he said that he has backup lights but they are very bright and would probably be blinding to traffic. He will be sure to check them out . He also talked to him about what would happen if he became sick or hurt? Jeff suggested Gordy Halverson and Joe Kasier. Bruce Hanson was also suggested. He will talk to them and so will Jeff about being backup drivers for him on the roads. Keith said we are very happy with the job he has done and they have gotten a positive response from the citizens. Jeff also asked about the contract with him and he said that the only thing that would change would be the money for fuel which would be \$83.00per/hr. The contract would be for him to grade before the Chloride comes and someone else would bring the gravel for the roads. It was also suggested we have a contract for 2 years with Bob Rodda. Jeff also said we have a problem on Blackburn and Water Hen and it will depend on the owner giving us permission. He was also asked to come on the road review with the board members in April. Mink road and Blackburn need to be graded at least once a month. We would also ask that he not grade on Saturdays or Sundays unless there is an emergency. The board will also have less Chloride put on the roads. The contract will be ready for next months meeting. Kevin said he is very satisfied with the job he has done. They would like him to start in the early spring. All the roads should be done at least every four weeks.

Motion to adjourn by Kevin; seconded by Keith at 6:27pm.