

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

ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP MEETING

December 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM in the Ellsburg Town hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor Arrlette Krog, Supervisor Brandon Cavanaugh, Supervisor Joe Caple, Deputy Clerk McKenzie Clinton, and Treasurer Elaine Wick. Clerk Barbara Cavanaugh was absent.

Guests present were Heidi Yokel, Debbie Feth, Cheryl Larson, Bob Larson, and Ray Privett. Clerks minutes were read, Arrlette Krog made a motion to approve minutes with a few corrections, Brandon second, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report For November , 2016

	Totals	General	Road & Bridge	Fire	Cemetery
Beginning Balance November 2016	61,589.36	25,407.12	28,767.47	0.00	7,414.77
Receipts	99.86	99.86			0.00
	Stop Pay 132.57	132.57	0.00	0.00	
	Void 1,531.25				
Disbursements	9,540.37	8,506.37	1,034.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Balance November 2016	58,812.67	17,133.18	29,264.72	0.00	7,417.77

Arrlette Krog made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Joe Caple second, motion approved.

Bills submitted for payment:

Vendor	Description	Claim#	Amount
St. Louis County Auditor	Snow removal	7033	\$1531.25
Arvig	Telephone and internet	7034	\$132.43
Culligan Water	Water Softener Salt	7035	\$34.05
MATIT Insurance	Workers comp	7036	\$301.00
Norland Sanitary	Refuse collection Nov.	7037	\$17.55
TAG Handyman Services	Snow removal	7038	\$216.00
Barbara Cavanaugh	Wages	7039	\$136.58
Brandon Cavanaugh	Wages	7040	\$34.39
Brandon Cavanaugh	Mileage	7041	\$40.24
Joe Caple	Wages	7042	\$30.89
Jennifer Carlson	Town Hall Cleaning	7043	\$50.00

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McKenzie Clinton	Wages	7044	\$119.71
McKenzie Clinton	Mileage	7045	\$34.50
Arrlette Krog	Wages	7046	\$182.12
Arrlette Krog	Mileage	7047	\$74.75
Elaine Wick	Wages	7048	\$144.97
Elaine Wick	Mileage and Purchases	7049	\$35.74
PERA	Board Retirement Oct.	7050	\$54.76
Lake Country Power	Electricity	7051	\$214.55
Total			\$3,385.49

Brandon Cavanaugh made a motion to accept the bills for payment, Joe Caple second, motion approved.

Correspondence: Correspondence were looked at with no further discussion.

Road and Bridge: Brandon Cavanaugh stated that the roads are in good condition and have been plowed nicely.

Cemetery: Arrlette Krog stated that she contacted the family member who was inquiring about a relative buried in the River View Cemetery.

Buildings: Joe Caple stated that the buildings are in good shape and spoke about adding a heater to the library section of the fire hall. He stated that he had called three companies about estimates and had one contractor come out and look at what was needed but he never received an estimate. After a short discussion about what the best solution would be, Joe Caple stated that he will look into adding a metal screen at the bottom of the door to allow heat to enter into the library section of the fire hall.

Website: Nothing new to report.

New Business:

Ray Privett gave a report on the Fire Department, stating that they went on two calls that month. One was for a mutual aid call by Stone Lake, and the other was a medical call that was cancelled before they arrived. Ray Privett also reported that the Fire Department had fourteen members in good standing for 2016. Arrlette Krog asked for something in writing that reflects this before the township donates the money to the relief fund.

The Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department contract for 2017 was looked at, Brandon Cavanaugh made a motion to accept the contract at a cost of \$38,000.00, Joe Caple second, motion approved. Ray Privett inquired about receiving \$48,000.00 for the fire contract in 2018 because of the added expenses the Fire Department has acquired, which include replacing the SCBA tanks and replacing a rescue truck. Arrlette Krog stated that the board will take that into consideration.

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Arrlette Krog spoke about the sign that was needed for the Fire Hall. She stated that Mesabi sign Company had come out and looked at what was needed and gave her different options that were available. She then asked the other board members what they were looking to spend on the signs. Brandon Cavanaugh stated that he would like to see what is available at different price points. Arrlette Krog stated that she will get estimates and show them to the board at the next meeting.

A discussion about Blackburn Drive took place. Arrlette Krog read a letter she received from the township attorney outlining the three options Ellsburg Township has for taking over Blackburn Drive. The three options are:

1. Board resolution- Town Board passes a resolution to pay for the upkeep and maintenance.
2. Petition at Annual Meeting- Voters may present a petition signed by at least ten taxpayers requesting that town funds are allocated for the maintenance of the road.
3. "Sense Vote" at Annual Meeting- The board may ask for a vote at the annual meeting to get a sense of whether the electors oppose or support the township taking over the road.

Arrlette Krog reported that there are a few legalities that needed to be work out before the township formally accepts the road, including snow plowing, speaking to the DNR, speaking to the school district, and completing a survey of the land that was platted for Blackburn Drive. Arlette Krog suggested hiring an independent contractor to plow the road, like the Township does for the Town Hall parking lot because she is unsure if the County's snow plows could fit down the road. She also spoke about her concerns with hiring an independent contractor because she doesn't know if there is a place for the plow truck to turn around. Bob Larson suggested using the beach for a turnaround. Arrlette Krog stated that she believes the beach will work for a turnaround. She also stated that she will call the DNR and the school district about the concerns of the township. Another issue that was brought up by the township lawyer is that a survey of the land is needed to make sure all of Blackburn Drive is within the platted section. Arrlette Krog made a motion to ask the constituents for a survey of the land. Joe Caple second, motion approved. Arrlette Krog asked the Clerk to draft a letter asking for a survey to send to Bob Larson. Bob Larson then asked which of the three options the board was looking at proceeding with because he doesn't want to pay for a survey if Blackburn Drive isn't going to be taken over by the Township. Arrlette Krog stated that she doesn't want to formally make a motion as to which option until all of the legalities are worked out, but she was in support of the township allocating money for Blackburn drive. Joe Caple and Brandon Cavanaugh stated that they were also in support of allocating money.

As there was no further business, Arrlette Krog made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brandon Cavanaugh second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M. .

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Barbara Cavanaugh, Clerk

Brandon Cavanaugh, Chairman

Date