

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

ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP MEETING

February 28, 2017

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 Chairman Brandon Cavanaugh, Vice Chairman Joe Caple, Supervisor Arrlette Krog, Treasurer Elaine Wick, and Deputy Clerk McKenzie Clinton. Clerk Barbara Cavanaugh was absent.

Guests present were Lee Voigt, Guy Ross, Vickie Ross, Dale Wick, Heidi Yokel, Rod Carlson, Bill McKechnie, Ray Privett, Scott Streitz, Jeff Johnson, and Donna Cline.

Clerks minutes were read, Arrlette Krog made a motion to approve minutes with a few corrections, Brandon Cavanaugh second, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report For January, 2017

	Totals	General	Road & Bridge	Fire	Cemetery
Beginning Balance December 2016	99,386.69	36,250.05	35,471.87	19,000.00	8,664.77
Receipts	3,295.67	1,027.57	0.00	2,268.10	0.00
Disbursements	22,410.77	3,410.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Balance December 2016	80,271.59	33,866.85	35,471.87	2,268.10	8,664.77

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

Bills submitted for payment:

Vendor	Description	Claim #	Amount
Arvig	Telephone and Internet	7077	\$138.42
EVFD	1st Half Comstock Lake Fire Contract	7078	\$2,268.10
PERA		7079	\$1,400.00
Lake County Power	Electricity	7080	\$327.93
IRS	Medicare & SS Withholdings	7081	\$1,726.99
Mesabi Daily News	Notice of Election	7082	\$34.90
Miners National Bank	Safety Deposit Box	7083	\$20.00
Norland Refuse	Refuse Collection	7084	\$17.55
TAG Handyman Services	Snow Removal	7085	\$412.22
WA Fisher	Postcards & Ballots	7086	\$112.74
Jennifer Carlson	Town Hall Cleaning	7087	\$50.00
Joe Caple	Wages	7088	\$189.34
Brandon Cavanaugh	Wages	7089	\$208.71
McKenzie Clinton	Wages	7090	\$390.65
Arrlette Krog	Wages	7091	\$515.39
Elaine Wick	Wages	7092	\$721.51
PERA	Retirement	7093	\$66.22

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Total			\$8,600.67
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Joe Caple made a motion to accept the bills for payment, Arrlette Krog second, motion approved.

Correspondence: Darrell Miller sent an email to the township about the cost of replacing the culvert on Blackburn Drive. The email was read with no further discussion.

Road and Bridge: Brandon Cavanaugh reported that the roads were in rough shape from being frozen this winter.

Cemetery: Arrlette Krog spoke about a plaque that is being installed in the cemetery to replace one that had a misspelling. She stated that she is hopeful that it would be installed before memorial day.

Buildings: Joe Caple reported that the buildings were in good shape.

Website: Nothing new to report

New Business:

A discussion about Blackburn Drive took place. Vickie Ross passed around pictures of the culvert on Blackburn Drive and read a section from the 2014 grant application that stated that the culvert was in rough condition. She stated that because the culvert was in rough shape the township would most likely have to replace it if they took over Blackburn Drive. Vickie Ross stated that based on the information that she found the cost to replace the culvert would be at least \$275,000.00. Bill McKechnie stated that there are different ways for the township to acquire funding for Blackburn Drive. He stated that there are both federal and state grants available that the township could apply for. A discussion about the cost of replacing the culvert took place.

Guy Ross spoke about his concerns with the survey that was done on Blackburn Drive. He stated that when the surveyor was doing the survey he was unable to locate the center line and therefore the survey is incorrect. Bill McKechnie stated that everything is done electronically now, and there was no need to physically locate the center pin. A lively discussion about whether or not the survey was accurate took place.

Rod Carlson stated that there was brushing done on his property without being informed by those doing the brushing. Arrlette Krog stated that it is unfortunate that this occurred but because the township was not doing the brushing it was not the townships responsibility to inform property owners of any work being done. He also inquired about why a survey was not done before the road was brought up to township specifications. Arrlette Krog stated that after the board asked for Blackburn Drive to be brought up to township road specifications, she had contacted a lawyer to insure that the township was taking all legal precautions necessary. The township lawyer suggested asking for a survey of Blackburn Drive to make sure that the road was within the platted section.

Arrlette Krog stated that because of the resolution passed at the January board meeting, nothing can be done with Blackburn Drive unless a petition is brought forward and a vote is taken at the annual meeting.

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The Township received a letter from South Ridge School asking for donations to their All-Night Grad Party. Arrlette Krog made a motion to donate \$100.00, Joe Caple second, motion approved.

Deputy Clerk McKenzie Clinton stated that the township received a letter from St. Louis County stating that the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting would be on April 20th, 2017 from 1-2P.M at the Melrude Town Hall.

Ray Privett gave a report in the Fire Department stating that they had no runs that month. He also spoke about different training events the fire department is attending and the new truck the Fire Department recently purchased.

As there was no further business, Brandon Cavanaugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Caple second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Barbara Cavanaugh, Clerk

Brandon Cavanaugh, Chairman

Date