

**ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP MEETING****May 31, 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 Joe Caple, Clerk Barbara Cavanaugh, Deputy Clerk McKenzie Clinton, and Treasurer Elaine Wick.

Guests present were Darrell Miller, Lee Voigt, Heidi Yokel, Debbie Feth, Ray Privett, Rick McRae, Jeff Dulinski, Ron Saukko, Cheryl Larson, Bob Larson, Tracy Goldberg, and Mike Dougar. Clerks minutes were read, with the correction of an incorrect amount that the Township would have to pay to install a bridge on Blackburn Drive. Arrlette Krog made a motion to approve minutes, Joe Caple second, motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report For April, 2016**

	<b>Totals</b>	General	Road & Bridge	Fire	Cemetery
Beginning Balance April 1, 2016	<b>109,009.61</b>	63,125.27	37,396.23	0.00	8,488.11
Receipts	<b>218.78</b>	218.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disbursements	<b>33,534.76</b>	<b>32,628.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>906.67</b>
Ending Balance April 30, 2016	<b>75,693.63</b>	30,715.96	37,396.23	0.00	7,581.44

Arrlette Krog made a motion to accept treasurers report, Joe Caple second, motion carries.

**Treasurer Submitted bills for payment:**

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Claim #</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Wal-Mart	Basketball Court	6863	\$927.61
Arvig	Telephone and Internet	6864	\$131.97
Cotton Chronicle	Renewal of Sponsorship	6865	\$180.00
Culligan Water	Water softener	6866	\$67.20
Lake County Power	Electricity	6867	\$152.85
Norland	Garbage Pick Up	6868	\$17.55
Overhead Door Co.	Bass Lake Hall Door repair	6869	\$6,170.00
Joe Caple	Wages	6870	\$493.98
Joe Caple	Mileage	6871	\$93.73
Barb Cavanaugh	Wages	6872	\$574.09
Barb Cavanaugh	Mileage and purchase	6873	\$87.13
Brandon Cavanaugh	Wages	6874	\$300.70
Brandon Cavanaugh	Mileage	6875	\$123.63
McKenzie Clinton	Wages	6876	\$360.00
Jennifer Carlson	Town Hall Cleaning	6877	\$50.00
Arrlette Krog	Wages	6878	\$244.08
Arrlette Krog	Mileage	6879	\$41.40
Elaine Wick	Wages	6880	\$320.12
Elaine Wick	Mileage	6881	\$41.10

McRae Land Improvements	Work order	6882	\$7,090.00
PERA	Board Retirement	6883	\$119.40
St. Louis Auditor	Elect. Equip Maintenance	6884	\$180.00
Rodda Grading	Township Road Grading	6885	\$1,210.00
Becky Musburger	Wages	6886	\$70.00
Jeff Musburger	Cemetery Meeting	6887	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$19,096.54</b>

Arrlette Krog made a motion to accept the bills for payment, Joe Caple second, motion approved.

**Correspondence:** Arrlette Krog read a thank you letter from the Meadowlands Ambulance for a donation they had received from the township.

**Road and Bridge:** Brandon Cavanaugh sent in a written report on what improvements are needed on the various township roads. Rick McRae stated that he had previously spoken to Brandon Cavanaugh about what needed to be done and that he had a list of the improvements needed.

**Web Site:** Nothing new to report.

**Cemetery:** Arrlette Krog spoke about the cemetery meeting that had taken place, and read the minutes from that meeting. At the meeting internment and disinterment fees were discussed, and it was stated that urns needed to be placed in ground containers so they can be moved in the future, if needed. Arrlette Krog then stated that the cemetery committee had decided that winter burials would be any burial that takes place between December 1st and May 1st. The cemetery committee also recommended that Rick McRae do all cemetery digging unless he is unable to do so. Arrlette Krog also spoke about whether or not the township would take payments for the cemetery, and that this is something the board needs to take under consideration. Arrlette Krog stated that there are 4 different sections of the cemetery and that there are currently 111 gravesites available for purchase. With a recommendation from the cemetery committee, Arrlette Krog made a motion to increase the cost of internments from \$100.00 to \$200.00, Joe Caple second, motion carried.

**Buildings:** Joe Caple reported that most of the concrete work is complete, but the basketball court still needs to be finished and that because of weather delays the apron on the Melrude Fire Hall will be finished the following week.

**New Business:** Ray Privett spoke about the money that the township agreed to donate to the Fire department relief fund, and stated that he was mistaken when he said that money would go to individuals, instead the money goes into a general fund.

Darrel Miller spoke about Blackburn drive and the benefits of Ellsburg Township taken over it. He stated that Blackburn Drive has four unique characteristics that no other roads in the Township have;

- the township had received gas tax for 23 years,
- no other roads are public access,
- no other roads have a culvert/bridge that the township would be able to receive money for
- the township already maintains 2 and a half lots on Blackburn road.

Cheryl Larson then stated that the citizens on Blackburn Drive pay more taxes than any other citizens on an individual road, and that they have been trying to get the township to take over the road for about 14 years. Cheryl Larson also stated that there is nothing legal classifying Blackburn Drive as a cart way and that it is only classified as this because a lawyer stated that it was a cart way. Joe Caple stated that if a township does not maintain a road then it is up to the residents on that road to maintain it. Bob Larson spoke about how Blackburn Drive is public access so he doesn't feel that it is right that the citizens living there should have to pay for the maintenance of it when anyone is allowed to use it. Arrlette Krog spoke about other issues and the logistics that would need to be worked out before the township took over Blackburn Drive, including snow removal, she stated that as the road is right now there is nowhere for a snow plow to turn around, and she is unsure if a snow plow would even be able to fit down Blackburn Drive because of how narrow it is.

Rick McRae spoke about the road maintenance work that he is doing for the township and stated that in the past he has had a formal contract, and he feels it is important to have one. Arrlette Krog agreed with Rick McRae stating that she also feels a formal contract is important to have.

Jeff Dulinski gave a short report about the two runs that Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department went on in April, and stated that they had an issue with one of the garage doors not shutting at the Bass Lake Fire Hall. Joe Caple stated that the door had been fixed the following day and was now working. Jeff Dulinski also spoke about his concerns with the security at the Melrude Town Hall, as of right now, the fire departments equipment and trucks are not separated from the rest of the hall, which is an issue because the building is open to the public. A discussion followed about what the best solution would be, Arrlette Krog made a motion to build a wall made out of wood, and sheet rock between the area that is open to the public and the rest of the Melrude Fire Hall, Joe Caple second, motion carried.

Ron Saukko spoke about the turnaround at the end of his road, stating that he had planned to make a second road to his house but later decided not to. The township uses the turnaround when doing road maintenance, and he doesn't want to township to claim the turnaround as theirs because they have done work on it. Rick McRae suggested getting some sort of an agreement with the township that stated that while the land still belongs to Ron Saukko, the township is able to use it for the purpose of a turnaround.

A short discussion about a Township Credit card and the different aspects of it took place, Arrlette Krog stated that she has issues with it because one person's name is on it and therefore that one person is responsible for it if payments are late or the credit card is ever defaulted on. Barbara Cavanaugh stated that it would be helpful when it comes to ordering office supplies, checking into hotels, going into training events, etc. Arrlette Krog made a motion to table it, Joe Caple second, motion carried.

Elaine Wick stated that she needs a resolution stating who is allowed to sign at Northern State Bank and at Miners National Bank. Arrlette Krog made a motion to take Becky Musburger off of the signature sheet, add Deputy Clerk McKenzie Clinton, and allow Elaine Wick to sign for the safety deposit box. Joe Caple second, motion carried.

Arrlette Krog spoke about an IRRB grant that is available for a resident who had a fire a few years back, she made a motion to table this until a full board is available.

Joe Caple spoke about installing a new flag pole, because the current one is broken, and needs to be moved to a better location so it is not in the way for the snowplow. Joe Caple stated that he will get an estimate, and speak more about it at the next meeting.

Joe Caple spoke about a shed that is needed for the playground equipment , he stated that he had found one for \$2,500.00 that is of good quality and will last a long time. Joe Caple made a motion to buy the shed, Brandon Cavanaugh had a written statement saying that he was a yes vote for buying the shed. Arrlette Krog abstained from voting because it was a conflict of interest, motion carries.

Barbara Cavanaugh spoke about the upcoming short course, and stated that she needs information from township officers for which event they will be attending.

After a dumpster was placed at the Bass Lake Fire Hall, a discussion took place about why it was there, and who placed it there. Joe Caple stated that he would look into it and find out why it is there.

Jeff Dulinski stated that the price of the concrete work being done needed to be more detailed in the minutes, and that he feels by not putting each individual price, the township is trying to hide something. He then expressed his discontent with the township putting in a basketball court, he feels it is a waste of money, and that it should have been discussed at the annual town meeting instead of at the April meeting. Jeff Dulinski also spoke about the townships donation to the Firemen relief fund, he feels that it is not enough, stating that without an incentive, new members are unlikely to join the fire department and that if the township doesn't agree to donate more money to the Firemen relief fund that the Fire Department may have to start charging more for the Fire Department Contract.

Arrlette Krog made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe Caple second.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:05P.M.

---

Barbara Cavanaugh, Clerk

---

Brandon Cavanaugh, Chairman

---

Date