

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

ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP MEETING

April 27, 2021

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 Arrlette Krog, Supervisor Kevin Davidson, Treasurer Elaine Wick and Clerk Cindy Brown. Present via Zoom were Vice Chair Beth Caple and Deputy Treasurer Aubreanna McKeever. Guests present were: Heidi Yokel, Dale Wick, Terry Giernett, Lee Voigt in-person and Cindy Giesen via Zoom.

Clerk's minutes for March 2021 were read.

TREASURER REPORT MARCH FOR 2021						
	Totals	General	Road & Bridge	Fire	Cemetery	Capital Impr
Beginning Balance March 1, 2021	119,990.65	78,944.14	23,959.83	0.00	7,086.68	10,000.00
Receipts	2,160.85	2,160.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Disbursements	9,968.64	9,968.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ending Balance March 31, 2021	112,182.86	71,136.35	23,959.83	0.00	7,086.68	10,000.00

BILLS SUBMITTED FOR PAYMENT			
Vendor	Description	Check #	Amount
Arvig	Telephone and internet	8045	\$145.30
Duluth Cpoating Solutions	Epoxy floor at Bass Lake Fire Hall	8046	\$2,900.00
Keneth Butler	Legal counsel for road vacate request	8047	\$671.00
Lake Country Power	electricity	8048	\$2,355.10
Minnesota Benefit Assoc	Annual Life insurance invoice for officers	8049	\$1,605.00
St Louis County Auditor	2021 Property Tax	8050	\$445.00
St Louis County Auditor	2020-2021 Automark Maintenance	8051	\$180.00
TAG Handyman Svcs	Jan-Feb plowing	8052	\$408.12
Arrlette Krog	March Annual Mtg moderator fee	8053	\$75.00
Rita Giernett	March Annual Election mileage	8054	\$11.20
Steph Upton	March Annual Election mileage	8055	\$12.32
APG Media	LBAE Publishing fee	8056	\$39.88
Cindy Brown	mileage and purchases	8057	\$1,174.94
PERA	retirement	8058	\$141.02
IRS	Q1 Fed Income Tax	8059	\$181.33
		TOTAL	\$10,345.21
PAYROLL SUBMITTED FOR MARCH			\$1,483.78

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CONSENT

- Motion to approve-
 - March Meeting Minutes
 - Treasurer Report
 - Bills for payment
 - Payroll

Vice Chair Beth Caple made a motion to approve consent agenda items, Supervisor Kevin Davidson second, motion approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was reviewed, no action required.

RESIDENTS AND GUESTS:

- Heidi Yokel gave a Fire Department Report. They responded to three medical calls in March. Five EMR's have renewed their license. They attended HazMat training and medical training. They have dry hydrant training on Saturday, May 1.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Road and Bridge:**
 - Chairperson Arrlette Krog reported that when she called the county there is still no date determined for the bridge closure on Melrude Rd. Vice Chair Beth Caple will talk to Northland Construction to see if they can give us an idea on start date.
- **Buildings:**
 - Melrude Fire Hall – Fire department was asked if they could rearrange trucks to eliminate an issue with the OH doors. They responded no due to state regulations requiring a tanker parked there in order to call it a fire hall. Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to table renovations for the fire hall until additional bids come in and more clarification on the Affordable Rescue Plan to see if we can use some of those funds for the fire hall, Vice Chair Beth Caple second, motion approved.
 - Bass Lake Fire Hall – Fire department asked about having one OH door repaired. The door comes down slow and you have to hold the button so it does not bounce back up. They have tried to realign the sensors with no luck. Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to call Phil's Garage Door Service to repair the door, Supervisor Kevin Davidson second, motion approved. Clerk Cindy Brown will call Phil's Garage Door Service.
- **Cemetery:** One funeral scheduled for June 19.
- **Website:** Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- American Rescue Plan – Clerk Cindy Brown reported the township should receive \$20,000 according to the information on the MAT website. The money could arrive as soon as May 11 or as late as July 11. The state has not released criteria on what the monies can be used for but the clerk encouraged the board to put thought into where the money can best be utilized. Clerk suggested possibly insulating the outside of the town hall and putting on new siding and/or installing a HVAC system in the town hall.

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- Playground equipment – At this time we will table adding playground equipment.
- Mowing Contracts – Chairperson Arrlette Krog read the two bids received: TAG \$4900.00 and Lee Voigt \$5700.00. After a short discussion the board decided that since they are tasked with being fiscally responsible to our residents they will award TAG the contract. Supervisor Kevin Davidson made a motion to approve the TAG bid, Vice Chair Beth Caple second motion approved.
- Election Judge Pay – Clerk Cindy Brown explained that she forgot to add Election Judge pay to the wage update at the Reorganization Meeting and would like the board to consider increasing their pay to \$15.00/hour. Vice Chair Beth Caple recommended, and made a motion, to increase to \$12.00/hour, Chairperson Arrlette Krog second, motion approved.
- Road Review – Chairperson Arrlette Krog read the Road Review notes for the guests present. Several action items were addressed:
 - Fire Wise Grant - Chairperson Arrlette Krog will inquire about criteria required to apply for the grant to replace/add 911 signs, she will report findings to the township and fire department.
 - Mink Rd Grading – Vice Chair Beth Caple made a motion to hire Rodda Excavating to grade the Mink Rd, Chairperson Arrlette Krog second, motion approved. Since we have not yet awarded the 2021 grading contract, she will inform him this is a one-time only request until contract awarded.
 - Grading all township roads – Supervisor Kevin Davidson asked why we don't contract with St. Louis County to maintain our roads. No one has the history as to why we do not use the county for road maintenance. Vice Chair Beth Caple will call the county this month to inquire, and if they are open to providing this service, she will get associated costs so we can do cost comparison.
 - Security light for town hall – Vice Chair Beth Caple called Lake Country Power and adding an LED light to the pole outside the front door will cost \$150.00 to install the light, and it will add \$10.50/month to our light bill. There will be no additional costs as Lake Country Power will maintain the light. Supervisor Kevin Davidson made a motion to approve the installation, Chairperson Arrlette Krog second, motion approved.
 - Bass Lake Fire Hall – 2 lights are burned out; Vice Chair Beth Caple will call the electrician to fix.
- Dumpster Days – Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to table setting dates until clerk can call the company to inquire about a Saturday removal, Vice Chair Beth Caple second, motion approved.
- Mosquito Squad – A 30% discount offer expires April 30. Supervisor Kevin Davidson made a motion to hire them to spray at the town hall and Bass Lake fire hall June through August, Vice Chair Beth Caple second, motion approved.
- Portable outhouse for town hall – As in past years we should place an outhouse at the town hall from June through September for community use. Vice Chair Beth Caple made a motion to approve, Chairperson Arrlette Krog second, motion approved.

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As there was no further business, Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to adjourn, Supervisor Kevin Davidson second, motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 P.M.