

¹Minutes
Ida Township Board Meeting
January 5, 2009
Ida Township Hall
4700 County Rd 6 NW, Garfield, MN 56332

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Mike Rosenwald. Supervisors Orin Blegen and Jim Conn, Clerk Barbara Kilgore and Treasurer Palmer Krueger were also present.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

Rosenwald announced that the tapes being used to record the meeting belong to the clerk and are only used to assist her in taking the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes of the December 15, 2008 Town Board Meeting. Conn made the motion to approve the December 15, 2008 minutes as written. Blegen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rosenwald-aye, Conn-aye, Blegen-aye.

Roads

- **Burkeys Lane Snow Fence/Plowing Issues.** Rosenwald informed the board that he had contacted Bill Leuthner regarding adopting an ordinance regarding snow fences and other barriers along narrow township roads. Leuthner advised against it as it would be too hard to enforce the ordinance. Rosenwald also stated that he had received several phone calls from Judy Burkey regarding the snow plowing on Burkeys Lane. Judy Burkey addressed the board in writing and verbally. Burkey said she feels that she has been treated unethically and unfairly by the Ida Township Board. Burkey feels the Board removed her snow fence without giving her proper notice and without her permission. Burkey also had complaints about the way the road is being plowed. She stated that all of the snow is being pushed up against her fence and causing damage and the snow is also being pushed against her gate at the end of Burkeys Lane. She had pictures showing where the problem areas are. Burkey would like her snow fence returned to its original position, the damage to her fence wires and posts repaired and that the snow be plowed to the north and south of Burkeys Lane utilizing the full width of the road. Burkey would also like it noted that she forbids any past, present or future board members from trespassing on her property without her permission. A copy of the written complaint and pictures are on file in the clerk's office. Conn noted that there has been a problem with the road width and easement on this area of Burkeys Lane since the early 1990's and the issue has never been perfected. Conn also noted that the heavy snow fall this year is creating more of an issue.
 - **Snow Fence.** Rosenwald informed Burkey that notice wasn't given before removing the fence because there was a time issue with the Town Board meeting schedule and a predicted snow storm at the time of the removal. The Board agreed that the snow fence should not be put back as it still could cause a hazard as noted at the December 15, 2008 meeting.
 - **Snow Plowing.** Judy Burkey stated that she had gravel from snowplowing last year more than ten feet into her yard. Blegen will ask AJ to plow the road from north to south in both directions and also to move the pile of snow blocking access to the Burkey property.
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- **Road Width.** Rosenwald will check on what it would take to get a 60 foot easement all the way to the end of Burkeys Lane. Burkey said she would consider giving the easement if the Board can get the 60-foot easement for the entire road.
- **Fence Repair.** Rosenwald stated that when putting a fence five feet from a roadway the property owner should expect some damage to their fence from snow removal and the Township does not fell responsible for it.

Old Business

- **Lake Charlie Cemetery.** Frank Bartlett informed the Board that there are 14 known grave sites and some unknown. Bartlett has some suggestions regarding the layout of the cemetery for the committee. He feels that the west side of the cemetery should be laid out for grave sites and the rest of the property be made to look presentable. He feels laying out the whole cemetery would be a waste of funds.
- **Newsletter.** Items for the Newsletter were discussed. The deadline for articles is January 20, 2009.

New Business

- **Board of Audit.** The Board of Audit meeting was set for January 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Ida Township Hall.
- **Sewer Assessment Parcel 24-0542-000.** Michael Elias presented documentation to the board that he feels his property was wrongfully assessed for the sewer system in 2002. His property was assessed 1-1/2 assessments and his documentation showed that his property met the criteria set in the Ida Township Assessment Policy of two adjoining lots that were being developed as one and should have only received 1 assessment. Elias informed the Board that he had been part of a class action lawsuit at the time, but that the Board that was in office at the time walked out on the mediation. Conn asked Elias if he would be satisfied with leaving the amount that he had already paid as is and remove the half of an assessment going forward. Elias said he would be satisfied with that. Conn made a motion to reduce the sewer assessment against Michael Elias's property Block 4 Lots 7 & 8, parcel 24-0542-000, from 1-1/2 to 1 assessment going forward. Blegen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Conn-aye, Blegen-aye, Rosenwald-opposed. Rosenwald felt the issue should have been taken care of six years ago and it is hard for this Board to know the reasons for the previous Board's actions. Kilgore will prepare a resolution for the next meeting and report the change to the Douglas County Auditor/Treasurer.
- **Tracknet.** Conn informed the Board of the available technology for tracking a vehicle by GPS and suggested it may be helpful for AJ to put in his road maintenance vehicles for better tracking and billing documentation. The cost would be less than \$1,000 per vehicle plus a monthly fee. Rosenwald suggested the information be referred to AJ.
- **Funds Transfer.** Rosenwald informed the Board that the bond for the 7T Road Improvement states that the bond proceeds cannot be used to pay for installment payments, so we have to transfer some money from the Blacktop & Upgrade Fund to the 7T Debt Service Fund for the upcoming payment of approximately \$30,000 that is due later in January. Rosenwald made a motion to transfer all monies except \$30,000 from the Blacktop & Upgrade Fund to the 7T Debt Service. That money to be used to pay the first scheduled payment and to keep \$10,000 as a buffer in that account and the remaining money, if any, to be used to pay down the principal. Conn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rosenwald-aye, Conn-aye, Blegen-abstained.

- **Chris Mitchell CPA Fraud Risk Questionnaire.** The questionnaires regarding any known fraud issues and steps taken by the township to prevent the possibility for fraud were distributed to the Chairman, Treasurer and Clerk to fill out for the CPA, audit
- **Meeting Dates.** Because of holidays, the Monday, January 19, 2009 Town Board Meeting will be held Tuesday January 20, 2009 and the February 16, 2009 meeting will be held on February 17, 2009 as mentioned in the adopted meeting schedule.

Mail and Permits The mail and permits were passed around for the board to examine.

Public Comment

- **Glen Van Amber** pointed out that there is a mistake in the December 15, 2008 meeting minutes. In the first paragraph it stated that Orin Blegen was absent and he was present. Rosenwald made a motion to remove the last sentence of the first paragraph. Conn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rosenwald-aye, Conn-aye, Blegen-aye.
- **Tom Searcy** representing the Ida Lake Association gave the board an update on the culvert by the Jan Hausmann property. If we were to install the culvert and the riser it could possibly bring the water within two feet of the road in high water. For the time being they plan on putting in some hay bales behind the willow trees to help with the spring runoff and reassess the problem next year.
- **Wes Smith.** Suggested blowing the snow away from the end of Burkeys Lane.
- **Don Erstad** asked if there are any filings for office for the upcoming election. Rosenwald informed him that so far, Dan Diedrich has filed for the supervisor position and that Palmer Krueger plans on filing for the treasurer position.

Adjourn Conn made the motion to adjourn at 8:52 PM. Rosenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rosenwald-aye, Conn-aye, Blegen-aye.

Barbara D. Kilgore
Ida Township Clerk

Mike Rosenwald
Ida Township Chairman