

¹**Minutes**
Ida Township Board Meeting
February 5, 2007
Ida Township Hall
4700 County Rd 6 NW, Garfield, MN 56332

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

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

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

Minutes of the January 16, 2007 Town Board Meeting Rosenwald made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2007 Town Board Meeting as written. Conn seconded the motion. Blegen wanted clarification on a portion of Resolution 07-04. Conn reviewed cost sharing and assessment estimates. Motion carried. Blegen-aye, Conn-aye, Rosenwald-aye.

Blegen made a motion to recess the Town Board Meeting and reconvene the Board of Audit/Budget Meeting of 1/2/07. Conn seconded. Motion carried. Blegen-aye, Conn-aye, Rosenwald-aye.

Ida Township Board Meeting recessed at 7:35.

Ida Township Board Meeting reconvened at 7:45.

Bike Path Resolution 07-05 Blegen does not support the bike path resolution 07-05 as written because we would have to bond dollars needed – grant money would not be available until 2010 or 2011. Rosenwald and Blegen previously agreed to support bike paths only if township dollars were not used. Rosenwald noted that “consider” is used in third paragraph of resolution 07-05, but that further down in the resolution it looks like township residents are paying for it. Both Blegen and Rosenwald feel there is too much cost involved. Conn asked for public comment. Resolution was read aloud. West Smith asked Ms. Coyle, the township’s engineer, for an estimate on bike paths. Coyle suggested that paths be included in feasibility study. Coyle also suggested the township could prepare road bed for a bike/walking path during the paving project and do the actual paving of the bike/walking path when grant money is available. Rosenwald made a motion to table the signing of resolution 07-05 until further information/feasibility study is available. Blegen seconded. Conn stated this was appropriate and further discussion was needed. Rosenwald restated his motion to read: motion to table the signing of resolution 07-05 until more facts and ideas through a feasibility study were gathered. No second. Conn stated that the resolution doesn’t commit township funds.

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What it does is commit the township to follow through, talk to engineers and look at the feasibility of doing this. Blegen added that we wouldn't have this grant money until 2011 if applied for this year. Interest payments on funding will have to be paid prior to receiving SAFE-TEA Grant monies. Motion carried. Rosenwald aye, Blegen aye, Conn opposed.

Roads

Trisha Coyle/Vision Engineering Coyle informed board that she was resigning as township engineer. She has taken a job with the city of Aspen, Colorado. Coyle reviewed memo on cost estimates for Oakridge Road, Christopherson Road, Bedman Drive and Sunset Strip. AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) Guidelines, road widths and traffic counts future developments and wetlands were discussed. Coyle recommended (3) engineering professionals Randy Jeninges (SEH), Chad Gramentz (WSN), Jeff Stabnow, to replace her. Board thanked her for her services and congratulated her on her new position.

SEH Engineering Services – Terry Wotzka of SEH Engineering gave a presentation on his firm's services. His firm handles many municipal and township projects. He suggested a feasibility study proposal at no cost as a marketing effort and in order to get a good solid understanding of current project needs. He suggested that Kate Minor or Randy Jeninges would be good choices for our needs. Wotzka stated his firm provides services all the way from preliminary through construction. Cost, convenience and confidence factors were discussed. Rosenwald thought we should go ahead and get Requests for Proposals from the firms/engineers we are considering. Coyle will prepare a packet and get it out to the prospective engineers/firms and start the process.

Jeff Stabnow – Stabnow was in attendance to compare notes on paving projects as he is working with Carlos Township and exploring whether or not some projects could be done jointly. Previous services Stabnow has provided for Ida Township were discussed. Stabnow stated he is familiar with Ida Township and has done work in Lake Mary Township and Carlos Township. Stabnow was not in attendance to present his services as township engineer and would have to evaluate his availability to provide his services to Ida Township.

Sidebar discussion went on with regards to upgrading road beds in 2007 and doing the paving in 2008. Conn thought this would provide a way for us to establish a relationship with the new engineer. Rosenwald would prefer to do the whole project in 2007, but would defer to the recommendations of engineering professionals. Conn brought up the assessment process and amount of work the township board would be undertaking if the entire project was scheduled for 2007. Right of way issues were discussed as well.

New Business

Election Judge Approval – Election Judges for the March 13, 2007 Blegen made a motion to approve (4) Election Judges for the March 13, 2007 Ida Township Election; Annabel West, LaVonne Hildebrandt, Connie Johnson and Julie Kirscht. Conn seconded. Motion carried. Blegen-aye, Conn-aye, Rosenwald-aye.

Moderator for Annual Meeting – The board discussed moderator choices/considerations for the March 13, 2007 Annual Meeting.

Lobby Day – February 13, 2007 Transportation and schedule for the day was discussed.

Public Works Noxious Weeds Meeting/Association of Townships Annual Meeting on March 21, 2007 schedule was discussed. Board members will attend

PERA Authorization for Electronic Reporting – Authorization form to allow Kilgore to report information electronically was approved and signed by Blegen.

Rosenwald commented he thought including check numbers of monthly checks issued in the minutes was a good idea.

Rosenwald brought up sewer assessment issues on the Howard Dahl and Scott Swenson parcels. Conn stated they were assessed ½ assessment on each of the two lots for a total of (1) assessment on the two lots. Re-assessment steps were discussed. Blegen will contact Leuthner on this issue. The fact that Swenson and Dahl each received (2) assessments for paving was noted.

Conn brought up maintenance/warranty plan for paved roads. Conn wants research done and dates listed and/or a log stating and showing description of roads and when pavement was laid. This listing will enable the township to take our maintenance plan and overlay the two. Conn wants to use this as a guide for determining when the township should start maintaining the roads. Rosenwald suggested we check into the annual report to determining asset dollar amount.

Mail and Permits passed around for the board to examine.

Public Comment

Glen Van Amber – wondered what the public showing for the Board of Audit/Budget meeting was and when it was held. He also brought up the ALASD levy and when preliminary numbers will be available. Is the sewer assessment levied on Entire Township or just those who are hooked up to the sewer? Rosenwald suggested contacting the courthouse to get an answer. Van Amber is questioning what the ALASD charge is for and how it is determined.

Wes Smith commented that there were no attorney fees on Carlos paving project Stabnow worked on. We should keep that in mind when considering candidates.

Dick Berg commented with concern that Coyle is giving us a ten-day notice; we are facing a large project and having to contract a new engineer. Berg expressed his opinion that in the process of hiring a new engineer the township board take into consideration whether or not there would be additional staff to step in if the assigned engineer were to leave. His concern is with a single person operation there is a risk of the person leaving. There is safety in numbers if there are a two or three people who could step in if someone leaves. Conn will check into other engineering resources in the area.

Adjourn

Conn made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 PM. Rosenwald seconded. Motion carried.
Blegen-aye, Conn-aye, Rosenwald-aye.

Julie Kirscht
Ida Township Deputy Clerk

Orin Blegen
Ida Township Chairman