

**Princeton Township
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota**

Town Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Minutes

The March 26th monthly meeting of the Princeton Township Board was called to order by Chairman Gene Stoeckel at 7:10 p.m. Supervisors attended the meeting in person at Township Hall.

Supervisors present: Dan Hiller, Gene Stoeckel, Bill Whitcomb, Mike Bishman

Supervisor absent: Thomas Duden

Staff present: Deputy Clerk Tandra Langfeld, Ken Henchen, Zoning Administrator Scott Richards

Public attendees: Joan Kelley, Joel Minks, Nancy Moan, Tammy Severson, Kathy Stoeckel, Josh Vaccari (Assistant Princeton Fire Chief)

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Reorganization and Official Designations

- **Town Board Chair**, Gene Stoeckel, **Vice-Chair**, Thomas Duden, **Secretary**, Dan Hiller
- **Road Supervisor**, Bill Whitcomb
Weed Inspector, Mike Bishman
- **Ice and Snow**, Mike Bishman

- **Liaisons:**
- **Township Planning Commission:** Mike Bishman
- **City of Princeton Planning Commission:** Gene Stoeckel
- **Airport Advisory Board:** Gene Stoeckel
- **Fire Advisory Board:** Dan Hiller

Mr. Hiller moved to retain all positions, except to replace Thomas Duden with Mike Bishman on ice and snow. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Official Newspaper for public notices

Mr. Whitcomb moved to have the Princeton Union Times as the Township's Official public notice newspaper. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

Official Depository for all township funds

Mr. Whitcomb moved to have Bremer Bank as the Township's Official Depository for all Township Funds. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried

Approve Meeting Minutes

February 20 Monthly Meeting: Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve February 20 minutes as printed. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried.

February Board of Audit: Mr. Hiller moved to accept the Board of Audit. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

March 12 Board of Canvass: Mr. Hiller to moved approve as printed. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Open Forum

Resident Joel Minks spoke to several points:

- The snowplow operators did an outstanding job considering the conditions they had to work with.
- He would like to commend the Board for their work on the budget and sticking to the budget. He said it was a much different business atmosphere than we have had in the past. He also commended the Board for holding the tax increase to just under 9 %.

Resident Tammy Severson spoke to the post made on Facebook by Supervisor Duden. She felt there should be some kind of disciplinary action taken other than just the post being taken down. She also spoke to the plowing on her road that she was not happy with.

Mr. Hiller read the apology Mr. Duden had sent regarding the post online. Mr. Hiller also said that Mr. Bishman will be taking over the snow and ice responsibilities. There was discussion about the snowplowing being we had a new snowplow company this year and it is a bit of a learning curve on the routes.

Open forum closed at 7:44 pm

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Chair Gene Stoeckel delivered the Clerk-Treasurer's Report:

Cash Control Statement-February 29, 2024

General Fund Beginning Balance	\$183,151.89
Receipts	\$1,320.25
Disbursements	\$72,108.79
Ending Balance	\$112,363.35
Road and Bridge Fund Beginning Balance	\$141,936.98
Receipts	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$28,408.25
Ending Balance	\$113,528.75
Total Cash Beginning Balance	\$394,786.12
Receipts	\$22,575.25
Disbursements	\$100,517.04
Ending Balance	\$359,352.02
February Payroll	
Gross	\$5,700.00
Net	\$4,800.00
March 5 Presidential Primary Payroll	\$1,300
March 19 Election Payroll	
Gross	\$3,400
Net	\$3,200

March Notable Claims	
Erickson Asphalt Snowplowing	\$6,000.00
MAT Annual Dues	\$1,157.00
PERA	\$1,627.00
New Printer Copier	\$4,495.00

Payroll for PERA covered delinquencies for November, December, and January.

Staff have been unable to recover the PIN required to access the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) from the former clerk. Mr. Dahl requested a new PIN from the IRS. When it comes staff will be able to catch up delinquent tax withholding. State withholding has been brought up to date.

- 2024 Board of appeal and Equalization is Wed. April 17.
- Requested and received an extension for the External Audit.
- We have until May, 11 to submit an expense claim to the State for PNP Expenses.

Mr. Hiller moved to approve the Clerk/Treasure Report in its entirety . Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator’s Report

Second Reading of the changes to the Princeton Township Zoning Ordinance 2024-1 to align it more closely to the Mille Lacs County Code. Mr. Richards summarized the revisions on the amended draft. Primarily the 75-foot setback from the centerline of a township road. The side yard setback if the roadway is a corner. The County does not differentiate on that so it would be 75 feet setback on either side . On public bodies of water the setback will not be less than 100 feet from the highwater mark of recreational lakes and 150 feet from Natural environment lakes. Allowance for storage pods was adjusted based upon lot size. Senior housing was added to the list of Conditional uses in the Commercial Industrial District.

Mr. Hiller moved to adopt **Resolution 2024-3** Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll:

Mr. Bishman Aye, Mr. Stoeckel Aye, Mr. Hiller Aye, Mr. Whitcomb Aye Motion is carried.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve the 2nd reading and **Ordinance 2024-1**. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Mr. Stoeckel called the roll:

Mr. Bishman Aye, Mr. Stoeckel Aye, Mr. Hiller Aye, Mr. Whitcomb Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Richards gave an update on the hazardous house on **50th Street**. Metro West has been out to look at it. Mike from Metro is putting together a report on it deeming that it is not fit for habitation. The roof is collapsing more since last fall. Metro West will provide a report.

Resident Joan Kelley spoke to the fact that there were trees growing up through the house, she was concerned about ground contamination. There are rats, mice and other animals that come out of there. She has had to maintain part of that property because of the overgrown trees and falling branches. She is very concerned about a tree that may fall on her house.

New Business

Appoint two members to the Planning.

3 letters of Interest : Tari Zortman, Kathy Stoeckel, and Steve Pflgebraar

Mr. Stoeckel recused himself.

Mr. Hiller moved for Kathy Stoeckel and Steve Pflgebraar to retain their positions on the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried

Interested Officer Resolution for Bill Whitcomb:

Mr. Stoeckel moved to have an Interested Officer Resolution for Bill Whitcomb so he can maintain roads as needed. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Mr. Stoeckel called roll:

Mr. Bishman Aye, Mr. Hiller Aye. Mr. Stoeckel Aye. Motion carried. Mr. Whitcomb abstained.

Interested Officer Resolution for Gene Stoeckel:

Mr. Bishman moved to approve. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Mr. Stoeckel called roll:

Mr. Bishman Aye, Mr. Hiller Aye. Mr. Whitcomb Aye. Motion Carried. Mr. Stoeckel abstained

Interested Officer Resolution for Mike Bishman.

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve. Seconded by Mr. Stoeckel. Mr. Stoeckel called roll:

Mr. Stoeckel Aye, Mr. Hiller Aye, Mr. Whitcomb Aye. Motion carried. Mike Bishman abstained.

Interested Officer Resolution for Dan Hiller

Mr. Whitcomb moved to approve. Seconded by Mr. Stoeckel. Mr. Stoeckel called roll:

Mr. Whitcomb Aye, Mr. Bishman Aye, Mr. Stoeckel Aye. Motion Carried. Dan Hiller abstained.

Annual Newsletter

Mr. Hiller made a motion for Mr. Dahl and Mr. Whitcomb to review and approve the Annual Newsletter. Mr. Bishman Seconded. Motion passed.

EFT Policy

Mr. Bishman moved to accept the EFT Policy. Mr. Whitcomb Seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-4 Animal control

Mr. Hiller moved to accept resolution 2024-4. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried.

Motion to approve placement of a fire truck at the town hall garage

Discussion: Mr. Stoeckel discussed the contract for the rent on storage of a grass rig. Contract written by City of Princeton's attorney. Mr. Bishman made a motion to approve the fire truck agreement. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Further Discussion: Mr. Whitcomb wanted to make sure that there would not be added expense to the township for rekeying doors or anything that we may need to do to get the garage ready. Mr. Stockel said the only thing we need to do is provide access to the shop. Staff Ken Henchen said he could get together with them and find out what they want and take care of it. He didn't really see any issues with it. Interim Princeton Fire Chief Josh Vaccari said they did need to keep the truck plugged in so there may be a little electricity. They will also have radios and some gear. Mr. Whitcomb asked if this was a year-long contract . Mr. Vaccari stated it is monthly, his intent was to make this year a trial to make sure the truck is utilized.

Motion carried unanimously .

AED

Ken Henchen will look for one. Mr. Hiller made a motion to purchase an AED up to \$2500. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried

Old Business

Contracts for 2024 road work:

Mr. Hiller moved to Award Central Minnesota Dust Control the contract for dust control in 2024. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion Carried unanimously.

Mr. Bishman moved to award North Oaks Paving for the sink hole and asphalt removal. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hiller moved to award Gravel, grading and general road repair to Hass Construction. Seconded by Mr. Bishman. Motion carried unanimously .

Mr. Bishman made a moved to award the mowing and brushing contract to Thomas Lundeen. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hiller moved to motion to accept the bid from Helmin Construction for the repair of the ditches on 100th Ave. and 82nd Ave. Seconded by Mr. Whitcomb. Motion carried you unanimously.

Road Report

Mr. Whitcomb reported he is still working on the Wynette Road agreement. Bogus Brook agreement is done. Still need to think about selling the Ford pickup with the plow in the side shop. Sale of the old signposts. Still looking for a fireproof cabinet.

Fire Board Liaison

Mr. Hiller had nothing to report.

Township Planning Commission

There was no meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Bishman wanted to know the status on the security cameras.

Adjournment

Mr. Whitcomb moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Hiller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully submitted,

Tandra Langfeld
Deputy Township Clerk

Approved by the Town Board
Eugene Stoeckel, Chairman