

Princeton Township Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2019

Time stamps below correspond with video taken and posted "Princeton Bulletin Board" on Facebook and YouTube.

Supervisors present were Greg Anderson, Bill Whitcomb, Dave Persing and Thomas Duden as well as Connie Wubben and Scott Richards.

Attendees: (List not provided)

(35:31)The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

(36:01)Chair Stockel motioned to approve minutes, Dave Persing seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

(36:38) Greg Anderson motioned to approve financial report from July 19. Dave Persing seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

(37:00) Rinke Noonan will remain as Township council at rate of \$285/hour. Discussion was made about what rate we were being charged asked by Mr. Persing. Thomas Duden the motion to approve, Greg Anderson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

(38:58) Metro West submitted contract for building inspection. Greg Anderson motioned to approve, councilor Whitcomb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

(39:41) Engineering will remain the same with Todd Mc Clouth. Motion by Greg Anderson, Bill Whitcomb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

(40:09) Greg Anderson and Chair Stoeckel expressed that additional recycling availability would be an asset to the community. Greg Anderson motioned to approve, motion carried unanimously.

(41:09) Dave Persing inquired about how to get a copy of city policy on board member reimbursement. He stated that he has requested and not received information from township clerk, however did receive unsolicited correspondence from Greg Anderson following his inquiry. Greg Anderson stated his belief that the township board should be voluntary and not a profit-making venture. Dave Persing motioned to have township policies be made readily available on the website. Greg Anderson agreed that it would be a good idea. No vote was made.

(46:49) Bill Whitcomb discussed road maintenance agreements. Agreement exists with Greenbush Township for 110th, agreement with Bogus Brook for west of 70th west of 169 (every other years). Wyanett will maintain north two miles of 50th. Bill Whitcomb brought border conversation to city, however zoning maps for township are not updated. Maintenance agreement with City of Princeton will be updated to correctly reflect Township borders. Some existing roads are not reflected on zoning map. Greg Anderson asserted that the zoning map is 100% correct. Greg Anderson and Bill Whitcomb concurred that Wyanett agreement was likely a handshake deal agreed upon over 50 years ago.

(55:37) Greg Anderson asserted that previous road grader should be brought back, as the most economical option. Thomas Duden countered that current township equipment is over 35 years old, and that upkeep/upgrade and salary of previous road grader is less economical than contracting out. It was stated that a used (upgrade) would cost around \$150,000 and will be needed. Thomas Duden and Greg Anderson exchanged disagreements about owning machinery for the amount of work that is being performed. Thomas Duden argued that we spent \$35,000 on the plow trucks in repairs already this year. Greg Anderson disagreed that trucks, and now we will not have to repair them again. Bill Whitcomb introduced a figure of \$75,000 as costs invested in the past 3 years toward equipment. Chair Stoeckel asserted that another issue is during downtime of equipment the board was still required to pay a third party to fulfill duties.

(1:03:00) Bill Whitcomb moved the motion motioned to post full road grader position on website for hiring. Greg Anderson asserted that councilor Whitcomb has no concern with transparency in hiring or board approval. Chair Stoeckel asserted that the position should not have previously been posted online and in the newspaper without board vote. Township clerk asserted that Chair Stoeckel had given his approval after previous township meeting discussion, he disagreed with that assertion. No applications were received during previous posting. Thomas Duden moved the motioned to have position removed from website. Bill Whitcomb seconded. Thomas Duden recommended putting position out for bid, Bill Whitcomb seconded. Position to be posted to close by September 10. Motion carried unanimously.

(1:09:52) 540 yards of gravel have been placed this year, Bill Whitcomb will be working with Mr. Hass. Loads were placed on 2nd mudhole on 90th, and mudhole on balsam ridge, and 77th.

(1:10:22) Zoning Administrator presented plan for 117 Aspen Road, 8 acres in size. Recommended approval, discussed by county board at previous meeting. All requirements are met. Recommendation of planning commission to move forward. Greg Anderson motioned to approve. Resident affected by this plan spoke up, stating they have not resolved every concern prior to meeting regarding property to the north. They stated that a phone call was made, but no return contact from the occupant had been made. Greg Anderson withdrew his motion pending resolution. Resident claimed 30 feet of property had been taken through this plan, which resulted in perception that property overlap had occurred. Chair Stoeckel suggested tabling issue until discussion and resolution had been reached by parties involved. Thomas Duden motioned, Greg Anderson seconded. Motion to table passed unanimously.

(1:17:52) Scott Richards spoke on the planning commission concurred with town board that Zoning Administrator should put forward utilization ideas for event spaces. Administrator will compile suggestions for September meeting. Solar farms, administrator will compile research and recommendations. Both will require public hearing. North Oaks plat within R1 district, subdivision on County Road 4 will be looked at by planning commission.

(1:20:14) Joel Minks, addressed statement that house needs to be \$600,000 for town to break even on tax money. He doesn't believe that can be correct, and wanted clarification. Also wants to know what our cost per house is. Minks also had no issue with contracts being approved, but believes a new audit firm should be enlisted to ensure transparency. Third item was suggestion of updating bookkeeping software, as responsiveness of township requests is not up to his liking. And stated that the auditing that we have been doing is just checking the balance of the checkbook.

(1:26:32) Nothing additional for Planning Commission.

(1:26:45) Fire Advisory: email sent to board, grant received 95% federal/5% Township. DNR Flashlight grant 50% DNR/50% Township. Fire Advisory budgeted \$175,000 for ladder truck, should come in under budget. Previous truck will be auctioned through GovDeals.com. Will likely not be serviceable to another department.

(1:29:01) Bill Whitcomb talked to MnDOT regarding plows, sale was occurring. Snow wheels were discussed, \$2000 - \$3000, in case there were interest.

(1:31:20) Bill Whitcomb wanted to discuss building access for supervisors and contractors. Thomas Duden inquired who currently has access. Bill Whitcomb has a code. Greg Anderson claimed he's never had access to the building in 23 years and that it is not good practice to allow. Stated that there's a lot of sensitive information in here and you would need to coordinate that with the clerk. Connie had stated that there is a drop box out front.

(1:36:04) Dave Persing inquired about an update on status of improving information sharing with public through website. Response from Zoning Administrator is that a form was amended, but no other update. Inquired where additional funds from fire truck will go after coming under budget, it was stated that it would likely be a general fund. Also asked about where we were at with employee reviews. Greg Anderson stated that we do that every year at the December meeting.

(1:38:44) Chair Stoeckel spoke on the airport meeting is proceeding on the re surfacing project. Joint meeting with the city. Making Progress, but is going to Thursday night's city council meeting.

(1:39:29) Chair Stoeckel discussed splitting clerk/treasurer position, which would need to be on a ballot for a vote.

(1:39:45) Thomas Duden expressed appreciation for Princeton MN Bulletin Board recording meetings on Facebook Live. Black and brown beetles were discussed and their function on what's been happening to the leafy spurge.

(1:42:38) Clerk reasserted that she had heard Chair Stoeckel correctly when she posted road grader job posting. Greg Anderson insisted that she is correct if previous minutes were approved.

(1:43:18) Motion made by Greg Anderson to approve payment of bills, seconded by Thomas Duden. Motion carried unanimously.

(1:43:44) Motion made to adjourn the meeting around 8:40 pm by Greg Anderson seconded by Thomas Duden. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Thomas Duden and Nicholas Taylor