

TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

The Town of Erin Prairie Monthly Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. by Chairman John Van Dyk at the Erin Prairie Town Hall. Present were Board members John Van Dyk, Dennis Mitchell, and Mike Monteith.

A motion was made by Mike to approve the agenda as presented. Dennis seconded the motion which passed by affirmative vote.

Mike moved to approve the April Meeting Minutes as written. Dennis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

It was mentioned there is \$313,711.83 in our checking and Money Market Accounts at this time. This includes two transportation aid checks. The bills were presented and discussed. A motion was made by Dennis to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills as presented. Mike seconded the motion which passed by affirmative vote.

Derek Hokkanen was present to ask if he could put a mobile home on his property which is located off Highway 63 on the north end of Pine Lake. Derek has a 35 acre parcel that is zoned Rural Residential. He said he would remove the wheels and place it on a concrete pad and would be putting in a well, septic and electricity. He currently has no housing on the property. The township has an ordinance in place that does not allow mobile homes unless they are used for someone working on the property or an elderly parent. The Board would like to talk with our assessor and ask if a mobile home would be taxed, and how it would be assessed. Discussion about this will be placed on our June meeting agenda.

Fred Horne was present to request that he and those that paid for the Jewitt sign be reimbursed. This will be placed on the June meeting agenda.

It was mentioned that Joel Allen from the County Highway Department suggested that we try to chip seal roads this summer that have not been chip sealed yet at all. 160th Ave. is one suggested road. It was noted that two signs are down on county Road GG and 160th St. has a sign down also. We received a call that there are chairs in the water and the ditch on 200th St. Those will be picked up.

John briefly mentioned a few updates about United Fire, New Richmond fire and New Richmond ambulance.

The suggestion had been made to increase the payment for gophers to \$10.00. Mike made a motion to increase the gopher payment to \$10.00 per gopher. Dennis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. We will see how this goes and look into it again next year if needed.

Ordinance #18-2024, An ordinance to allow the office of clerk/treasurer to be filled by appointment by the Town Board per approval by a Town Referendum was discussed. The following question will be placed on the November 5, 2024 election ballot: "Shall the person holding the office of Clerk/Treasurer in the Town Of Erin Prairie be appointed by the Town Board instead of elected in the spring election every other year?"

The Board feels the need to put this ordinance in place because Jackie does not plan to continue as Clerk/Treasurer once her term ends in April 2025. They would like the position to be appointed in case there is no one in the township that would like to fill the position. They can then

hire someone outside the township if needed. Dennis made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #18-2024. Mike seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

John mentioned that the bridges and culverts in the township have all been identified for the Bridges and Culvert Program. The state will now have someone inspect them.

The Trip project funding, which will be used to fix and pave 160th St. this summer was mentioned also. A motion was made by Dennis to approve and allow the St. Croix County Highway Department to bid and award for the Town of Erin Prairie the purchase of hot mix asphalt only, to be used for the 160th St. paving project. Mike seconded the motion, which passed by affirmative vote.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn at 8:10p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 24 beginning at 8:00p.m. following Board of Review.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Mitchell, Clerk/Treasurer