

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MIDDLEVILLE TOWNSHIP
3014 CO. RD. 6 SW
HOWARD LAKE, MN 55349
April 9, 2024

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman James Raymond, at 7:00 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Also present were Supervisors Walt Barlow and James Jacobson, PZ Administrator Jessica Elfmann, Treasurer Judy Forst, Clerk Joey Berg, and Maintenance Man Randy Klugow. Others in attendance are noted on the sign-in sheet included with the approved minutes.
2. Curt Forst, representing the Howard Lake "Lake Association" was present. He gave an overview of the aquatic invasive weed issues on Howard Lake. The association has been working on mediating the damage for many years. Curt said that Wright County is helping with a lake project to fight the Curly-Leaf Pondweed invasion. He gave some mind-boggling numbers about how fast the nasty stuff reproduces and grows. It is fueled by the sediment runoff from residences and farmland containing phosphorus. Currently about 150 acres of the 750 acre lake is invaded by Curly-Leaf Pondweed. The good news is: the lake has gradually been improving in the impaired status over the last 20 years and is almost to the "tipping point" of coming off the "naughty list" of being impaired. There is a product that has been confirmed safe for people, animals, and fish to be applied, that will help kill off the weed. When Curly-Leaf Pondweed starts to disappear, Eurasian Milfoil likes to populate. The benefit of this product is it kills both of those invasive plants. The bad news is the cost: it will cost about \$130,000/year for the first 2 or 3 years and then the cost would go down considerably after that. With this project the County is assisting with, the locals are responsible for 20% of the funding. Curt stated that the City of Howard Lake has been helping a bit the last few years with some funds for the Lake Association. The Township Board will talk about it and come up with what we could contribute.
3. Karen Erickson again presented her concerns about the cemeteries in the "Smith Lake Townsite" that she maintains the township in the past allowed a road to be built over and farmland to be worked over the cemeteries. These are issues that were dealt with sixty to seventy years ago. The current board tried to explain how difficult it is to do anything about something that happened so long ago; and, without real concrete proof where the cemeteries are, it's hard to tell the farmers who have purchased the farmland they can't farm it. Karen seemed to be mainly concerned that no houses would be built on top of the cemeteries. The board tried to reassure her that at this point in time there are no building entitlements on those properties, so that should not be an issue. Also, she would like there to be lines put back on the maps indicating where the cemeteries are located, but again that is hard to do without proof.
4. Don and Theresa Mages would like to put up a 30X60 hoop building on there property north of the railroad tracks on County Rd 5. They have 5.8 acres there, with no building entitlement. The board said they could have a building for storage as long as they abide by the setbacks. Jess is going to check for sure on the railroad setbacks. (She did research and found that the RR owns the land the track is on, so the setbacks would logically be same as from side boundaries).
5. Kevin Gruenhagen suggested that the township do dust control on Keats all the way from

Hwy 12 to 50th St. There is a lot of heavy truck traffic on that stretch because of the train trestle in town. The board said they would consider it when we get the firm figures on cost.

6. Stuart and Catherine Marquette, 6705 5th St had complaints about the dust produced and the heavy truck speed on 5th St past their place, stating it was not safe for walkers on the road and also the constant noise and dust. They would like speed limit signs put up. The board stated that there is little we can do about speed limits when the population density is not high enough, but they will check in to it.

7. Joey presented the Clerk's report: The March minutes were reviewed. The April misc. receipts in the amount of \$14,081.58 and claims in the amount of \$23,927.96 were reviewed. Walt made a motion and James J. second to approve the Clerk's report (including claim #s 10279-10302 & EFT#s E042401-E042408). Carried unanimously 3-0.

8. Judy then presented the Treasurer's report: she stated that the balance on hand at the end of March was \$576,497.47. She mentioned we received our Road Money (gas tax), \$29,164.16. She noted that there had been interest income of \$232.55 in the month of March of which \$228.13 was reinvested. After a bit of discussion, Walt made a motion and James J. second to purchase another 7-month CD for \$100,000 which is now earning 5% annually. Carried unanimously 3-0. James J. made a motion and James R. second to approve the Treasurer's report. Carried unanimously 3-0. The board then did an audit of the Clerk's March books along with the Treasurer's report and bank statements. A motion was made by James R. and second by Walt to approve the audit of the Clerk's March books. Carried unanimously 3-0.

9. Planning and Zoning: 1) Jess says the letter, about seasonal housing, that the folk at 1607 Keats Ave say they received from the "County" doesn't seem to exist. 2) Both that property and the one at 9602 10th St will be receiving letters from our attorney, Troy Gilchrist, regarding the ongoing issues on those properties. 3) Stephen Tanner had inquired about putting a gate across his driveway west of the intersection of 50th St and Gowan Ave and if he needed a permit for that. A permit is not required. It just needs to be off the road right-of-way and Walt did express concern for making it hard for emergency vehicles to get in; however, at this point there are no buildings on the property and perhaps after people are living there the gate won't be necessary. Walt made a motion and James J. second to accept the PZ report. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

10. Road Maintenance Report: Randy reported 1) the last snow we had was difficult to plow due to the unfrozen ground, so it took extra care. 2) recently he's been working at pulling the sides and trying to get the gravel back on the roads. 3) he would like to get Scott Zubrod going by June 1 hauling gravel. Walt made a motion and James J. second to again allow hiring Scott up to 400 hrs for part time help this summer. Motion carried unanimously 3-0. 4) he has been doing some sign work. Walt made a motion and James J. second to approve the report. Carried unanimously 3-0.

11. Old Business: none

12. New Business: Kenny Wilson would like to build a privacy fence on the south side of his property, 1640 Co Rd 6 SW. If the adjoining property owner agrees, the fence can be placed right on the property line. Jess will check on what the set back is if that is not the case.

There was discussion on pay rates, charge rates, etc. The only changes made from last year are:

Part time maintenance man will be paid \$30/hr, up 5 from last year.

Public hearing fee will increase to \$150, an increase of 25 from the past.

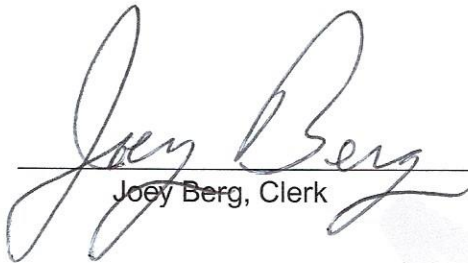
James J. made a motion and Walt second to make those changes and leave all other rates and charges same as last year; also, continue to have the Howard Lake Herald/Journal as our official newspaper for public notices, and Regular Board meetings will remain the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

13. Meetings:

Apr 11 – Board of Review and Equalization, 1:00 pm

May 14 – monthly mtg at 7:00 pm

14. Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.



Joey Berg, Clerk

James Raymond, Chairman