

EUREKA TOWNSHIP
Dakota County, State of Minnesota

TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

The Eureka Township Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Donovan Palmquist and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Supervisors Present: Donovan Palmquist, Ralph Fredlund, Lu Barfknecht, Nancy Sauber and Kathleen Kauffman.

Others Present: Chad Lemmons, Deb Burkhardt, Randy Wood.

Zoom Attendance: Rane Solis, Chad Berg, Julie Larson, Jeff Otto,

Approval of the Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

1. Remove item A. Housing Rights text amendment under Old Business.
2. Add item C. January meetings via Zoom New Business.
3. Remove item A. November 15, 2021, Special Town Board/Planning Commission meeting under Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Chair Palmquist moved to approve the agenda as amended. Vice Chair Fredlund seconded. *Motion carried 5-0.*

Road Report

Mark Henry

Chair Palmquist reported that he spoke with Mark Henry, who is at home sick, and he indicated that “finger drifts” were addressed on Saturday. There have been no road complaints and the roads are in good shape.

Public Comment

**The opinions expressed in public comments are those of the authors and may not represent the official positions of the Town Board. The Town Board does not control or guarantee the accuracy of information contained in the comments, nor does it endorse the views expressed.*

Chair Palmquist opened the floor for public comment.

Jeff Otto – 25580 Dodd Blvd

I just wanted to clarify that, at this point, the housing rights draft text is not complete. The intent of the agenda item was simply to inform the Board of the direction and progress of the current text amendment. A Public Hearing will have to take place before it formally comes to the Town Board for approval.

Chair Palmquist asked if there were any other attendees who would like to make comment. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

Citizen Inquiry - None

Planning Commission Update – Deb Burkhardt

- A Citizen Inquiry about housing rights was withdrawn prior to the meeting.
- No permits or land use requests.
- Reviewed the ag-exempt application form and finalized it for Board review.
- Rescheduled the February 1st Planning Commission meeting to January 31st at 7:00 p.m. due to the caucus.
- Discussed the roles of the Planning Commission as far as verifying setbacks on ag buildings. Suggested rotating the responsibility among all members.
- Approved the December Planning Commission meeting minutes.
- Tabled the November Special joint meeting minutes.

Supervisor Kauffman asked if Inspectron is involved with any part of the ag-exempt process. Commissioner Wood responded that the Planning Commission verifies the setbacks and Inspectron is not involved at all. Supervisor Kauffman suggested looking into contracting it out and charging a zoning verification fee to the applicant. The Board agreed to consider this at another time.

Permit Requests - None

Land Use Requests - None

Treasurer's Report

Clerk/Treasurer Solis read the Treasurer's Report as on December 31, 2021: New Market Bank checking account: \$1,034,979.61; Outstanding checks: \$15,958.24; Petty cash: \$100; Total assets: \$1,019,121.37; December disbursements: \$44,453.13; December receipts: \$263,396.09.

Motion: Vice Chair Fredlund moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Chair Palmquist seconded. Roll call vote: Donovan Palmquist – Aye; Ralph Fredlund – Aye; Lu Barfknecht – Aye; Nancy Sauber – Aye; Kathleen Kauffman - Aye. *Motion carried 5-0.*

Net Pay and claims

Supervisor Sauber asked for information an item on the Kelly & Lemmons bill from December 9th regarding research of resignation of a supervisor. The Clerk had received an inquiry from Supervisor Murphy about the possibility of resigning his position hours after the deadline for submitting the notice of vacant ballot positions was due to the newspaper. The Clerk reached out to the attorney to asked how to handle this should Supervisor Murphy decide to officially resign. The Clerk reported that Supervisor Murphy is not officially resigning his position at this time.

Supervisor Sauber noted that the electric bill is higher than it was one year ago, pointing out that we all need to check the thermostat and lights upon leaving Town Hall.

Motion: Vice Chair Fredlund moved to approve the net pay and claims as presented. Chair Palmquist seconded. Roll call vote: Donovan Palmquist – Aye; Ralph Fredlund – Aye; Lu Barfknecht – Aye; Nancy Sauber – Aye; Kathleen Kauffman - Aye. *Motion carried 5-0.*

Remaining reports

The Cash Control Statement, Schedule 1, Interim Financial Report, Investment Activity and Outstanding Checks were reviewed by the Board.

2021 final budget report

The Treasurer provided the final budget report for the Board to review prior to the Board of Audit meeting.

Attorney Items

Status of General Code Ordinance draft

Chad Lemmons reported that General Code assured him they were using the 2017 recodification for the Ordinance draft. Supervisor Sauber pointed out that there are items in the Ordinance draft, such as no more than two consecutive terms as the Planning Commission Chair, which do not appear in the 2017 recodification. The Board agreed that the attorney should transmit a clean draft of the 2017 Ordinances to General Code for them to perform a comparison and correct their Ordinance draft accordingly.

New Business

Schedule 2021 Board of Audit meeting

Motion: Chair Palmquist moved to appoint and compensate Vice Chair Fredlund to perform the audit inspection and report his findings to the Board for approval at the Board of Audit meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on February 14, 2022. Supervisor Kauffman seconded. *Motion carried 4-0*, with Vice Chair Fredlund abstaining.

Schedule Board of Canvass meeting

Motion: Chair Palmquist moved to schedule the Board of Canvass for the March election for March 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Sauber seconded. *Motion carried 5-0.*

Annual meeting assignments

1. Town Board report – Chair Palmquist volunteered to give the Town Board report.
2. Road report – Vice Chair Fredlund volunteered to give the Road report with assistance from Mark Henry.

January meetings via Zoom

Due to the recent increase in Covid cases, Supervisor Kauffman proposed holding virtual meetings for the month of January in an attempt to protect the citizens from the possibility of contagion at an in-person meeting.

Chad Lemmons advised that he needs to review Mn. Stat. 13D.021 before advising the Board on this subject.

Motion: Supervisor Kauffman moved that January meetings of the Eureka Township Planning Commission and Town Board be held via Zoom because it is imprudent to meet in person, assuming the attorney informs us that it is acceptable by statute in time for proper posting. Supervisor Barfknecht seconded. *Motion carried 3-2*, with Supervisors Fredlund and Sauber opposed.

The Clerk was directed to poll the Town Board and Planning Commission to establish a mutually agreeable date in February to reschedule the January 18th joint meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Chair Palmquist moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Fredlund seconded. *Motion carried 5-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranee Solis
Ranee Solis, Town Clerk

Minutes Officially Approved By:  on: 2/14/22
Town Chair Date