

**EUREKA TOWNSHIP**  
*Dakota County, State of Minnesota*

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**October 25, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

The Eureka Township Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Lu Barfknecht and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Supervisors Present: Lu Barfknecht, Donovan Palmquist (via Zoom), Ralph Fredlund and Kathleen Kauffman.

Supervisors Absent: Nancy Sauber.

Others Present: Randy Wood, Mark Henry, Bill Clancy.

Zoom Attendance: Ranee Solis, Julie Larson, Simon Tyler, Deb Burkhardt, Brian Ahern, Jeff Otto, Carol Cooper.

**Sheriff's Department**

Deputy O'Meara and Deputy Cooper had no new information to report.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Add Road Report before Public Comment
- Add A. Date of Township election under Attorney Items
- Add B. Conduct of elections under Attorney Items

*Motion:* Chair Barfknecht moved to approve the agenda as amended. Supervisor Fredlund seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

**Road Report – Mark Henry**

- Ordered materials for 245<sup>th</sup> including signposts.
- Road contractor will be out touching up the roads.
- Looking into a petition to lower the speed limits on our gravel roads.
- Garbage dumped in the ditch has been removed.

Supervisor Fredlund noted that the Board needs to schedule a performance review for Mark Henry. The Board agreed to add this to the next meeting agenda.

**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 Barfknecht opened the floor for public comment and reminded that if anyone has comment regarding any agenda items, now is your time to speak. Chair Barfknecht asked three times if there were any attendees who would like to make comment. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

**Prairie Creek – Annual CUP review**

Simon Tyler was present to represent the annual CUP review for Prairie Creek School. He noted that the school is in compliance with the conditions of the CUP and referred the Board to the accountability documents and annual reports on the Prairie Creek website.

*Motion:* Chair Barfknecht moved to approve the CUP review for Prairie Creek School. Supervisor Fredlund seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

**Citizen Inquiry**

Paul Robinson – Leroy Chard mining pit

Mr. Robinson submitted an email to the Clerk inquiring about the status of the IUP for the Chard mining pit as he is interested in purchasing the parcel. The Board requested that Vice Chair Palmquist draft a response to the inquiry and to reach out to Carrie Jennings about performing a review of the reclamation plan.

Shahid Nadeem – Land use inquiry

Mr. Nadeem submitted an email to the Clerk inquiring about whether a parcel on 267<sup>th</sup> St. W., if purchased, could be used for cultural/social activities. Town Attorney Ruppe drafted a general response to hypothetical inquiries for the Board’s consideration: “The Township does not provide assurances as to the use of a property to potential buyers. Any potential buyer should hire their own attorney to review the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and issue their own opinion”.

*Motion:* Chair Barfknecht moved to approve Attorney Ruppe’s response to the land use inquiry. Supervisor Fredlund seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

**Treasurer’s Report**

Net Pay and Claims

The Clerk presented payroll in the amount of \$2,563.11 for payment.

The following claims in the amount of \$8,283.25 were presented for payment:

Mn Energy Resources	ROW Escrow refund	\$2,500
Hiawatha Broadband	ROW Escrow refund	\$2,500
Kennedy & Graven	August Special counsel	\$924
ECM Publishers	Public hearing notice	\$22
Quadiant Finance	Postage meter rental	\$53.83
VISA	Job posting/office supplies	\$548.39
JTN Communications	Internet due November	\$199
Inspectron, Inc.	Balance of inspections	\$1,536.03

*Motion:* Supervisor Fredlund moved to approve the net pay and claims. Vice Chair Palmquist seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

## **Old Business**

### Dakota County lot split information

The Dakota County Recorder has on file Eureka Township Resolution 2011-02 which states that all lot splits must be approved by the Township prior to performing any divisions of property. If the Township would like to make exceptions to this for lots of 20 acres or more, or the adjustment of a lot line by the relocation of a common boundary, the Township will need to adopt and submit a new resolution to the County.

### Clerk/Treasurer interview update

Supervisors Kauffman and Palmquist held interviews with candidates for the Clerk/Treasurer position on October 20<sup>th</sup> and are recommending the Board consider offering the position to the most qualified candidate, Suzanne Bergquist.

*Motion:* Vice Chair Palmquist moved for the Board to offer the Clerk/Treasurer position to Suzanne Bergquist. Supervisor Kauffman seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

The Board requested the Clerk prepare an offer letter and invite Ms. Bergquist to meet the Board on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion:* Supervisor Fredlund moved to limit the HRA contribution to \$500/month if it is consistent with IRS regulations. Supervisor Kauffman seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

### October 29<sup>th</sup> Workshop agenda

The Board determined the topics for the October 29, 2022, workshop will include discussion on the permitting process, planning, annexation, ordinance enforcement and housing rights database. It was noted that the agenda has been posted on the Town Hall bulletin board. Supervisor Kauffman indicated the group will need more than three hours to discuss the topics and requested each member submit a list of priorities to the Clerk.

### Status of MPM reclamation / Mining engineer

Vice Chair Palmquist will reach out to Carrie Jennings regarding the mining engineer position. The Board reminded that she has been authorized to perform the MPM inspection and review of the reclamation plan.

### November Newsletter

*Motion:* Vice Chair Palmquist moved to approve the November Newsletter as presented. Supervisor Fredlund seconded. *Motion carried 4-0.*

## **Attorney Items**

### Date of Township election

Supervisor Kauffman requested the Board consider, for discussion at the next meeting, moving the Township elections to November as this would make the Annual meeting less frenzied and the election process less expensive. The ballot question would need to indicate whether the terms of office would be shortened or lengthened by six months. The Board requested the Clerk provide election costs at the next meeting.

Conduct of elections

Supervisor Kauffman wanted the Board to be aware that the Secretary of State has issued a memo to the heads of elections indicating that there can be election observers at polling places to ensure elections are being conducted properly. Bob Ruppe has reached out to the Secretary of State’s office to point out that current statute does not support this memo.

**Clerk Matters**

Conditional Use Deeds

The Clerk received an email from the County asking whether Eureka has any conditional use deeds. The Board agreed that Eureka has not dedicated any land to the public.

Town Hall meeting room capacity

Inspectron calculated the meeting room capacity at 202 people, allowing 7 sq. ft. per standing person. In addition, the Town Board can determine the capacity of the room at their discretion, not to exceed 202.

**Adjournment**

*Motion:* Chair Barfknecht moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Fredlund seconded.  
*Motion carried 4-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ranee Solis, Town Clerk

Minutes Officially Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Chair Date