

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

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**November 14, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

The Eureka Township Town Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Sauber and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Supervisors Present: Tim Pope, Allen Novacek, Nancy Sauber, and Randy Wood.

Others Present: Liz Atwater, Mark Antonson, David Williams, Steve Pope, Bren Preisler, Chand Harmer, Mark Henry.

Zoom Attendance: Ben Blomgren, Gloria Belzer, Julie Larson.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Supervisor Novacek requested the following be added to the agenda:

New Business:

D- 265<sup>th</sup>

Unfinished Business:

G- Fairgreen and Hamburg

*Motion:* Vice Chair Sauber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Supervisor Pope seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

**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.*

Vice Chair Sauber opened the floor for public comment and reminded that if anyone has comment regarding any agenda items, now is your time to speak.

9649 250<sup>th</sup> Street – Mark Antonson

Mr. Antonson is a member of the Lakeville Snowmobile club. He wanted to know the Board's intention regarding the removal of the debris in the 245<sup>th</sup> ditch. Supervisor Pope explained that Supervisor Wood and he are going to be removing the items. Mr. Antonson asked if there is a minimum flight height for the airplanes. Vice Chair Sauber explained that the Airport was annexed by Lakeville. Residents can file a complaint or concern at [macnoms.com](http://macnoms.com).

Vice Chair Sauber asked three times if there were any additional attendees who would like to make a comment. Hearing none, the floor was closed.

**Reports**

Broadband Update- Ben Blomgren

See Pages 7-10 for the presentation.

### Dakota County Township Officers Association Meeting

Clerk Atwater reported that she attended the meeting on November 1, 2023. There is an upcoming workshop on November 16 for County Grants. Commission Slavik discussed the 911 JPA and all but one township did join. The County is planning to hire three new Deputies and will be discussed more at the Dakota County budgeting meeting. The MAT Conference is in December, and they will be voting on proposed by-law changes.

### Planning Commission Update

Planning Commissioner Melanie Storlie shared items that were discussed at the November Planning Commission meeting. A full summary is provided in the meeting minutes and is available for viewing at the Town Hall and on the website.

### **Permit Requests**

Preisler, Benjamin & Heidi, 8258 257<sup>th</sup> Street W., PIN#13-02100-52-022

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved to approve the permit request for Benjamin and Heidi Preisler, PIN #13-02100-52-022 for a pole shed. Vice Chair Sauber made a friendly amendment that it is going to be used for personal storage. Supervisor Novacek declined the friendly amendment. Supervisor Pope seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

*Motion:* Vice Chair Sauber moved that in accordance with our ordinance that the pole shed will be used for personal storage only. Supervisor Wood seconded the motion. Nancy Sauber- Aye, Randy Wood- Aye, Allen Novacek- Nay, Tim Pope- Nay. *Motion failed 2-2.*

Pope, Stephen, 5711 235<sup>th</sup> Street W., PIN#13-01100-05-013

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved to approve the deck/porch permit request for Stephen Pope, PIN #13-01100-05-013. Vice Chair Sauber seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

Clerk/Treasurer Atwater read the Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2023: Total of all accounts is: \$1,079,554.50.

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved to approve the October Treasurer's Report as presented. Supervisor Pope seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Allen Novacek – Aye; Tim Pope – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye, Nancy Sauber - Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

### Net Pay and claims

The Clerk presented payroll in the amount of \$3,090.16 for payment.

The following claims in the amount of \$76,374.21 were presented for payment. See page 6 for a list of claims.

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek to approve the net pay and claims as presented. Vice Chair Sauber seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Allen Novacek – Aye; Tim Pope – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye, Nancy Sauber - Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

### Receipts and Disbursement

Clerk/Treasurer Atwater presented the October receipts in the amount of \$14,564.10 and October disbursement in the amount of \$123,109.25.

### Other Treasurer Reports

Clerk Atwater reviewed the Cash Control Statement, Schedule 1, PTO balances, and investments with the Board.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Ordinance Permit Pricing vs Referring to a Fee Schedule

The Public Hearing was held on November 14, 2023, at 6pm and the Board agreed to adopt the ordinance changes.

*Motion:* Vice Chair Sauber moved to adopt the Ordinance 2023-06 as was presented at the Public Hearing. Supervisor Novacek seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

*Motion:* Vice Chair Sauber moved to approve Resolution 2023-24. Supervisor Novacek seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

#### Township Road Speed Project/Laws on Putting up Speed Limit Signs

Supervisor Novacek called two different vendors. The first vendor stated he would not put up the signs, unless he was contracted to do the whole job, including purchasing signs, posts, and then the installation. The second vendor did not return his call. Grossman needs to be contacted for a quote.

Vice Chair Sauber moved to go ahead with the safety sign quote for the road speed project. Supervisor Wood seconded the motion. Nancy Sauber- Aye, Randy Wood- Aye, Allen Novacek- Nay, Tim Pope- Nay. *Motion failed 2-2.*

#### MPM/Chard Mining

No updates.

#### MPCA

The Board discussed options on how to move forward and will continue to discuss at another meeting.

#### Closed Road -245<sup>th</sup> between Dodd and County Line

Supervisor Pope and Supervisor Wood will be working together to clean the ditch out.

#### Farmington Fire Contract

Attorney Ruppe is reviewing the contract, but the formula is correct, and costs will go up.

#### Fairgreen and Hamburg

Clerk Atwater shared that Anderson Rock and Lime quoted 6.00/ton for material and 6.60/ton for trucking to the site. The total estimated cost for materials would range from \$50,400-\$63,000. Vice Chair Sauber requested the record show that the Township did attempt to get two quotes, but received only one by the deadline.

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved that we move forward with taking care of putting the gravel on Hamburg and Fairgreen as much as weather permits and the contractors are able. Supervisor Pope seconded the motion. *Motion carried 3-0.* Vice Chair Sauber abstained.

Vice Chair Sauber request the minutes reflect, “The reason I am abstaining is the money for those two roads, should have been incorporated in the amount of gravel needed for this year, back in the spring and should have been a sealed bid. I say that with due respect for the law which governs how we spend taxpayer money. It is all laid out in Chapter 9 of the MAT Manual: Township Government Manual.”

## **New Business**

### Town Hall Water Softener

Clerk Atwater presented the Board with three vendor quotes for upgrading the Town Hall Water Softener. The unit is believed to be original to the building.

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved that we purchase and have installed the water softener from Kinetico for \$4,589.00. Vice Chair Sauber seconded the motion. *Motion carried 3-0.* Vice Chair Sauber abstained. Supervisor Novacek amended the motion that money will be taken out of the Town Hall Capital Improvement Fund. Vice Chair Sauber seconded the amendment. Nancy Sauber- Aye, Randy Wood- Aye, Allen Novacek- Aye, Tim Pope- Nay. *Motion carried 3-1.*

### Website Renewal and Additional Service

Clerk Atwater explained that the annual Maintenance Plan with Marketing Clarity is \$500.00. Clerk Atwater and Deputy Clerk Liberty have been working on updating the website. Clerk Atwater requested the Board approve \$500 for the year for assistance and training with the website.

*Motion:* Vice Chair Sauber moved to grant \$500 over a year for the clerk to use in any training that she deems necessary with the website management or upgrades. Supervisor Novacek seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

### Newsletter

The board reviewed the Township Newsletter, made edits, and agreed the clerks can send it out via email and put it on the website.

### 265<sup>th</sup> Road

Supervisor Novacek explained there is a road closed sign on 265<sup>th</sup>. The Board discussed whether the sign is the Township’s or the County’s.

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved that if that sign has been put there at the direction of the Eureka Town Board that we direct them to remove it. Supervisor Pope seconded the motion. Allen Novacek- Aye, Tim Pope- Aye, Nancy Sauber- Nay, Randy Wood- Abstained. *Motion carried 2-1.*

## **Clerk Matters**

Mining Supervisor, Carrie Jennings, asked if it would be all right for her to contact the mines to start scheduling the inspections.

*Motion:* Vice Chair Sauber moved that we give permission to Carrie Jennings to start setting up her mine inspections. Supervisor Wood seconded the motion. Vice Chair Sauber withdrew the motion and recused herself from the mining discussion.

*Motion:* Supervisor Wood moved to let Carrie Jennings contact all the gravel pits to make appointments and do her observation and report. Motion was not seconded.

**Road Report**

Road Superintendent Henry will contact Anderson Rock and Lime to get the project started on Hamburg and Fairgreen. Hamburg is the priority and will try to get both completed before the weather changes. He reported the sign on 265<sup>th</sup> belongs to the County and will contact the County to remove the sign.

**Adjournment**

*Motion:* Supervisor Novacek moved to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Pope seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Liz Atwater, Town Clerk

Minutes Officially Approved By:

  
Town Chair

on: 12/12/23  
Date

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
11/14/2023	Payroll ending 10/31/2023	11115	Payroll ending 10/31/2023	\$ 1,933.31
11/14/2023	Payroll ending 10/31/2023	11116	Payroll ending 10/31/2023	\$ 412.08
11/14/2023	Payroll ending 10/31/2023	11117	Payroll ending 10/31/2023	\$ 744.77
11/14/2023	Internal Revenue Service	11118	Tax Dues October Payroll	\$ 2,630.67
11/14/2023	PERA	11119	October Payroll	\$ 1,047.58
11/14/2023	Couri & Ruppe	11120	Legal Services Sept and October	\$ 2,312.50
11/14/2023	Dakota Electric	11121	#2000005280698Premise ID 1118357 9/12/2023-10/12/2023	\$ 19.12
11/14/2023	Dakota Electric	11122	#2000003707999 Premise ID 109402 9/12/2023-10/12/2023	\$ 172.17
11/14/2023	Dale Kuchinka	11123	Ditch mowing June and September	\$ 4,200.00
11/14/2023	De Lange Landen	11124	Copier Rental December- final payment	\$ 95.83
11/14/2023	Driessen Water	11125	Rental water softener	\$ 41.57
11/14/2023	DSI	11126	November Garbage	\$ 163.05
11/14/2023	ECM Publishers	11127	Public Hearing Fee Code	\$ 63.00
11/14/2023	Grossman Companies	11128	Shared Roads	\$ 1,449.00
11/14/2023	Grossman Companies	11129	Roads Invoice 10-2023	\$ 14,352.00
11/14/2023	Frandsen Bank	11130	Purchase 6-month CD at 5.2% General Fund	\$ 25,000.00
11/14/2023	Inspectron	11131	August 2023 Inspections	\$ 5,054.34
11/14/2023	JTN	11132	Broadband Expansion Reimbursement 4	\$ 13,457.00
11/14/2023	Kennedy and Graven	11133	September special counsel matters and enforcement	\$ 3,440.16
11/14/2023	M & R Signs	11134	Road Signs	\$ 1,292.99
11/14/2023	Mark Henry	11135	October Mileage	\$ 119.21
11/14/2023	Metro Alarm & Lock	11136	Quarterly Billing December 2023- February 2024	\$ 90.00
11/14/2023	Point North	11137	November Billing	\$ 548.00
11/14/2023	Visa	11138	Office Supplies for Town Hall	\$ 137.92
				<u>\$ 78,776.27</u>

# EUREKA FIBER OPTIC PROJECTS

UPDATE

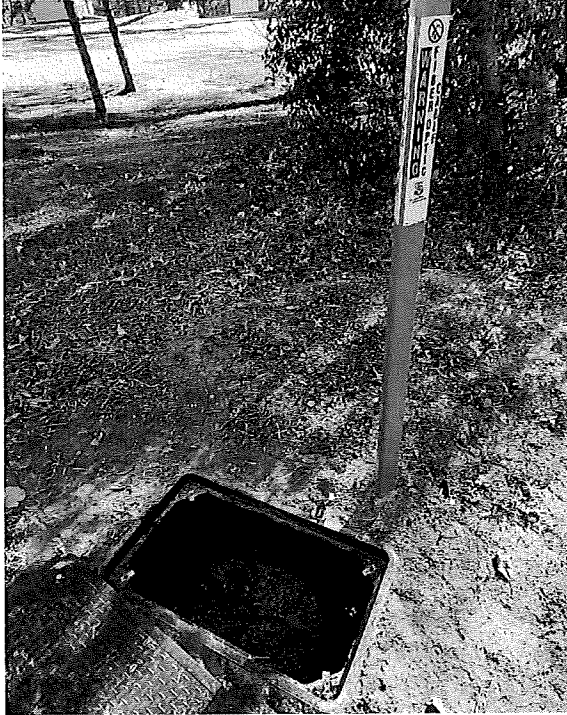
11/14/23



## CURRENT PROJECTS

- STATE-FUNDED PROJECT
- 235TH
- SOUTH EUREKA ESTATES

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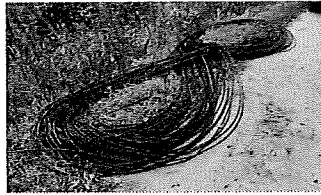


## STATE-FUNDED PROJECT

Update

All handholes and conduit are in place along with marker posts. These points serve as customer attachment locations. Approximately 70% of the project has cable pulled through the conduit. Cable pulling sounds simple but it requires a lot of labor and specialized equipment. Splicing the cable and configuring it for attachment will occur in the late fall and winter. A handful of customers will be connected before winter depending on weather and splicing progress. Most customer attachments will occur in spring.

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## CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Top Left - Installation of conduit via vibratory plow

Top Right - Figure 8 of armored fiber mainline cable ready to install

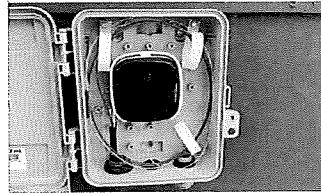
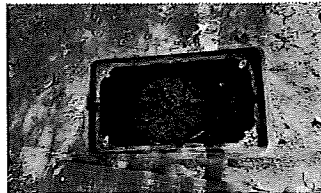


Middle Left - Installation of pulling tape in to conduit

Middle Right - Pulling of pull tape and fiber on to spool

Eureka Township Clerk (clerk@eurekatownship-mi.us) is signed in

Bottom Left - Finished handhole ready for splicing

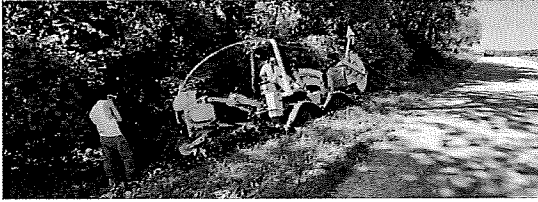


Bottom Right - Customer network interface device at the home

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# CHALLENGES



## Rocky Ground

- Rocks bounced the plow blade around on some stretches
- Required the combination of compressed air and a pull assist to pass fiber through some stretches of conduit due to many variations in elevation change and blade direction



## Gas Line Crossings

- We knew ahead of time about gas crossings and planned for it
- No fewer than five crews from four companies were present
- Required five 9-foot deep holes to visually watch the drill head cross the various pipelines

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# REMAINING PROJECT TIMELINE

Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Splice / Test Mainline Schedule Home Installations			Resolve any Test Discrepancies Begin Customer Installations			Customer Installations			Customer Installations		



## NOTABLE TAKEAWAYS

### Project is On-Time as Budgeted

All elements completed within the project timetable as expected.

### Project is Within Budget

We came in right at budget for this project. No additional funds needed to facilitate completion.

### Interest is High

Residents will be using the system and are highly motivated to do so as soon as possible.

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