Lake Eunice Township

Treasurer: Ann Hixson Supervisors: Ed Clem, Gerald Johnson

Chairman: Jason Rosing Wayne Jacobson, Al Bergquist

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The Lake Eunice Township board held its monthly meeting at the town hall on December 10th, 2024 at 7:00 pm.  The minutes from the November meetings were reviewed and approved by a motion by Al Bergquist and seconded by Ed Clem.  The treasurer report was reviewed. Jason Rosing asked the board to start thinking about upcoming budget numbers for 2025. Ann Hixson advised there is approximately $46,000 (there is one disbursement not cashed) from ARPA funds that needs to move over to close out that account. Ann Hixson suggested moving this finalized amount into the Conservation Fund as very little goes into that fund through the year. The board reviewed the other funds and indicated they support moving that into the Conservation Fund. The Conversation Fund was budgeted last year at $13,000. The treasurers report looked good and was accepted with Wayne Jacobson making a motion and Ed Clem seconding it. In addition, a motion was brought by Wayne Jacobson to move the ARPA funds into the Conservation Fund and close the ARPA funds. This was passed unanimously by the board.

Mike Foley was present to discuss the possible closure of the compost site located on Al Bergquist’s property. He stated he has been telling Lake Eunice residents to come to the annual meeting and vote for the compost to stay open. Mr. Foley was reminded that the compost site is on private property and the board is not in a position to force this service on a private landowner. He stated the closure of this site would require him to have a 30-mile trip to the nearest site. He is worried that many will not want to make that drive and dump leaves in the ditches and the lakes. He stated he would like the board to put sufficient funds from the budget into keeping a compost site. He stated the board should look at paying Al Bergquist “rent” for his property use. He also suggested having good signage, a camera system and someone should get paid to monitor the site. The board spent a considerable amount of time discussing the compost site and the options. Mr. Foley inquired how the annual meeting determines what service Lake Eunice Township must provide, if voted on, as he is wanting the compost site to go to vote during the annual meeting.

Heather Anderson advised motions made and passed at the meeting are not necessarily binding on the town board. The legislature has indicated what the electors can do at the annual meet

Ing and they are limited to those powers. Certain powers are delegated to the town board, and the board is limited to those powers. The electors’ decisions are binding on the town board only if a statute has granted electors such authority- a compost site is not one of those and not required to be supplied by the township. Mr. Foley was told the electors cannot force or prohibit the board from acting on a matter assigned to the town board’s discretion. Mr. Foley was encouraged to attend the annual meeting and he would request the compost site be put on the agenda to discuss.

Mr. Foley also discussed the levy with the board, which has not been increased in over five years. Mr. Foley suggested increasing the levy. He was told he can come to the annual meeting and suggest this. In addition, Mr. Foley thanked the board for their work and also indicated the board should look at getting a raise in their salaries for the work they do.

Mr. Foley asked the board how many meetings a road supervisor is allowed to miss during the year in order to serve on the board. Heather Anderson did read the statue:

Subd. 7.**Inability or refusal to serve.**

 A vacancy in a town office may be declared by the town board when an officer is unable to serve in the office or attend board meetings for a 90-day period because of illness, or because of absence from or refusal to attend board meetings for a 90-day period.

Jason Rosing advised a school bus went sideways on the road on Pearl Lake Drive. This road will continue to be monitored and toured by the board. Jason Rosing also reported he dealt with a large beaver damn on Nelson Market Road this month. Jason Rosing also indicated the snow plow needs some parts. He will tell the snow plow driver, Bryce to contact Nelson International as we have an account there.

A Lake Eunice township resident called with concerns about the fire contract Lake Eunice has with the city of Audubon. They advised the city has purchased a very expensive fire truck and wondering if Lake Eunice will be having to contribute to that cost. In addition, there was discussion if the money that is allocated for the fire contract is actually going into the fund for Fire and Rescue with the city of Audubon. The board was unaware this purchase had been made. The board discussed concerns of the continued increases in costs for the fire contract. Heather Anderson will contact Mary Henderickson, Becker County Auditor about this fire contract and the concerns.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm by motion from Al Berquist and seconded by Ed Clem.

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Heather Anderson, Township Clerk Date

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