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 May 13th, 2025 at 7:00 pm.  The minutes from April 2025 was reviewed and approved by a motion by Wayne Jacobson and seconded by Ed Clem.  The treasurer report was reviewed. There was a discrepancy with a payment to Driveway Services that the board wanted clarified before they approved the treasurers report. Ann Hixson will investigate this payment, which was for services on the 2024 budget and taken out of the 2025 budget and report to the board next month. Heather Anderson clarified that there should be two treasurers reports than next month for the board to review.

Kirk Zink- 11020 West Lake Eunice Road was present to discuss this property. He owns two parcels; the west square parcel is the current home. He stated there has been 6 surveys done on this property. The irregular lot with the current easement and the road issue is where he plans on building this summer, lakeside. He was able to show the board where the issues arises and where he is wanting to build. He advised he has had a survey done and was asked to email that to Lake Eunice township. This will then be shared with Carl Malmstrom to address. Mr. Zink advised he did call Carl Malmstrom when this issue was first discovered. Heather Anderson will email Carl Malstrom and report back to the board.

Mike Foley, was present to discuss the compost site. Jason Rosing reported Lakeview Township has agreed to allow Lake Eunice residents to use both of their compost sites. Jason Rosing advised the agreement includes a $2500 a year payment plus half of any fire calls. Heather Anderson indicated she has talked to Carl Malmstrom about this and he is working on an agreement and it should be ready for the June 2025 meeting for the board to review and signed, if it meets all conditions. As the meeting was closing, Jason Rosing received a call from Cormorant Township. They did agree to the same above conditions and will be allowing Lake Eunice residents to use their compost site as well.

Kyle Varberg, Becker County Planning and Zoning and Nick Bowers were present to discuss a potential gravel pit located in Lake Eunice township. Prior to the meeting, Heather Anderosn was able to speak to Carl Malmstrom about this and share a document that was sent prior to the meeting from Kyle Varberg. Carl Malmstrom advised the board to not sign the document until he could review. It is a Road Agreement for Hienmark Road, which will be the road the potential gravel pit will be located. The potential gravel pit/property owner, Nick Bowers advised he has a potential five-year plan for the gravel pit and then it will be turned in a residential development. He advised the gravel truck should only be going north on Hienmark Road. There are two property owners who live there year-round. The board did advise they have entered into road agreements on other roads and they will review with the township attorney. Kyle Varberg advised they do have a meeting with Becker County Planning and Zoning next week and he is wondering if the township board will be objecting to a road agreement. The board did discuss this and indicated that there should be no objections from Lake Eunice township on the road agreement provided the property owner abides by the all the conditions. The board advised that ultimately, it is up to Becker County to approve the gravel pit. The township will just ensure the necessary precautions to protect the township road.

The Lake Maud Association Meeting is June 21st, 12 noon at the Cormorant Community Center. They would like some reps there from Lake Eunice township. The board is not able to attend. Ann Hixson will reach out and see if she can help with any questions prior to the meeting.

Jason Rosing advised the hammerhead over on Pearl Lake is ready to be worked on. Driveway Services can get it done. Jason Rosing made a motion for Driveway Services and this was approved by Al Bergquist and seconded by Wayne Jacobson.

The Audubon Fire Chief, Alex Molacek and the prior Fire Chief, Chris Wiedenmeyer, were in attendance to speak about the current fire contact and to answer a few questions. The board was hoping there would have been some Lake Eunice residents, who have voiced concerns, who wanted to be on the agenda, in attendance. They were not in attendance to clarify their concerns and hear directly from the city of Audubon. This is the list from the meeting that was given to the city of Audubon prior to the meeting with their responses:

* How many fire calls did you respond to last year?  How many of those calls were for Lake Eunice township?
* 22 of 77 total calls were for Lake Eunice. It was noticed by the city of Audubon that the calls have been decreasing.
* Do you have any data on how far away those calls were from your building?  How many miles away?  Or any data on the average length of time it takes for your crew to arrive at the address?  The board has heard from many residents that other fire departments are coming before Audubon.
* They do not have data on this. They advised sometimes it depends on the call center. Even in a fire, the Becker County Sheriff’s Department gets the first call. Then the call center will call EMS. Oftentimes, they are the third call and then the volunteers have to get to the location. There have times they do not get a 911 call until 8 minutes have passed.
* They are wanting to make sure that the money that is given to Audubon Fire every year goes directly to Audubon Fire.  Of course, we realize that there may be some administrative costs but that much of the amount goes directly to Audubon Fire.
* It was confirmed that the majority of the money that Lake Eunice sends every year goes directly to the Fire Department, per Chris Wiedenmeyer. There is a very small amount that goes to administration for paperwork and processing. He advised that the city of Audubon submitted their audit and this was affirmed. He acknowledged it did take some time but assured the board that he does our money goes directly to the services.

The board had discussion with Chris Wiedenmeyer and Alex Molacek about the concerns with the city audit and the rumors that they city had failed that audit. They both acknowledged that the city did get an extension but they did pass that inspection. The current fire contract is: $75,779.00. The board did ask about the next three-year fire contract and that is being worked on right now. Heather Anderson did ask about how the average is calculated and that if the calls are decreasing, and Lake Eunice only had 22 of 77 calls, Lake Eunice should be seeing a decrease in the contract amount. The board discussed their concerns with the amount of time it takes for calls to be answered and how far away Lake Eunice is from the fire hall. Jerry Johnson did bring up that residents of Lake Eunice have higher insurance because the fire hall is so far away, but yet our residents pay the most. Discussion about building a closer hall and what that would look like. Alex Molacek did verbalize the advantage of having the fire hall in the city limits of Audubon, is that Audubon has to pay for that site and the upkeep and maintenance etc. It was also clarified that if the fire department builds a new fire hall in the city limits, the township will not have to endure any additional payments or fees. Alex Molacek also indicated that most of the volunteers live closer to the city of Audubon so it helps with call times etc. Discussion about a sub station closer to Lake Eunice which resulted in studies needing to be completed with 5 years of response times.

The city of Audubon is always recruiting for volunteers and any visibility we can provide would be appreciated. Anyone interested should call the city of Audubon at 218 439 6582.

Jason Rosing thanked the city of Audubon for coming and was appreciative they were able to answer questions and be available at the meeting for conversation. Jason Rosing brought the 2025 fire contract up for motion for payment. The board has withheld payment until this discussion could be had. Jason Rosing, Ed Clem, Al Bergquist and Wayne Jacobson all voted yes-Jerry Johnson voted no. Their payment will be processed at the next meeting.

The board reviewed the following planning and zoning requests and had no concerns or comment.

* 15360 E Summer Island Rd
* 12114 Gilbertson Place

This meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm by motion from Wayne Jacobson and seconded by Ed Clem.

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Heather Anderson, Township Clerk Date

15320 Blackhawk Road

Audubon, Minnesota 56511

 218-287-0562