

DENMARK TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2007

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Joe Moore, Gary Dixon, Kathy Higgins and Jim Keller

ABSENT: Steve Kramer

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Gilchrist

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 7:02 PM by Chair Higgins

AGENDA APPROVAL: **Motion Keller/2nd Dixon to approve agenda.** All in Favor.
Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

Keller noted that in the 09/04/2007 minutes, names needed to be corrected in 2 motions. Higgins pulled the claims. **Motion Moore/2nd Dixon to approve consent agenda with corrected minutes, payroll ending 09/30/2007 and financial reports.** All in Favor.
Motion Carried.

HEARING DECISION/ZONING ACTIONS: **VERIZON CUP UPDATE** Verizon has not received response from Comcast re: co location capability. Town attorney has corresponded with both Verizon and Comcast attorneys to expedite matter. Verizon has filed an extension request until 11/07/07. Hearing to be continued to October 15, 2007. Comcast intends to send representatives to the 10/15/07 hearing.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Hastings Bridge Work- Moore reported on the bridge work meeting in Hastings. Hastings City Officials would like to see one lane remain open for the good of the Hastings businesses. MnDOT statements included the following: start would be after April, stop lights would be used for a one lane opening which would be staffed 24 hrs a day, 22 hr work day, form a working group, maintain info on website, 1200 cars Northbound and 1300 cars Southbound at the peak of traffic on the bridge, maintain emergency vehicle passing at all times. Both Lafayette and Cayuga bridges are ahead of the Hastings Bridge in terms of replacement.

Duane Fowler, Jeff Keene and Steve Biscoe expressed concerns on behalf of River Country Co-op in Hastings and the farmers in Denmark Township. Anhydrous ammonia tanks, fertilizer and application toolbars are transported across the bridge in April and May, perhaps 70 trips a day. In a work zone, there is a possibility of additional risk that a mishap could occur with the tanks that hold hazardous material. There would be difficulty crossing a one lane bridge with the 12-14 foot wide applicator toolbars. Detouring from the Hastings Bridge would also be a hardship and safety factor for both the farmers needing these spring applications and for the transport of these materials. Work on the bridge would be safest if started after June 1st. Questions on possible weight restrictions on a single lane. Fowler intends to put these concerns in writing to MnDot. Bob Muellner asked how school busses

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would be affected. Moore in favor of treating the school busses the same as emergency vehicles for crossing the bridge.

In response to MnDOT's request for Township input, Higgins will draft and send letter to MnDOT expressing Denmark's preferences: 1) Request that bridge work begin after June 1st to address Denmark safety concerns regarding delivery of anhydrous ammonia to local farmers. 2) Request that school buses be given same priority as emergency vehicles. 3) Request that one lane of bridge remain open, rather than full closure.

Erin Glen Final Plat Approval- Collins has received the final plat from the Town. However, due to the issue of the Collins/Pflugi lot line adjustment, the Pflugi property mortgagor needs to sign off and that is being processed at this time. The Development Agreement states that written permission is needed from Denmark Township in order for work to be initiated prior to final plat recording. Keller noted that in the past, the Engineer warned against premature approval of work. Higgins spoke with Geheren. Grading permit would be issued subject to engineering receipt of final construction plans and compliance with other requirements..

Motion Keller/2nd Dixon to authorize work prior to recording of final plat subject to written approval of Engineer, Attorney and Chair, and to authorize Chair to sign Development Agreement upon completion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

122nd and Morgan- TKDA recommendation for intersection is to reposition existing stop sign, add another stop sign, add warning signs and striping. The County is not able to stripe 122nd & Morgan this year. Town will submit the request for 2008. Duane Fowler lives at the intersection and would like to see a reduced speed limit posted. Dixon stated that the signs should be put up now, even if we have to wait for the striping to be done. Dixon to order and install the signs before the ground freezes. Jeff Keene suggested trimming the trees in the location.

Census- Denmark Township is required to update the Town's address list for the 2010 census. The county maintains an address list for the Town and is willing to participate in the updating should the Board choose this option. Moore will contact the County and accept County participation.

Motion Keller/2nd Dixon to authorize Joe Moore to sign the U.S. Census Bureau's confidentiality agreement and work with the County to accomplish the address update. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Website- Denmark Township's website is up and running @ denmarktownship.org

2006 Financial Audit- Clerk submitted 2006 Financial Audit Report to the Board. Discussion re: auditor's findings on segregation of duties for Clerk/Treasurer. Auditor recommended that the Board be aware of the absence of segregation of the accounting functions due to the combined position. Auditor further recommended the Town maintain a record of capital assets for insurance purposes and potential accrual basis of accounting.

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Clerk will work with auditor to compile capital asset record. Recommends that future budgets reflect utilization of savings account funds as Other Revenue sources.

Motion Keller/2nd Moore to accept the 2006 Financial Audit Report and to note that on Page 18 of the report, the amount of \$95,157.00 disbursed in excess of the Budget from the Road and Bridge Fund, was due to Board decision to fund from savings account.
All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Town Hall Leak- Water has been leaking into the basement of the Town Hall. Insurance adjuster and the original contractor assessed the leak. Kramer hired Tom Zellmer to repair the sanitary pipe which was cracked. Inspectron inspected the repair. The ground above the repair should be covered to prevent the possibility of pipe damage from freezing or ground shifting. Moore suggests covering the area with insulation and covering the insulation with a planting area. Basement walls need to be repaired. Moore will work with Ron Wasmund on long term solutions.

Town Hall Park Inspection- Denmark Township received funding on the outdoor recreation space at the Town Hall. The MN Dept of Natural Resources has inspected the park with the following comments: That the restroom facility be turned so that the entrance is not located on the grass surface but on the paved surface. That a level entrance is maintained from the walkway into the playground areas.

WMO Update- Town Attorney and Town Board have submitted written comments on the WMO rules, which will be on the WMO agenda 10/12/07. Jeff Keene inquired when the next WMO meeting would be. Mr. Keene complained that Emmons and Oliver wrote the DNR a letter saying that they did not want Barton pumping anymore water from the pond on his property. Biscoe inquired if Emmons and Oliver could do anything without WMO Board authorization. Keller stated that Emmons and Oliver have been instructed that they serve at the pleasure of the Board. Keller and Higgins will check out the issue.

Water Contamination: Biscoe was contacted by the Dept of Health to give a water sample for testing. Others in the Township have also been contacted. Keller will call the Dept. of Health for information on additional testing in the Township.

Claims for Approval:- Higgins pulled claim #8704 Ditch Mowing. Higgins not in agreement with Township mowing private property at public expense. Dixon checked some of the mowed areas and found some areas were mowed by private landowners. Private property that was mowed by Township mower was not charged to the Township. Biscoe stated that there are instances where farmers have given land to Township for backslopes and this land should be maintained by Town if not farmed. Also, additional mowing prevents saplings from becoming nuisance trees in the ditches. Higgins noted that there are some ditch areas that haven't been mowed, but should be, and now small trees and buckthorn are growing. Attorney added that there are not only risks for the Town to mow on private property but also using Town monies to mow on private property is an issue.

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Motion Keller/2nd Moore to approve payment of claim #8704 for Ditch Mowing.
Voting Aye-Keller, Moore and Dixon. Voting Nay-Higgins. Motion Carried.
Motion Keller/2nd Moore to approve balance of claims #8694-8712. All in Favor.
Motion Carried.

Motion Dixon/2nd Moore to adjourn. All in Favor. Motion Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Becky Herman
Denmark Township Clerk/Treasurer