DENMARK TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2024

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: M Ruben, M Femling, D Johnson, H Sahouani, J Strohfus
ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Troy Gilchrist (Kennedy-Graven), Cara Geheren (Focus)
ALSO PRESENT: P Flock

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order 7:05PM by Chair J Strohfus

AGENDA APPROVAL:
M Femling added issues with Oakgreen Ave due to logging.
Motion D Johnson/2nd H Sahouani to approve Amended Agenda. Voting Yes- D Johnson, M Femling, M Ruben, H Sahouani, J Strohfus. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:
Motion D Johnson/2nd H Sahouani to approve Consent Agenda items which include 11/04/2024 Board Minutes and 11/11/2024 Board of Canvas Minutes, Claims 12618-12653, EFT payments- PERA 776804, MN Tax 1558709472, Federal Tax 45926302, payroll ending 12/01/2024, and Financial Reports. Voting Yes- D Johnson, M Femling, M Ruben, H Sahouani, J Strohfus. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

HEARING DECISIONS/ZONING ACTIONS:
2025 Fee Schedule:
Attorney stated there was a need to update the fee schedule which a workshop was held. The building inspector was a part of the discussion and increased his fees. The zoning fees and escrows were reviewed and increased to help eliminate the clerk having to be a collection agent. He reviewed the process of approval of the updated fee schedule which the public hearing is typically held by the board at their meeting but felt it should go before the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission had a good discussion and inquired about the animal license and utility permit fees. Board discussion on the major changes such as the Agricultural CoC application fee and escrow.

Motion J Strohfus/2nd M Femling to approve Ordinance 2024-02 Adopting an Updated Fee Schedule for the Town. Voting Yes- D Johnson, H Sahouani, J Strohfus, M Femling, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Motion J Strohfus/2nd H Sahouani to approve Resolution 2024-11 Approving Summary Publication of an Ordinance Adopting an Updated Fee Schedule for the Town. Voting Yes- H Sahouani, J Strohfus, D Johnson, M Ruben, M Femling. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Public Comment:
Tony Sieben, 15057 87th St S, stated in July, he was told at a meeting in front of his house, that the road was going to be lowered by 24 inches, but it went up 8 inches. He inquired why the board approved the plan which left him with a 9-foot berm and water issues. He stated there was no consideration for his property. J Strohfus stated he gave misinformation and guarantees the road is not higher and the reason the elevation was not lowered more was due to cost. M Femling stated he insisted that the slope of the ditch be 4 to 1 which made the road a full 33 feet wide. This gives the appearance that the road was increased.

BUSINESS ITEMS:
Draft Cannabis Ordinance:
Attorney stated a public hearing has been set for this month and this driven by legislation. Towns can't prohibit the sales of cannabis, but they can regulate the zoning. He stated things are constantly changing but recommends the board move forward and changes can always be made later. J Strohfus inquired if there is difference distinguished between cannabis and hemp. Discussion on use and zoning, regulating intoxicating hemp and cannabis but not hemp derived products, licensing and removing 6. C. from performance standards.

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December 2, 2024

Erin Glen Letter of Credit Reduction Request:
C Geheren stated the developer inquired about a reduction in the letter of credit a while back which the town responded with a long list of things they needed to do. The developer has substantially completed the list and is requesting the letter of credit be reduced. Discussion on the outstanding issue with neighbor, the removal of cul-de-sac and ditching. Attorney stated process of developments is to reduce the security, acceptance of improvements (built as it approved), and finally acceptance of maintenance when they meet the requirements in the development agreement. Discussion on snow removal of the road since it connects with a town road. Consensus to have C Geheren notify developer of reduction in the letter of credit and connect them with Tri-County to contract with them for snow removal. Attorney stated Tri-County will need to bill the developer directly for service.

Motion D Johnson/2nd M Femling to approve the reduction of Erin Glen's Letter of Credit to 25 percent. Voting Yes-D Johnson, M Femling, H Sahouani, J Strohfus, M Ruben. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Animal Impound Agreement:
Attorney stated the current impound facility is no longer able to provide this service. He reviewed the agreement and stated he is comfortable with the town moving forward if they choose. There really isn't any other options out there for this service.
Motion H Sahouani/2nd D Johnson to approve the animal impound agreement. Voting Yes- H Sahouani, D Johnson, M Femling, M Ruben, J Strohfus. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Phone & Internet:
Clerk stated that SE MN Wi-Fi reached out to the town about installing fiber at no cost. Clerk reached out to CIT about the cost of switching to fiber and converting the phone to an internet based phone service. Discussion on using teams as a phone and the benefits of switching.

Motion J Strohfus/2nd D Johnson to approve change in service to SE MN Wi-Fi when possible and switch to Teams calling in the amount of $4,500 with ARPA funds if available otherwise savings. Voting Yes-D Johnson, J Strohfus, M Ruben, M Femling, H Sahouani. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

2025 Development Review/Meeting Schedule:
Motion D Johnson/2nd H Sahouani to approve the review schedule. Voting Yes- J Strohfus, D Johnson, H Sahouani, M Ruben, M Femling. Voting No- None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Pay 2024 Final Levy Certification:
Motion J Strohfus/2nd M Femling to approve Pay 2025 Final Levy Certification. Voting Yes- J Strohfus, D Johnson, H Sahouani, M Femling, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Oakgreen Ave and Logging Trucks:
M Femling stated he has received complaints due to the DNR logging off Lost Prairie to expand the prairie land. There is damage to the road and a ditch/gulley and looking for a good contact for the DNR to request repair or compensation to fix the road. Clerk directed to find the best contact for M Femling.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Legal Updates:
Attorney stated the personnel policy will be sent out for review for the January meeting, the development code integration is almost complete, and he will be out of town for the January meeting but will join via Teams. J Strohfus inquired about a training session. Discussion on the mining application that has yet to be submitted.

M Femling thanked D Johnson for her service and J Strohfus expressed his gratitude for her role as vice chair.

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9:00PM **Motion M Femling/2nd M Ruben to adjourn December 2024 Board Meeting. Voting Yes- M Ruben, M Femling, D Johnson, H Sahouani, J Strohfus. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.**

Jessica Maurer

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Denmark Township Clerk/Treasurer Denmark Township Chair