DENMARK TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2025

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: M Ruben, M Femling, P Flock, H Sahouani, J Strohfus
ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Troy Gilchrist (Town Law Center) via Teams
ALSO PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order 7:01PM by Chair J Strohfus

AGENDA APPROVAL:
Motion H Sahouani/2nd M Femling to approve Agenda. Voting Yes- P Flock, M Femling, M Ruben, H Sahouani, J Strohfus. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:
Clerk amended the amount of claim 12655 for Companion Animal from $70.00 to $140.00.
Motion P Flock/2nd M Ruben to approve Amended Consent Agenda items which include 12/02/2024 Board Minutes, Claims 12654-12677, EFT payments- PERA 781482, MN Tax 1524970720, Federal Tax 15153826, payroll ending 01/01/2025, and Financial Reports. Voting Yes- P Flock, M Femling, M Ruben, H Sahouani, J Strohfus. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

HEARING DECISIONS/ZONING ACTIONS:
Cannabis Amendments:
Attorney presented proposed amendments to the town's zoning code to add a new section regulating cannabis businesses. The amendments identify the zoning districts where different types of cannabis businesses (retail, cultivation, etc.) would be allowed, and impose various performance standards and buffer zones. The board discussed the rationale behind the zoning decisions and agreed the ordinance is a good starting point, with the understanding that it will likely need to be amended again in the future as the industry develops.

Motion J Strohfus/2nd M Femling to approve Ordinance 2025-01 Amending the Denmark Township Development Code Regarding Cannabis Businesses. Voting Yes- P Flock, H Sahouani, J Strohfus, M Femling, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Motion H Sahouani/2nd M Ruben to approve Resolution 2025-01 Approving Summary Language for Publication of an Ordinance Amending the Denmark Township Development Code Regarding Cannabis Businesses. Voting Yes- H Sahouani, J Strohfus, P Flock, M Ruben, M Femling. Voting No- None. Abstaining- None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Public Comment:
Rich Robinson, 8833 Oakgreen Ave S, raised concerns about the potential environmental and structural impacts of blasting from three nearby quarries on his home and well water.

BUSINESS ITEMS:
WSB Proposal for the EAW Work:
The board acknowledged the need to thoroughly evaluate the cumulative impacts of the quary through the required environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) process and approved hiring WSB to assist the town in managing that process.

Motion P Flock/2nd J Strohfus to approve WSB proposal of $4,850 to Review the EAW. Voting Yes- H Sahouani, P Flock, J Strohfus, M Femling, M Ruben. Voting No- None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Engineering Services:
The board approved transitioning the town's engineering services contract from Focus Engineering to Bolton & Menk, following Focus's acquisition by the larger firm. The board expressed confidence in Bolton &

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Menk's capabilities and experience, while noting the need to monitor the new fee structure and service levels.

Motion H Sahouani/2nd P Flock to move forward with proposal to Bolton & Menk Engineering Services. Voting Yes-P Flock, M Femling, H Sahouani, J Strohfus, M Ruben. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

Personnel Policy:
The board adopted a comprehensive personnel policy, developed by the town attorney, to establish consistent employment practices and comply with recent state requirements. The policy covers a range of topics including work hours, leave, and disciplinary procedures.

Motion H Sahouani/2nd M Ruben to approve the Personnel Policy. Voting Yes- H Sahouani, P Flock, M Femling, M Ruben, J Strohfus. Voting No-None. Abstaining-None. Motion Carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS:
M Femling stated after the last snow fall, the gravel roads were the last to be completed to save the gravel due to the ground not being frozen.

Appreciation expressed for Dawn Johnson's service to the town.

Legal Updates:
Attorney stated the updated ordinance is complete and will work on the next update which will include the new cannabis amendments.

8:01PM **Motion M Ruben/2nd M Femling to adjourn January 2025 Board Meeting. Voting Yes- M Ruben, M Femling, P Flock, 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