

DENMARK TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2015

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: Kathy Higgins, Joe Moore, Jim Keller and Karen Herman

ABSENT: John Kummer

STAFF PRESENT: Attorney Troy Gilchrist (Kennedy-Graven) and Engineer Ryan Stempski (Focus Engineering)

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 7:01 PM by Chair Higgins

AGENDA APPROVAL: K Higgins added Recycling.

Motion J Keller/2nd J Moore approval of agenda as amended. All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0-0.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL: K Higgins pulled 02/02/15 Board Minutes. **Motion J Moore/2nd J Keller approval of consent agenda items which include Claims #10468-10480, EFT payments- PERA 321398, MN Tax Deposit 1819055488, Federal Tax Deposit 33357089, payroll ending 03/01/2015 and financial reports.** All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0-0.

Pulled 02/02/15 Board Minutes. Minutes should reflect that no staff was present at the 02/02/15 Board Meeting.

Motion J Moore/2nd J Keller approval of the 02/02/15 Board Minutes as amended. All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0-0.

HEARING DECISIONS/ZONING ACTIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BUSINESS ITEMS:

South Washington Watershed District (SWWD): Matt Moore (Administrator), Board Members Denny Hanna (Grey Cloud Island) and Brian Johnson (Woodbury) present.

2014 Update: Watershed overflow project-2013 completed first phase. 2014 completed EAW on phases 2-5. 2015 finishing up on phase 2 design work. Will be working with county on improvements to the park.

Denmark Projects: Working to find projects in Trout Brook. Have made significant progress with Afton Alps and DNR on Trout Brook realignment. Will seek grant monies to continue. Keller questioned impact on Trout Brook from salt applied to road. Primarily the SWWD is trying to address the project. Parking area drains directly to the creek. Trying to separate that and move the draining away from the creek. DNR is working to re meander the creek.

Vegetative buffer with horse feedlot to eliminate erosion problems. Best Management Practice Design work is now in house. Should facilitate additional projects within the Township.

SWWD does have a Cost Share program for the public for water quality improvements on their property. Additional information for the public can be found on SWWD's website.

2015 Projects: Looking at converting two sites in Denmark to convert to Prairie, with Turf to Prairie grant from the Conservation District. Continue to work with Afton Alps & DNR. Great River Greening has been clearing invasives in the State Park.

Will be updating their plan, which will be under the new State Rules. Rules will likely be adopted in the next few months.

SWWD will be looking for CAC members to participate in the 18 month planning process. Projecting 3-4 citizen advisory meetings to help guide the plan. The rules have significantly changed which would simplify SWWD's Plan. New rules have been greatly consolidated, and it has been recognized that watersheds don't change. New rules focus on implementation and will streamline future projects. Monitoring station is still at Trout Brook. O'Connor's is not monitored because it does not drain into the St Croix. SWWD is reviewing the ravine on 110th St.

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Roads 2015: Engineer Stempski.

Maycrest/Hwy 61 Realignment: Upfront construction costs (\$50 K) for the signal light will be covered by Federal Grants procured by MnDOT. In lieu of The Town paying ongoing signal light maintenance costs, MnDOT is looking at turning back a portion of 127th ST (west of Hwy 10) and Pt Douglas Dr S (together approximately a little over 1 mile of rd). These roads function more to serve local rather than state. State would improve the roads before turn back to the Town. MnDOT has taken core samples of the roads. MnDOT recommendation for Improvements would be a 2" mill/overlay (est. cost \$287 K). Town approach is typically a reclaim/overlay (est. cost \$345K). State would also pay for design and implementation of an improvement. MnDOT could design and construct the project or MnDOT could estimate the cost of the project and make payment for the project to the Town and the Town would administer the project.

Moore noted that on the south side of old Hwy 10 there were some steep areas and wondered about potential erosion problems. Engineer did notice the steeper slopes, but much was too snow covered to assess for erosion. Engineer asked MnDOT if there were any stability issues on the side slopes, and they did not have any recorded. Engineer brought to MnDOT's attention a guard rail off one of the slopes which was significantly leaning (to include in any turnback costs). Also, noticed was a storm sewer system. Engineer noticed some catch basins through the snow. MnDOT was going to look up record regarding this. Kummer and Engineer will meet with MnDOT in March. A proposal could be presented formally to the Board in April. Engineer would recommend and Board preference would be to have State administer the project.

2015 Road Projects: Town will enter Joint Services with Cottage Grove for Sealcoat/Crack Sealing. At this time Neal Ave (100-110) and St Croix Tr Ln have been identified on the street inventory sheet for sealcoating. Board typically assesses the roads during the spring road tour to further evaluate which roads may be in need of sealcoating and/or other improvements. Engineer believes that any roads that have been identified for Cottage Grove Joint Services for sealcoating could be changed if the same quantity as submitted is used elsewhere.

Animal Impound Housing Services: The Animal Humane Society is requesting that Denmark renew its Animal Impound Services Agreement with them. Attorney submitted updated agreement for Board review. No prices have changed.

Motion J Moore/2nd K Herman approval of 2015 Animal Impound Housing Services Agreement with the Animal Humane Society as drafted. All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0.

Planning Commission Appointments: Don Schneider and Bob Barr have reapplied for their Planning Commission Seats. There were no other applications received. **Motion J Moore/2nd K Herman to appoint Don Schneider and Bob Barr to the Planning Commission for the term April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018. All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0.**

Escrow Refund Approval-Homestead Estates: Femlings have requested that their escrow balance for Homestead Estates be refunded. There are no pending charges on the escrow. The escrow was retained until St Croix Trail Lane was taken over by the Town. The Town accepted the road November 3, 2014 Resolution 2014-07.

Motion J Moore/2nd J Keller to refund Homestead Estate's escrow balance Fund #925 Claim #10481 in the amount of \$1015.00. All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0.

Recycling: Higgins and Keller met with recycling representatives regarding recycling coordinator shared resources for programs. Denmark could contract with Cottage Grove for coordinator services. Some of the things that a coordinator could do would include preparation of the Town's Recycling Grant Application, mandatory reporting, identifying projects such as web page information, tire/appliance pick up day for residents, composting, etc. The County would also cover expenses for the Town to procure a consultant for the purpose of reviewing/revising the Town's Waste Management/Recycling Ordinance.

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LEGAL UPDATES:

Trash Haulers: One of the Haulers had not applied for or sent in their fee for the 2014 Hauling License. Legal sent Hauler a letter and the Town has since received the outstanding recycling reports and the application with fees for the 2014 & 2015 license.

Codified Ordinance: Ordinance has been codified and the full updated version is on the webpage.

Comcast: Comcast is seeking approval to transfer the franchise to another company. Denmark was not originally notified of the proposed transfer. It would appear that Comcast is moving forward and an analysis by Comcast determined that the spaced out density in Denmark would not require Comcast to serve additional areas in Denmark. The Statute requires that cable providers, over a 5 year period, build out the entire service area. The Statute indicates that this provision is to be in every Franchise Agreement; however, there is no provision in the Denmark/Comcast agreement that notes that Comcast is required to serve additional areas in Denmark. Legal will keep Town updated.

8:15 PM **Motion J Keller/2nd J Moore to adjourn.** All In Favor. Motion Carried 4-0-0.

Becky Herman
Denmark Township Clerk/Treasurer

Denmark Township Chair