

**Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, July 21, 2016
Royal Wilcox Community Center**

Chair Eric Leivian called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Eric Leivian, Chair

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Vice Chair

Jeske Noordergraaf

Gerald Bjork

Joel Peterson

Treasurer: Karen Anderson

Clerk: Wendy S. Kowalke

Others Present:

Rick Greene, Commissioner

BJ Thorstenson

Stacy Frahs

Dean Wilcox

Clifford Leavstrom

Rick Olseen

Nancy Hoffman

Tony Kubat

Eric Holmstrom

Sharon Hampton

Avery Tribbett

Jim Frahs

Tim Chandler

Manley Olson

Jmie Martinson

Shane Stepp

Kirstin Sevslund

Kay Kubat

Mark Osland

Bruce Hampton

Brian Geisbauer

Tim Zemke

Ted Krause

Ronda Golden

Wyatt Wilcox

Bill Campbell

Gabi Stepp

Holly Wilson

Eric, CenturyLink

George McMahan, Commissioner

Noah Hampton

George Tribbett

Diane Johnson

Approve Agenda: Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to accept the July 2016 agenda.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Joel Peterson second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to approve June 2016 minutes. Motion Carried.

Clerk Update: No Updates

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Karen Anderson went over July 2016 Treasury report. Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Joel Peterson to accept the Treasurer's report as presented with claims list 4838 through 4860 and additional claims as follows.

Manley Olson (reimbursement for lost check #13557 less \$30 stop payment fee).....\$86.00

Irv Stolp (92 pair of gopher feet at \$2.00 per pair).....\$184.00

Internet Broadband: CenturyLink was present to update the Sunrise Board and Sunrise Township Citizens on fiber to be placed. The Sunrise Board informed the citizens that a public meeting needs to take place to adequately inform the citizens regarding the internet project. Supervisor Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson addressed a letter circulating that contained information believed to be untrue. Kirstin

from CenturyLink informed the Sunrise Board about a program called the CAF (Connect America Fund); this is a fee on subscriber's phone / internet bill. The CAF Program is to raise speeds in underserved rural areas and the CAF fund will be used to place a backbone fiber optic from Checker Board Park up County Road 88 (Wilcox Rd.) to the Sunrise River, which according to CenturyLink will be completed by end of 2016. The proposed full fiber to the home would not start until 2017. CenturyLink worked with Shane Stepp of Stepp Manufacturing, to get high speed to Stepp Manufacturing as part of the CAF build out. The CAF backbone line would increase internet speeds to 10 down and 1 up to 100 meg depending on how close you live to the fiber node. CenturyLink stated that 53 customers and Stepp Manufacturing are affected for the 2016 CAF. The proposed full fiber optic line to the home build out would increase internet speeds to 1 gig; total number of households affected is unknown at this time. Kirstin from CenturyLink stated she would have to get that number for the Township. According to Eric from CenturyLink the average household only needs and typically purchases 12 meg. CenturyLink stated, if the CAF funding was not available, CenturyLink would not do the project due to population density is too low to justify the investment. State of MN would like it to be 25 meg and at the very least 10 meg. Questions regarding the cost to home owner for equipment to convert to fiber optic never got answered. CenturyLink needs to better define the boundaries of who this serves. Town Board asked what the next phase is. Some citizens of Sunrise Township in the proposed Fiber to the Home Build Out area have asked the Town Board to bond for \$1 million for the project, without the bond the project will not go through. Township Board has questions on who the township would tax if no clear customer or prospective customer list exists. Township Board stated a decision cannot be made until actual costs are provided, a project plan is provided, and list of those affected are made available. Century Link is a private for profit organization and Sunrise Township Board cannot ask Frontier customers to pay for Century Link customers. Rick Olseen, Field rep for Congressman Nolan, said there is something of Cooperation between the Cooperatives. This idea of the cooperative is they are member owned. Congressman Nolan is scheduled to propose the bill in 2018. Bruce Hampton stated, and was confirmed by Nancy Hoffman, the DEED grant application is due October 1. Bruce Hampton stated, it is possible to approve the bond contingent upon receiving the grant. Sunrise Town Board stated they need to connect with the bonding company for specifics.

Dan Harrington mentioned Blue Sky does not charge anything to hook it up. \$80 a month with no cap. Nancy Hoffman said there is at least 2 to 3 different ways, one is a tax abatement way. Homes that are affected would pay for this. MN Association of Townships suggested that we talk to our attorney. Sunrise Town Board does not know how many people are CenturyLink subscribers, or how many people want to pay for it.

CenturyLink stated customers within 7,500 feet of a node will get 10 meg speed.

Sunrise Township Board will gather information and set up a Public Hearing and send a letter to all Sunrise Township household to inform them of a Public Hearing noting this is more for Century Link customers.

A few items that Sunrise Township needs to consider, but not limited to:

- \$3.8 million total estimated project cost
- Township will have to pay a bonding fee
- Need assessment policy
- Total number of households in affected area
- Public Hearing

Century Link will charge customers for the first year approximately:
\$54 for 10 to 12 meg
1 gig is \$110 per month promotional pricing
1 gig is \$150 per month after the first year.

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Gerald Bjork to work with Century Link (Kirsten), Nancy Hoffman (HRA / EDA), and Sunrise Township Attorney regarding actual costs and project details; that an assessment would only be for the Century Link customers along with scheduling a Public Hearing to inform the citizens of Sunrise Township. Motion carried

Professional Engineering Agreement (Bolton & Menk, Inc.): No fee for the agreement. There would be a fee schedule for specific projects. Bolton & Menk attends monthly meeting free. Cancellation of agreement needs to be in writing affective 7 days after written notice. Bolton & Menk will not charge to get familiar with the township. Motion by Joel Peterson, second by Eric Leivan to accept contract. Motion carried and contract signed.

Mobile Website: No action taken.

Internet Providers on web-site: The Sunrise Board discussed leaving local internet providers on the web-site and no action taken on outside internet providers to be placed on web-site.

Election Judge Pay: Motion by Joel Peterson, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to pay election judges at the rate of \$9.75 per hour and Head Judge \$10.25. Motion carried with Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson abstaining because he is an election judge as needed.

Citizens Forum:

470th Culvert: Jeff Fertig has not been able to get a chance to take a look. Place on August agenda.

Recycle Day: Recycle Day will be held Saturday, August 6 from 9 to 12

Annual Night Out: The Sunrise Historical Building will be hosted by Alice Wilcox on the Annual Night Out.

Maintenance Update: CR 70 needs to be looked at by the Township Board.

Resignation of Supervisor Joel Peterson: Joel Peterson resigned from the Sunrise Township Board at 8:50 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2015. Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Gerald Bjork to accept the resignation of Joel Peterson. Motion carried.

Appointment of Interim Supervisor until the March 2017 election: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, for Brian Geisbauer for interim supervisor. Lacking a second, motion dies. Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Gerald Bjork to nominate Stephen Merten as Interim Supervisor for Joel Peterson. Discussion took place of the concern whether Mr. Merten will be able to attend meetings and give adequate attention to additional meetings as needed. Motion carried, with Jeske Noordergraaf against the nominations for Stephen Merten.

Land: There is a landlocked piece of property just off of CR 9 (Sunrise Road) which is approximately 25 / 26 acres. It is where the north branch of the Sunrise River and the Sunrise River come together. Sunrise Township is looking at obtaining \$3,000 per acre.

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Motion carried.

Clerk Wendy Kowalke

Eric Leivian, Chair