

**Regular Meeting Sunrise Township  
Thursday, September 16, 2021  
Royal Wilcox Community Center**

Chair Mark Osland called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Board Members Present:**

Mark Osland, Chair

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Vice Chair

Jeske Noordergraaf

Dan Kaiser

Eric Leivian

Treasurer: Karen Anderson

Clerk: Wendy S. Kowalke

Engineer: Cristina Mlejnek, P.E.

Maintenance: Lynn Wolleat

**Others Present:**

Mark Johnson and Brad Rapp from Wild River Snowmobile Club

Keith Johnson

Rob Bercart

Steve Hass

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept the September 2021 agenda with the addition of Maintenance Lynn Wolleat review. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Dan Kaiser to approve the July 2021 minutes. Motion Carried

**Clerk Update:** Ordered eleven 911 blue signs for new builds. All previous blue signs have been paid for.

**Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Karen Anderson went over the Treasurer report. Motion by Dan Kaiser, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to approve claims list 6398 through 6419 with additional claim:

Jerry Hinz (24 pair of gopher feet at \$3.00 per pair)..... \$72.00

Motion Carried.

Additional items discussed: Subordinate Service district, deposits from t-shirt sales. Sunrise Township has received last reimbursement from Chisago County for 460<sup>th</sup> per Treasurer Anderson.

**Wild River Snowmobile club:** Brad Rapp said there is approximately 125 miles of trails they are responsible for through grant and aide through the DNR. Wild River has been around 54 years. Groomer Operator, Mark Johnson, trail boss for approximately 13 miles of trail will be responsible for Ferry Road. Groomers are 8 feet. Sunrise Board is wondering if there can be a new trail created for Ferry Road. Would like to go from CR 9 along the Sunrise property off Ferry Road where Sunrise Township Salt Shed is. There is no room on the shoulder of Ferry Road and Wild River Park is very adamant about not clearing any more for the trail. Brad Rapp says state statute says that you can come up onto the road to avoid obstacles. By law you can ride on pavement or gravel. Brad Rapp also said that Sunrise is kind of a hub for snowmobiling. Mark Johnson said to talk with Anne Neu, Mark

Koran and Congressman Stauber to help get funding for additional money to help provide for a trail alongside Ferry Road. Snowmobiles run on gas and pay gas tax. Sunrise Board is very concerned about the destruction that snowmobiles can cause by running on the newly blacktopped Ferry Road.

Wild River Snowmobile Club's trail grooming responsibility ends at the edge of the St. Croix River and Wisconsin's responsible starts on the other side of the River.

To clear 3 more feet on one side would cost somewhere around \$10,000.00 if the engineer hired this out. Suggesting wider shoulder on the west side. Wild River Snowmobile Club said they do not have money to help with clearing for the trail. They said that they can provide some help with man-power if needed. There are over 4,000 registered snowmobiles in Chisago County. Plan is to meet at Ferry Road once paving is completed and measure ditch. Place on October agenda.

**Pump:** Motion by Dan Kaiser, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept offer of \$10,000 from Steve Hass. Motion carried.

**Gordian Solar: IUP and CUP 1 MW AC Ground Mounted Community Solar Garden:** Keith Johnson, property owner was present to discuss the solar application. Keith Johnson said that if this application doesn't pass, he will be putting in houses. This is the same application that came to Sunrise Township in January, 2021. There were no changes made to the application even after meeting with Sunrise Township at that time.

Chisago County clearly states that decommissioning costs state 125%. \$87,000 should be the base line for the escrow. \$25,000 is not going to cover costs to put land back in 25 years. The variance is being asked from CR 9. Legal description is for 3.6 acres which needs to be updated.

Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Eric Leivian, to accept Sunrise Township's Planning Commission recommendation to deny the **Variance and IUP** because the setbacks requested are so far removed from the language of the Amended Chisago County Zoning Ordinance Section 7.31, Subsection F, Paragraph 10, (which requires 735 feet from centerline of state and county roads) that we don't feel Sunrise Township can act on it; and also because the \$25,000 decommission security falls far too short of 125% of the stated \$87,767.00 cost of decommissioning. Discussion from Tyler Richter at the Planning Commission meeting for the rationale of the motion for current law, current regulations to rule on the merits of the current application. One abstain, Mark Osland. Motion carried

Xcel Energy sat on this permit and the original permit lapsed. Xcel never approved the substation hook-up.

**MATIT Insurance Certificate:** Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Dan Kaiser to have certificate signed and pay insurance premium when received. Motion carried. Sunrise Township has not received reimbursement from Country Mutual Insurance for cancelled policy.

**Museum Shutters:** Shutters cannot be opened. Lynn Wolleat is going to look at the shutters to see if he can get them open.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Person for Snow Plowing:** Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Dan Kaiser to hire Steve Anderson. Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to start Steve Anderson at \$22.00 per hour.

**Electric to Ferry Road Salt Shed:** Electric is in and the service panel is on the outside of the building so the salt does not destroy the panel. Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Dan Kaiser to finish all electrical work using American Rescue Plan funds. Motion carried.

**NRI Aluminum can bin:** Motion by Dan Kaiser, second by Eric Leivian to accept the bin and have it placed in the Olson Ball Field parking lot. A sign will be placed on recycle bin that all proceeds from the recycling bin will be placed in the park fund. Motion carried.

**Citizens Forum:** None

**American Rescue Plan:** Treasurer Anderson said that reports have to be turned in in detail. Jeske Noordergraaf and Mark Osland will be on a committee for the American Rescue Plan to determine how to spend the funds and come up with a building plan..

**Job Descriptions Treasurer and Employee Policy:** Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Mark Osland to send the finished treasurer job description and employee manual to attorney for final approval. Motion carried.

**River Road / Mill Street:** Engineer Cristina Mlejnek said a trail/sidewalk along the roadway is included as an alternate/option. (It likely did help in getting funding). Preliminary survey to wrap up next week and Cristina will meet with property owners as project design begins.

**Ferry Road:** Engineer Cristina Mlejnek suggested adding double solid yellow line stripping for safety reasons. It would be approximately \$8,000 for double line. Speed limit is going to be recommended at 45 MPH on the south end, the curve will be signed for 25MPH and the park will be posted at 20 MPH.

**Follow-up Items:**

**Kost Dam Road Dead Oak in ROW:** A letter was sent to land owners, Tom and Michelle Nerud, to sign off that they are in agreeance to remove limbs from the tree which they had spoke to Lynn Wolleat and Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson about. Motion by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, second by Eric Leivian to have a contractor remove the tree / limbs no to exceed \$2,000. Motion carried. Clerk Kowalke to send letter with the plan to remove the limbs and not the entire tree.

**Town Hall Basement and Insulating:** Lynn Wolleat stated it is in progress.

**CenturyLink Invoice for Damage to Mower:** Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson finally has a claim number from CenturyLink. Treasurer Karen Anderson and Chair Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson will provide an invoice of 18 hours (2 people at 9 hours a piece) at \$100 per hour.

**Internet to Building:** Finished

**Security Camera:** Installed and signed contract received from CWS.

**Board Member Meetings:**

Dan Kaiser: Regular Meeting, CCATO Meeting.

Eric: Employee handbook meeting, Regular Board Mtg., Township Planning Commission Meeting, CCATO, Bd of Equalization

Jeske: Regular Board Meeting, CCATO, snowmobile club

Mark: Regular Board Meeting,

Pete: Regular Board Meeting, Sunrise Township Planning Commission Meeting, Employee Handbook Meeting, CCATO

**Maintenance Update:** Lynn is getting a bid to install a handicap side walk from the parking lot to the Pavillion ~~river~~ at the Sunrise Park. Motion by Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson, second by Eric Leivian to remove the concrete bathroom at the Sunrise Park as it gets vandalized every time it is unlocked. Sunrise is renting a port-a-potty instead. Motion carried. Lynn Wolleat worked with New Look to salvage approximately ~~10,000~~ 1,500 yards of gravel that they are digging up from Ferry Road to be placed on other township roads in the future.

Lynn’s review: Motion by Dan Kaiser, second by Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson to approve Lynn Wolleat’s raise at 3.13% to be set at **\$32.92 per hour with 5 weeks vacation (up to 4 weeks paid unused vacation)**. There also is a **\$200.00 reimbursement per year for safety boots with receipt to show they are safety approved**. Health insurance: **Sunrise pays up to \$900.00/month. Motion carried.**

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

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Clerk Wendy S. Kowalke

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Mark Osland, Chair