Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, November 21, 2024
Royal Wilcox Community Center

Chairperson Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair
Mark Osland, Vice Chair
Jeske Noordergraaf
Greg Strom
Adam Grobove III (absent)

Clerk: Wendy S. Kowalke
Treasurer: Karen Anderson
Engineer: Cristina Mlejnek, P.E (absent)
Maintenance: Troy Montague

Others Present:

Peggy Pearson
Scott Berg
Eric Leivian
Lynn Wolleat
Tony Koran
Riley Daugherty
Meshell Gorsegner, SnoBarons
Mark Strand

Approve Agenda: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Greg Strom to approve the November 2024 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Mark Osland to accept the October 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Clerk Update: The process for Township elections is starting. Township filing period starts January 2, 2025 and goes through January 11, 2025. There is 1 Board Member position open. The location for the March 2025 Sunrise Township Elections will be at the Sunrise Town Hall located at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032

Treasurer Report: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7530 through 7556 with additional claims:

John Swenson (34 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair).....$136.00
Karl Swenson (110 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair).....$440.00
Zachary Ford (10 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair).....$40.00
Hardis Boyce (52 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair).....208.00

Motion carried

Sunrise Township Park Fund CD is up for renewal on November 22. Treasurer Anderson will check on the interest rates for CD's. The Sunrise Town Board was in agreeance to renew the CD as long as there is a good interest rate. The Town Board does not want the CD to be placed for a year incase funds are needed.

Treasurer Anderson informed the Town Board that the checking account is not balanced due to an Xcel withdrawal. Treasurer Anderson knows where the issue is and will get it balanced and sent to the Town Board.

Treasurer Anderson reported the ARPA fund balance is at a zero.
Total money spent on the town hall to date is $360,285.89.

Almelund Threshing - School House/ Royal Wilcox Community Center Mark Strand of the Almelund Threshers said they have created a letter for larger fund raising and sponsorships to start distributing. There is about $5,000 in the Almelund Threshing account at the current time. SnoBaron has given Almelund Threshers some funding. Meshell Gorsegner of the Snobaron said that the Snobarons will be giving another $5,000 to the Almelund Threshers. Mark Strand said that the Almelund Threshers are looking to apply for grants and have hired a grant writer to complete grants for a more successful outcome.

Tony Koran said there has been $5,000 raised thus far. Mr. Koran said they have about 30 people that are going to start working on fund raising with companies. The Almelund Threshers are preparing a mailing to be sent out. Clerk Kowalke will send the Sunrise Township property owner mailing list which is available through the Chisago County GIS system. Tony Koran said they are going to do a fund raiser banquet on April 12th at Maple Farms and a spring tractor pull on May 31, 2025. They are going to have raffles, silent auction. January, 2025 they will start selling tickets. Tractor pull is going to be a full day. Selling shirts, can koozies, cups and hats.

Jeske Noordergraaf talked to the Sunrise Township Attorney who provided a Bill of Sale document for the 15th day of January, 2025. Mark Osland said that KSTP wants to come out and film when the building starts moving down the road. The signing of the Bill of Sale will take place on Thursday, January 16, 2024 at the regular Sunrise Town Board meeting.

The Almelund Threshing Co. is willing to help with monthly bills for the current Town Hall / Royal Wilcox Center once they take over ownership.
Troy Montague said the power goes from the School House / Royal Wilcox Community Center to the shop and regardless we need to heat the building. There is only 1 electric meter. There are separate gas meters.

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Greg Strom Almelund Threshing will pay for the gas after January 16, 2024 and Sunrise Township will continue to pay the electric until services are separated. Motion carried. Tony Koran will get the gas bill transferred. Treasurer Anderson will get Tony Koran the information to have the gas bill transferred.

The Bill of Sale will be signed on January 16, 2025 at the regular Sunrise Township meeting.

Resolution Designating Annual Polling Place & Voter Notification through Voter Registration System: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Mark Osland to approve the Resolution 2024-11-21-01 Designating Sunrise Township Annual Polling Place and to have the citizens of Sunrise Township be notified through the Voter Registration System.

RESOLUTION
DESIGNATING SUNRISE TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL POLLING PLACE
Resolution #: 2024-11-21-01
Sunrise Township of Chisago County, Minnesota

WHEREAS, it is important that citizens exercise their right to vote at their local polling place;
WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute § 204B.16, requires the town board to designate its local polling place for elections by December 31st;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town Board of Sunrise Township, Chisago County, Minnesota does hereby designate Sunrise Township Hall at 12080 Sunrise Road, Harris, MN 55032 in Chisago County as its polling place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the township notify residents of this designation by following the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 205.16.

Passed this 21st day of November, 2024.

Motion carried.

Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program: Jeske Noordergraaf discussed the option to apply for the grant program. The first step needs to be applied for by December 2. The grant pays up to 70%. The questions was brought up about what the payback would be and how long will it be before this technology is obsolete. Applicants must apply for a readiness assessment and obtain an ID. Decision was made not to pursue this grant.

445th Street Possible Vacation: Mr. Thieman bought the property on the north side of the road and has been calling Charlotte Wilcox of the Sunrise Township Planning Commission. Mr. Thieman does have the right to petition to vacate the road. Mr. Thieman doesn't want anybody driving on it. Scott Berg has already had the property surveyed. Charlotte Wilcox read the 1989 blanket road order statement.

Mr. Thieman, a landowner on 445th Street (known in the past as Blueberry Road or Blueberry Trail) has been contacting Charlott Wilcox about how to petition to vacate the road. Charlotte emailed him a blank copy of the required petition and he called her this morning with some question about how to fill it out. He indicated that he is going to attempt to obtain the required signatures and present the petition to the board on either November 21 or December 19. Charlotte Wilcox told him that he needs to get the completed petition to Clerk Kowalke prior to the date of the meeting. In the event that he does bring the petition, Charlotte Wilcox prepared a sketch showing the location of 445th Street and the parcels it serves. The road starts at Government Road and dead-ends one-fourth mile east of there. The road was included in the 1989 blanket road resolution, see item 14 on page 8), so it is a properly registered township road. However, since it has not been maintained by the township for over twenty-five years, it is considered an abandoned road. This means that it remains a public right-of-way but the township cannot maintain it without a vote by the citizens at the annual meeting. The party seeking vacation is Todd Thieman, who owns the parcel on the north side of the road. If you go on the county GIS map, you will see that the road as traveled veers considerably to the north and most of it as traveled is on the Thieman parcel. The two parcels that border on the south of 445th Street would not be landlocked because both of them have frontage on Government Road. There are two parcels that would be landlocked if 445th Street is vacated. They are both currently owned by Scott Berg, who also owns a third parcel with frontage on Government Road. Thieman was attempting to claim that Berg's two larger back parcels are no longer landlocked because they are contiguous to Berg's parcel with road frontage. Charlotte Wilcox pointed out that, while Berg may have current access to the parcels, he could sell those back parcels and they would again be landlocked.

Driveway Permit: Jeske Noordergraaf asked who gets the reimbursement for the driveway permit. Clerk Kowalke said that whoever pays for the permit is the person who the township is obligated to pay back. Eric Leivian said that Chisago County Zoning is working on a new software program that before an applicant can move forward with building permits, they need to be compliant with townships.

SnoBarons – Meshell Gorsegner: Ms. Gorsegner said that the SnoBarons want to be more involved with Sunrise Township. Ms. Gorsegner suggested that they would like to host the 2025 national night out or in any capacity that they can help. Greg Strom brought up the snowmobile trail on Ferry Road and asking the SnoBaron to be able to re-establish the trail. Would like the money ear marked to establish the trail. Ms. Gorsegner said that the SnoBarons do not build trails.

Riley Daughtery

Property Owner: Adam and Sharalyn Stenberg
Applicant Name: Ronald Swanson:
After-the-Fact CUP
(North Wind Farm Shelters, LLC will construct and deliver build-to-order farm use structures):

Clerk Kowalke informed the Sunrise Town Board that the applicant Ronald Swanson withdrew his application. Clerk Kowalke read the email that was sent which states: During staff's review of the application, we noted a number of issues, including the need for a septic compliance inspection, the failure of the property owner and/or applicant to obtain a building permit prior to installing the 3,200 sf hoop structure, and that, being in the Rural Residential District, the maximum allowable amount of accessory storage space is currently 2,000 sf and, per the application materials, the property currently has 4,160 sf (which would have been caught by our department if a building permit application had been submitted for the hoop structure). We reviewed options with both the property owner and the applicant (including a possible Rezoning to AG District or a Variance to exceed the maximum allowable amount of accessory storage space) and advised that withdrawing the request for CUP was the best course of action until either a Rezoning or Variance was approved. I don't yet know if the property owner and applicant will be pursuing either a Rezoning or Variance

Eric Leivian said that temporary structures there is a square foot limit. Within the draft ordinance RRII are proposed to go away. No action taken It sounds like the applicant should apply for a variance in the zone that it is right now.

Citizens Forum: NONE.

Sunrise Township – New Town Hall off CR 9: Greg Strom reported the floor is finished. It was a three-week process for grinding and polishing. Trim and cabinets will be delivered Monday. Bathroom tiling will be 4 feet up the wall. Plumbing fixtures will be set in about 2 weeks. Heating and air will be complete in 2 weeks.

Greg Strom received a quote from Golden Valley Supply for bathroom accessories and partitions:

Golden Valley Supply quote: $6,629.30

Motion by Greg Strom second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to accept and pay Golden Vally Supply for bathroom accessories and partitions. Motion carried.

Motion by Greg Strom, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to pay Lutz for the final payment.

Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson is continuing to work on the telephone and internet.

Park Committee Update: No action taken

Flag and Pole: No action taken. The base is poured, but not set yet.

Township Road Agreements: place on December agreement.

Sunrise Township has a current written agreement with Amador Township. Amador has not been following the agreement. Troy Montague will put together a new agreement.
Sunrise Township is trying to look out for its citizens. Sunrise Township will not brush their section of River Road
Sunrise Township will bill Amador for plowing, maintenance and salt for Oriole. Maintenance hourly fee will be $200 per hour.

- Sunrise Township has verbal agreements on the following roads:
- City of North Branch (Sunrise takes care of Keystone)
- City of Harris (Sunrise takes care of Holman)
- Holman Ave – Sunrise shares with the City of Harris. Sunrise maintains north of 450th and the City of Harris maintains south of 450th.
- Iris Ave off of 420th Street - This road is not maintained by Sunrise Township. Iris Avenue is half Sunrise's and half City Of Harris.
- 420th Street - Sunrise Township maintains one mile west of CR 67 and the City of North Branch maintains a mile west our mile.
- Oriole Ave north of Highway 95 - Amador maintains this short section and it is in the agreement for River Road and 400th.
- Oriole Ave south of CR 11 to 360th Street - this is completely maintained by Sunrise Township but half of it is Amador Townships.
- 360th Street from Cr 9 to Oriel Ave - Sunrise Township maintains this section of road and the south half of the road is Chisago Lake Township.
- Loftman Trl - Sunrise Township does not maintain this road. Chisago Lake Township maintains the road.

SSD – Century Link: Eric Leivian and Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson are working on the SSD Service Charge information to be submitted to the Chisago County Auditor.

SSD – Windstream: Maps were received.

Audit 2024: Jeske Noordergraaf signed the agreement. Jeske Noordergraaf said the audit is on schedule for January, 2025. Treasurer Karen Anderson is aware and available on the day they have scheduled to come. Jeske Noordergraaf shared Karen Anderson's email with the auditor.

Maintenance Update: Snow fence is up on Ferry Road. There should be a snow fence by the park on both sides.

Other items: Greg Strom met with five representatives from Oxford Township. They have so much mold and can't use their town hall. Greg Strom gave them the list of subcontracts that Sunrise used for our new town hall build.

Board Member Meetings:
Adam: Absent
Greg: regular meeting, PC
Jeske: regular meeting, Threshers,
Pete: CCATO, regular meeting.
Mark: regular meeting

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second Greg Strom to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Wendy S Kowalke
Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Carl Peter Johnson
~~Mark Osland, Vice Chair~~
Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson, Chair