Regular Meeting Sunrise Township
Thursday, December 19, 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
Maintenance: Troy Montague

Others Present:

Peggy Pearson
Kevin Gustafson, SnoBarons
Tony Koran, Almelund Threshing
Phil Meers
Lynn Wolleat
Dave Kadlec
Mark Strand, Almelund Threshing

Approve Agenda: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Jeske Noordergraaf to approve the December 2024 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Greg Strom to accept the November 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Clerk Update: The filing period for the March 2025 Township Elections is December 31, 2024 through January 14, 2025 which is a correction from what the MN Association of Township calendar had. A correction was submitted to all forms of Township media. Chisago County Auditor will send out the polling place notice after January 1, 2025. The SAM System is in the process of being renewed. Sunrise Township is in active status.

Treasurer Report: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Mark Osland to approve Treasurer Anderson's report with claims list 7531, 7561 through 7565, 7569 through 7574, 7577through 7594 with additional claims:

Sue Quast (237 pair of gopher feet at $4.00 per pair) $948.00

The Town Hall Fund has a remaining balance of $104,180.00.06 as of December 18, 2024. Treasurer Anderson renewed the Sunrise Township CD at 4.18% with a renewal date of May 22, 2025 Sunrise Township received a donation of $1,000.00, check # 6721 from the North Brand Fire Relief Association.

Motion carried

Almelund Threshing Company Representatives Tony Koran and Mark Strand: The transferring ownership of the Royal Wilcox Community Center / School House from Sunrise Township to Almelund Threshing Company is set to happen at the January 16, 2025 Township Board Meeting. Representatives Tony and Mark reported that there is just a little of $26,000.00 raised for the building.

There is going to be a fund raising banquet on May 10, 2025 being hosted by Maple Ridge Farms. Maple Ridge Farms can house around 250 people. There are four $1,000 sponsors. Fund raising dinner will be $50 per ticket. May 31 there will be a spring tractor pull. Almelund Threshing Company will have shirts, memorabilia, etc. for sale.

Jeske Noordergraaf informed Almelund Threshing Representatives that the Dennis Frandsen Foundation is going to donate $5,000 for this project.

Almelund representative will meet with Sunrise Maintenance Troy Montague to figure out the electric meters on the building. Gas is separate.

COLA Increase – Employees: Mark Osland researched social security increases and other township COLA increases. Social Security is going up 2.5%.
Motion by Mark Osland, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to give part-time employees (Dave and Steve), and Treasurer Karen Anderson a 4% increase starting January 1, 2025. Motion carried.

Lead Maintenance Salary with Step Increase: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Greg Strom to move Lead Maintenance Troy Montague to Step 7 starting January 1, 2025. Motion carried.

Clerk Salary Increase: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Mark Osland to give Clerk Kowalke a 4% COLA increase starting January 1, 2025. Motion carried

Final Pay Request for Vibo Trial Bridge/Culvert Replacement: Engineer Cristina Mlejnek brought the 2nd and final pay request to be approved. Cristina Mlejnek reported that the culvert went a little bit over budget from $245,500 to $250,800. Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Greg Strom to approve the 2nd and final pay request for Vibo Trail Bridge/Culvert Replacement. Motion carried.

River Road / Mill Street: Chisago County has submitted final reimbursement request to State Aid for payment then Sunrise Township will be reimbursed.

North Branch Fire Donation Resolution to accept $1,000.00 Donation: Motion by Mark Osland, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson. Motion carried. Jeske would like to pass this money on to the threshers. Mark Osland said that donations are requested at the annual meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12-19-1
SUNRISE TOWNSHIP, CHISAGO COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATION

WHEREAS, Sunrise Township is authorized to accept and maintain donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statues section 465.03 for the benefits of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The following entity has offered to contribute the donation set forth below to the Township:

North Branch Fire Relief Association (license Number 92238), PO Box 425, North Branch, MN 55056 for $1,000.00.

Contributions will not be used for a pension or retirement fund.

WHEREAS, All such donations have been contributed to the Township for the benefit of its citizens, as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, The Township Board finds it is appropriate to accept the donation(s) offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF SUNRISE TOWNSHIP, CHISAGO COUNTY, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The donation described above is accepted and shall be used in accordance with noted terms or conditions either alone or in cooperation with others, as allowed by law.
2. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to acknowledge to the donor the Towns acceptance of the donor's donation.

Adopted by the Town Board of Sunrise Township on December 19, 2024.

Snobarons – Kevin Gustafson: Mr. Gustafson said that Ms. Gorsegner asked him to speak at the Sunrise Town Board Meeting. Mr. Gustafson inquired about trail work to be completed. Board Member Greg Strom said there is no snowmobile trail on Ferry Road, the trail in the ditch in the right of way and corsses the road several times to avoid private property. The snowmobiles end up on Ferry Road. It was discussed that Sunrise would like the trail to be established. There is not enough right of way. The groomer can't access. The snowmobile trail on Ferry Road is one of three crossings from MN to WI. Kevin Gustafson said that the Snobarons could donate money. Sunrise does not have a snowmobile plan. Would have to work the land owners and / or Wild River State Park. Snobarons do not do any trail work. Kevin Gustafson will take a look and will talk with Wild River Club to come up with a plan and look at the road with Troy Montague.

Citizen's Forum: No comments.

Sunrise Township – New Town Hall off CR 9: Greg Strom reported the electric is complete. Trimming is finished. Cabinets and counter tops set. Bathrooms and accessories will be installed after Christmas. 3 weeks for final of inspection and certificate of occupancy. Plan on first meeting in February, 2025.
Greg Strom talked with Gateway Signs for signage on the building.
Jeske Noordergraaf suggest established date should be on the sign.
Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson is having trouble with trying to get a land-line phone at the new town hall and more importantly internet connection.

Township Road Agreements: Troy Montague reported that Pete Johnson of Amador is presenting the road agreement at their December 19, 2024 town board meeting. Amador discussed that they are fine paying half of Oriole and want Sunrise to maintain it. Jeske Noordergraaf suggested billing should be completed monthly.

Windstream High Speed Internet: Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson reported according to the maps Windstream is installing high speed internet at the southeast part of Sunrise Township, the area that Frontier covers. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson has all the maps that Windstream sent to the Township..

Maintenance Update: Troy Montague reported there is a new motor on salt machine. Talked with Adam of the snowmobile club who was out marking trails. Hay Creek has some beaver problems. Don't have jurisdiction off road the right of way to deal the beaver issues. Took beaver dam apart and by the next morning it was repaired. Picked up 11 filing cabinets at the State.
Rock at the front of the new Town Hall located off CR 9 will be removed in the spring.

Board Member Meetings:
Adam: Absent
Greg: regular meeting
Jeske: regular meeting, 2 thresher mtgs
Pete: regular meeting
Mark: regular meeting

Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second Greg Strom to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Signed: Wendy S. Kowalke, Clerk

Mark Osland, Vice Chair