

Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Minutes of October 5, 2017 | 7:00 PM | New Prague Fire & Ambulance Conference Center

- Call to Order** The Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wermerskirchen at 7:00 PM; Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- Officers Present** Chairman John Wermerskirchen, Supervisors Ed Nytes and Duane Deutsch, Treasurer Pat Lambrecht, Road Overseer Darryl Perkins, Deputy Treasurer Nathan Hutton and Clerk DeAnn Croatt
- Other Present** Lori and Bob Seifert, Chris Seifert, Rob Hennen, Lanny and Terry Holzer, Joe and Ann Seifert, Donna Will, Carol Johnson, Shirley and Bill Rutz, Mark Seifert, Mike Seifert, Jr., Mike Seifert Sr., David and Tammy Wolf, Erica Forsman, David Watts, Tom Johnson, and Jeff Klehr
- Minutes** The Minutes were approved as corrected by Treasurer Lambrecht on a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes; carried unanimously.
- Halvorson** The previous owners of property at 22580 Baseline constructed a driveway and shed without a permit. There is a drainage and utility easement, and presently the two culverts are 12" and 15". Because there is a wetland in the easement, the size of the second culvert is concerning. Referred new property owner to work with Troy Kuphal at SWCD. Clerk will communicate with SWCD.
- USS Hockey Pad Solar** David Watt and Erica Forsman were present to communicate with the officers and residents regarding the proposed community solar project.

Watt commented:

1. They are a small business specializing in community solar
2. Most of the Wolf property will remain in ag production; only 7.8 acres are involved
3. Steel construction with no footings; glare study showed no issues; farm field style fence; access is from State Highway 21; screening was expanded to fully screen the eastern boundary and part of northern boundary; USS proposed to screen southern line when any building permit for a home is within 1,000 feet
4. \$25k in escrow; interconnection with Xcel Energy

Resident comments continued:

5. **Chris Siefert's** written comments were shared related to screening and his issues were addressed by extending the original line; new plans are calling for 6' Arborvitae – both mature in about two to three years
6. **Mark Siefert:** owns property adjacent; not in favor of project but the project can co-exist with the area by doing better than the minimum standards; asked that the project be done right if it goes forward; this area could be the entrance into Jordan; screening plan is better but insists the screening go down the southern fence also; would like a maximum height of 11'
7. **David Watt:** homestead built within 1k' will add screening; doesn't foresee needing more height; county standards are minimum and don't feel additional conditions are needed
8. **Shirley Rutz:** agrees with Mark Siefert; need to do more to keep the countryside looking good; need both native pollinators and grasses; county must approve seed mix; wants something planted around the trees so it's not weedy; noxious weeds are addressed in the ordinance; how is runoff addressed to protect the stream - "potential for erosion is moderate"; Westlund Assessment reviewed and USS is ensuring all concerns are met prior to permitting; has a storm water plan; Shirley asked how close to the road the fence would be – estimation is CL and fence will be approximately 160';

Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

9. **Mark Seifert:** road grade is higher than the site; traveling public will be higher than the site
10. **Carol Johnson:** can people subscribe to benefit from solar energy and why can't the closest neighbors benefit from solar; landowner leasing is faster from solar field than the three nearest neighbors; setback requirements are being met; Xcel determines subscribers
11. **Bill Rutz;** what happens to property values? Is it too new to have answers? Solar is not new but new locally. Kirkland did study and determined there was no impact positive or negative.
12. **Mark Seifert:** appraisals are not always correct for all properties and scenarios
13. **Shirley Rutz:** how many in Helena? This is the second; Trewartha is the first but has yet to be constructed
14. **Carol Johnson:** thanks for communication about project; open to further communication
15. **Mark Seifert:** notification mailing list incomplete (was provided by the county)
16. **Donna Will:** any others nearby? Not really.
17. **Bill Rutz:** hope USS looks to this to be a flagship project; like to see this as the perfect model
18. **Wermerskirchen** asked for a visual presentation; Watts showed with and without screening artist rendition; Watts showed supervisors what the audience saw
19. **Watts** is willing to do cardinal dogwoods on south side 8' on center (deciduous and grow 8-10')
20. **Mike Siefert Jr:** screening should adequately fully conceal

On a motion by Nytes/Wermerskirchen the Township recommended approval for USS Hockey Pad Solar LLC to receive a CUP for a solar project 1 MW in size on 7.8 acres in Section 5 of Helena Township with the following conditions:

1. Meetings all county conditions
2. Screening extended along full south line with Cardinal Dogwood and/or Techny Arborvitae
3. Seeding is a mix of grasses and forbs
4. Consider the maximum height lowered from 15 feet to 11 feet

Motion carried 2:0:1 with Deutsch abstaining.

CLID

Sam Dresow with the Cedar Lake Improvement District was present to ask for township interest to create a No Wake area within 150' from the high-water mark.

The consensus of the board was to support the ordinance idea. CLID will draft the ordinance and summary for Atty. Ruppe's review and opinion.

Checks received by Clerk

Brian Weir \$500 for Jordan Fire Call

Road Maintenance Report

Perkins reported receiving a quote for \$950 to remove a cedar tree by 240th and Xanadu. The property owner is ok with the township removing the trees and brush as discussed with Perkins. The top branches will be removed.

On a motion by Deutsch/Wermerskirchen Dan Skluzacek tree removal was hired for the project; carried unanimously.

Alton Avenue trees were trimmed. Klehr will check culvert on Baseline, and brush will be cut or sprayed by Sand Creek on 245th Street West.

Perkins talked to Preusser re: fence for ROW clearance.

WCLD road surface repair was completed by Johnson.

Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Old Business

Alton Avenue / Soderlund Beaver Dam Issue The dam was removed by Klehr; damage to road and repairs are being made; 1" class 5 was applied, and ¾" will follow. The north part will be shouldered and reshaped; south side by Witt is washed out and will be repaired and filled; trapping will be ordered for this week by Clerk [will start October 16th]. Clerk will communicate with trapper and Soderlunds. Klehr will continue to remove dams as they are built.

The county asked if the township wished a utility and waterway easement on both parcels. Clerk will consult with Atty. Ruppe.

A copy of the Temporary Easement Agreement, signed by Pat and Ann Soderlund is on file with the Clerk.

**SMBE SSD
Decommissioning
Schedule of
Charges**

Maas reported to Clerk that Randy Trnka has completed two more and intends to complete project within the next two weeks.

Clerk reviewed neighboring township's schedule of charges.

On a motion by Deutsch/Nytes the driveway permit fee was increased to \$500, with \$200 subject to refund when project successfully completed and inspected by Road Overseer; carried unanimously.

On a motion by Deutsch/Wermerskirchen a new cul-de-sac fee will be assessed in the amount of \$3,000; carried unanimously.

RSP2 Park

Wermerskirchen will communicate with VonBank regarding park equipment.

Trewartha Solar

Scott County notified Geronimo Energy the solar project may proceed.

Willow Lane

Clerk reviewed unpaid balances on the road assessment. There is \$78k yet to be paid through the assessment. 8 residents paid in full; 13 are paying annually with taxes.

Naylor

The vehicle involved in reckless driving was identified as a gray Dodge pickup.

New Business

GMG

Three utility permits were given for:

1. Silver Maple Bay Estates
2. 230th Street West
3. Drexel Avenue

Road Mileage

The roads were reviewed; Clerk will certify 31.443 miles of road maintained in 2017.

Audit Meeting

The Annual Audit Meeting is set for 7 PM January 11, 2018 at the office of the Clerk.

Receipts

\$	5,805.49	McCrary	Willow Lane Assessment
\$	5,000.00	USS Hockey Pad Solar	Escrow
\$	300.00	Paul Hanzel Homes	Driveway Permit
\$	0.92	State Bank	Interest
\$	59.36	State Bank	Optima Interest

Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Payments	8684	\$	1,999.21	Art Johnson Trucking, Inc.	WCLD Bituminous Repair
	8685	\$	432.15	Earl F Anderson	Road Closed Sign
	8686	\$	68,031.42	NP Rural Fire Protection	2017 Fire Contract
	8687	\$	462.50	Couri & Ruppe, PLLP	Soderlund Beaver Dam Issue
	8688	\$	600.00	Steve Rynda Construction	RSP2 Park
	8689			Voided; reissued as 8692	
	8690	\$	1,460.00	TJ Deutsch	Ditch mowing
	8691	\$	7,370.00	Klehr Grading	Grading/Hunters/Soderlund Beaver
	8692	\$	354.00	Hakanson Anderson	Soderlund Beaver Dam Issue

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lambrecht reviewed two changes made to payments to the US Treasury and MN Department of Revenue.

Lambrecht also noted the following documents destroyed per the Document Destruction Resolution adopted:

1. Cancelled checks from 1988 through 2010
2. Bank statements from 1987-2010
3. Check stubs from 1975-2007
4. Deposit slips from 1988-2010
5. Check bottom stubs from 1988-2010
6. Treasurer's Reports from 1988-2010

Building Permits

1. Wolf on Camber for garage
2. Smith on 250th for septic replacement
3. Unnamed in SMBE for new home
4. Prelesnik on Harlow for plumbing
5. Timp-Seval on 225th for new roof
6. Trewartha on Helena for miscellaneous
7. Johnson Reiland in Hunter's Ridge for a new home

Motion to Continue

The meeting was continued to Wednesday October 18th at 7:00 PM for a Workshop to discuss the schedule of charges, fees, solar, tree trimming, brush removal and road conditions.

Adjournment

The October 18th Workshop was cancelled by Chair Wermerskirchen due to farming operations and insufficient items for the agenda. Therefore, the October meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wermerskirchen, Chairman

DeAnn Croatt, Clerk

Regular Monthly Meetings: 7:00 PM first Thursday each month at 505 5th Avenue NW, New Prague