

Helena Township Board of Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting

Minutes of October 1, 2020 | Helena Teleconference Meeting

Until further notice Helena Township Meetings will be held via ZOOM. On March 13, 2020 Governor Walz declared a public health emergency related to the COVID-19 infectious disease. As of March 20, 2020, MN Department of Health guidelines allow teleconferencing. On March 23, 2020 Resolution 032320 "Establishing the Ability to Conduct Open Meetings by Telephone" was unanimously adopted. This is in alignment with COVID-19 CDC guidelines, Executive Order 20-01 "Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota's Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19", and in an effort to protect the safety of township officers, employees and citizens. Helena Township Meeting Agendas are found on the "Agenda/Minutes" tab at www.helena-township.com. To participate please refer to the login information provided at the top of the agenda.

- Call to Order** Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wermerskirchen at 7:00 PM and directed the Clerk to introduce the topics and take a Roll Call Vote for each motion.
- Roll Call** Chairman John Wermerskirchen, Supervisor Duane Deutsch, Supervisor Ed Nytes, Treasurer Nathan Hutton, Deputy Clerk Jody Deutsch and Clerk DeAnn Croatt.
- Others** Jeff Klehr, Justin Lano, Commissioner Barb Weckman Brekke and Pat Soderlund
- Minutes** On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Deutsch the September Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes and Workshop Minutes were approved as presented; carried as follows: Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.
- Clerk Authorization** On a motion by Deutsch/Wermerskirchen the Clerk is authorized to sign all documents related to teleconference meetings so they may be executed; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes, Nytes – yes, Deutsch – yes.
- Justin Lano** Justin Lano asked that his landscape plan be allowed as he understood it met township requirements. The township driveway permit was discussed, as was a neighbor who was grandfathered in. Lano reminded the board that his road is a dead-end and traffic is not traveling fast. Lano thought the restrictions were petty as it would not be a safety issue.
- On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Nytes a decision was tabled to the November 12th's Regular Monthly Meeting to allow time to research and discuss with Road Overseer Perkins.
- Soderlund Beaver Dams** Pat Soderlund indicated his idea was reviewed by Bolton Menk, who indicated Soderlund's plan to bypass the permitting process was not possible under current laws and gave an estimate of \$100k+. Soderlund does not want to trap beavers again as that is only a temporary fix. Soderlund offered to pay for a Clemson Beaver Pond Leveler if the township would do the installation. Township officers indicated that concept would need to be approved by the township engineer and attorney. Soderlund said he thought the equipment cost would be about \$200 and the township officers, who are farmers, would be able to install it. Deutsch reminded Soderlund that the officers have no experience installing such equipment and that professionals would need to be hired after approval by the township engineer.
- Clerk will confer with both the township engineer and SWCD staff for an opinion on the Clemson Leveler. Shane Nelson was on site in 2017 and may be in a good position to provide information on the feasibility.
- Deutsch reminded the group that the PVC pipe in the wetland south of Pexa Drive is working well and may be an option for Soderlund.
- Clerk reminded attendees that the township incurred costs of \$9,9552.99 in 2017-2018 for Soderlund's beaver issues, which are out of the township's area of jurisdiction because they are greater than 300 feet from the township road.
- Officers will meet in closed session with Attorney Bob Ruppe.
- Road Maintenance (Klehr)** Jeff Klehr was on the call during the Soderlund beaver discussion and Klehr removed the dam(s) in 2017. Klehr said the beavers need to be trapped and removed prior to removing the dam, but would likely recur annually. Klehr asked the board to research the effectiveness of the leveler in ponds vs in creeks.

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Klehr said 270th Street West was pretty rough and he had to blade by Niedermeyer's. Clerk will share this with property owners. Some redrock may be needed on 245th Street West in spring but it's holding up well. Also need redrock on 225th and Baseline Blvd. by CR 8.

Road Overseer

With Helena's Road Overseer on Medical Leave, officers will cover as needed. If a project is deemed necessary, vendors may be involved. Sharron Perkins said there are no unanswered voicemails; callers will be referred to Clerk..

Old Business

WCLD

The Feasibility Report was discussed and an Informational Meeting was set for Monday October 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM. Details and login information will be mailed/emailed to all property owners along WCLD. Logistics will be worked out at the October Work Shop. Clerk confirmed Scott County will fill potholes yet this month.

FaithPoint

Andrew Vistad will be doing a compaction test and inspecting 270th Street West Friday October 9, 2020 with the contractor John Oliver. Vistad's inspector, Sam, will be onsite during bituminous application on Monday, October 12, 2020. The escrow account of \$2,600 seems to be sufficient at this time.

Xcel Energy

Ruppe informed the Clerk that one more township is joining in on the uniform agreement.

COVID

There are no anticipated COVID-related expenses; the county will be notified the Scott County Election Funds (\$940.96) will be returned in full, along with the balance of the federal CARES Act funds (\$22,819.14). Checks and Resolutions will be prepared for approval at the November 12, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting.

Jordan Fire

Clerk will send a second notice to Andrew Koenig for the July 2, 2020 Jordan Fire and Rescue call.

New Business

Jordan Contract

The 2020 rural fire protection contract was reviewed and approved on a motion by Deutsch/Wermerskirchen subject to Clerk confirming truck costs were not included as the township paid up front; carried unanimously Deutsch – yes; Wermerskirchen – yes; Nytes – yes.

MAT Updates

Clerk attended the L & R Committee Meetings via ZOOM and shared her take-aways with the officers. The resolutions will be acted on at the virtual annual meeting in November.

Voting

Clerk provided information for officers in the event they are asked how to vote for the General Election.

The township will be involved in a Special Election in February due to the death of a major party candidate for the District 2 Senate race.

Building Permits

1. Addition for Hamilton on St. Benedict Road
2. Deck for Rasmussen on St. Benedict Road
3. Deck for Shobert on Hunter Ridge Circle
4. Garage for Dallmann on WCLD
5. Roof for McAllister on 230th
6. Roof for Mach on 230th
7. Siding for Bauer on 250th
8. Septic for Mourning on Lavonne
9. Windows for Zard on Lavonne
10. Windows for Bauer on 250th

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Other Business

RSP2 Park Wermerskirchen commented the park looks great. The cattails at the northeast corner of Raven Street and Lavonne don't seem to be an indication of water undermining the road base. Will inspect during spring road viewing.

Property Splits The county provided information on plat reconfigurations for Steve and Jane Gerold in Section Nine, and a Bisek split which resulted in payback for deferred taxes on Green Acres.

Bills Paid On a motion by Nytes/Wermerskirchen checks # 6230 — 6234 for a total of \$39,332.88 were approved for payment; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes.

6230	\$	31,615.02	City of Jordan	Fire Contract 2020
6231	\$	262.50	Couri & Ruppe	Soderlund/WCLD
6232	\$	439.36	Clerk DeAnn Croatt	Stamps/Domain/ZOOM Reimb.
6233	\$	6,696.00	Klehr Grading	Grading maintenance
6234	\$	320.00	Steve Rynda Landscape	RSP2 Park Mowing

Receipts New Receipts:

9/30/2020	\$	940.96	Scott County	COVID-19 CARES Act
9/30/2020	\$	51.88	First Bank and Trust	Optima Plus Savings
9/30/2020	\$	202.10	Riverland Bank	Interest
9/15/2020	\$	250.00	Hagness	Jordan Fire
9/15/2020	\$	193.32	State of MN	ORI

Treasurer's Report and Collateral for Accounts Treasurer Hutton is adding his signature to the forms at First Bank & Trust as it relates to deposits being guaranteed when they are over \$250k; maybe one more signature, and will work with Clerk and/or Deputy Clerk.

The loan for the reconstruction of Raven Stream Plats Two and Three will be paid in full at the December 3, 2020 meeting.

On a motion by Wermerskirchen/Deutsch the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented and the Treasure is authorized to transfer \$38k from savings to checking; carried unanimously Wermerskirchen – yes; Nytes – yes; Deutsch – yes

Comm Barb Weckman Brekke Commissioner Brekke was available for any questions or comments. Brekke indicated the township may want to designate areas of particular importance to township residents, i.e., broadband and/or food shelves. Wermerskirchen asked the Clerk to send a note of appreciation to Will Elwell, Joe Wiita and Lisa Freeze for assistance with the Jersey Barriers for Alton Avenue, with a copy to Commissioner Brekke.

Continuation At 9:12 pm on a motion by Deutsch/Nytes the meeting was continued to Monday October 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM for a ZOOM Training; then to Tuesday October 6, 2020 for an Attorney/Client Closed Meeting at 3:30 PM; then to Thursday October 15, 2020 for a Work Shop at 5:00 PM; then to Monday October 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM for a WCLD Informational Meeting; carried unanimously as follows: Deutsch – yes; Nytes – yes; Wermerskirchen - yes.

John Wermerskirchen, Chairman

DeAnn Croatt, Clerk