

Stanton Township Board Meeting

Attending: Supervisor, Ken Burns; Chair, Karen Slininger; Treasurer, Mary Lundell; Clerk, Cheryle Peters; Applicants: Mike Gronlund, Andrea Tatge and Doug Felton; Warsaw Township Supervisor, Emery Maher, and Duwain Eglund attended; Road Manager, Danny Lundell, attended by remote services.

Chair, Karen Slininger, called the meeting to order at 7pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Karen called to reveal any conflicts of interest. None were heard.

Approval of Agenda: Ken Burns made a motion to approve the agenda. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Approval of Minutes From July 20th, 2021: Karen Slininger made a motion to approve the July Minutes. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 2/0. Bob Benson abstained due to his absence in July.

Public to Speak:

Zoning Requests:

1. Doug Felton requested an official re-purposing of an existing home on 33079 County 24 Boulevard, with permit documentation covering the conversion of an existing home structure, as office/storage space, for multiple farm businesses. The converted space would be used primarily by family members in association with the family farming businesses.

Ken Burns made a motion to give Stanton Township approval, to Mr. Doug Felton, to re-purpose a home on parcel # 410253900 by appropriately converting it to an office/storage building. Accessory to the newly constructed home on 33079 County Road 24 Boulevard, Cannon Falls, MN the conversion would be realized through the removal of all bathroom tub/shower fixtures, excluding one toilet and sink associated with the office spaces. No major kitchen appliances would remain; office amenities such as a micro wave and small fridge would be considered appropriate. Storage cabinets used for the containment of paper files, records, catalogs, electronic software, supplies, receipt books, copiers, printers, etc., could be re-positioned for office use, as well.

All bedroom and closet non load-bearing walls, including the doors, would be removed, with carpets, as well. Standard heating and cooling would be sustained to protect the plumbing and electronics. The interior sauna should be removed, as well as any interior amenities suggesting a residence. Exterior amenities would be considered primary to the newly constructed home.

The bond covering the original demolition proposal would be retained until the conversion is completed, as described, and inspected. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Some brief discussion ensued regarding the Goodhue County Zoning department request for Stanton Township zoning certification. Ken Burns made a separate motion to approve the Zoning Certificate processing fee at \$50, honoring Goodhue County Zoning department request for documentation. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Mr. Felton issued a check, to the township, for the offered amount of \$50 toward administrative costs. He thanked the township for its consideration.

2. Mike Gronlund, 7501 West 101st Street #311 Bloomington, MN 55438, requested a Zoning Certificate for a re-build on Parcel #411800350, 1.50 acre. The single structure, 42x32 would be sited in a Residential Zoning district, 15ft on sides and 30ft on the rear. Front setbacks would be honored at App. 227 ft.

Karen Slininger made a motion to approve the request to construct one improved storage building, 1344sq ft on the site, displacing the two sheds of lesser quality. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Clerk’s Report: Cheryle reported that she had recorded the Sandstrom CUP with Goodhue County; she reported that she is in the process of collecting signatures to update the pertinent minutes from 2021, for the Goodhue County CUP.

Cheryle reported that she had applied for the ARPA offering. Some brief discussion ensued regarding an amount. One half would be disbursed this year with the other half coming next year. The total amount was estimated at \$127,000.

She reported that there had been nothing in the mailbox regarding Minesota Unemployment Insurance. Mary stated that she had everything, on line, which she would need for payroll purposes. Bob Benson made a motion to accept the Clerk’s Report. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Beginning Balance \$197,637.97

Receipts	\$128,710.02
Disbursed	\$18,896.26
Ending Balance	\$307,451.73
Ending Balance July, 2020	\$279,109.45

Treasurer’s Report:

Mary recited the township’s “receipts and disbursements”, July1-31st, 2021, including a total. She then submitted the Cash Control Report and Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances (Schedule 1 YTD) and requested that the supervisors sign it. They did so. The Clerk’s reconciliation of the bank statement and Cash Control Report were submitted for Supervisors’ review and signature, as well.

A brief year to date review, of historic Fund balances, was made. The monthly Ending Balance for July, 2020 was noted as \$279,109.45.

Treasurer Lundell reviewed revenues as mostly receipts from the first half of the property taxes in the amount of \$128,083.26 and the township aid as \$587.00.

Bob Benson made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Building Report: Ken Burns reported that he had installed the flag light bulb onto the west side of the town hall building. He offered a photo; the appearance of the flag is improved, however, the bulb is a bit bright from certain approaches. A reflector was suggested as a viable alternative for the issue of compliance, related to road glare.

Ken reported that he had contacted the bulb producer to question the width of the beam ratio. At this date, he had received no response. It is possible that a different beam ratio would be a better application. Ken requested a second look into a reflector solution, with Danny's assistance.

Cheryle reported that the flag is also in need of some hardware replacement; a clip is broken and the flag is attached to the rope at only one end. Danny agreed to inspect the flag hardware and make the necessary purchase.

Karen Slininger made a motion to accept the Building Report. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Road Report: Danny reported that he traditionally, does some fall prepping with additional gravel. Bob Benson suggested waiting for some rain to help settle the dust. Danny also reported that there are some potholes on Goodhue Avenue near the Rice County line that need gravel.

Danny stated that he has been searching for a vendor to contract for chemical spraying of the Rights of Way. So far, he has not located anyone to do such work. He stated that he would continue to look for someone willing. Hopefully, the work could be planned for next summer. Ken Burns made a motion to accept the Road Report as stated. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

1. **Old Business:** Chair, Karen Slininger, shifted the order of the "Old Business" category and invited Mr. Maher, Chair Warsaw Township and Duwain Eglund, Warsaw Township, to the podium regarding a maintenance agreement for 340th Street Way. Discussion ensued regarding some historical township line road maintenance agreements and operations. Discussion ensued regarding the status of 340th Street Way; was it a township road? Mr. Maher contended that Warsaw Township had maintained 340th Street Way, alone, for many years.

Discussion ensued regarding negotiation of Warsaw Township's proposed charges for maintenance of 340th Street Way. Mr. Maher insisted that the proposed amount of \$2,200 per year was justified. The township had counter offered \$1, 500 per year, unacceptable to Warsaw Township. Ken Burns defended the amount of the counter offer. Chair Slininger requested public information regarding Warsaw Township's accounting for road and bridge expenses.

Mr. Maher questioned Stanton Township's unwillingness to provide shared maintenance services.

Danny Lundell inquired about the construction status of two turnaround areas, at boundary areas. Mr. Maher stated that both areas are in process; one is pending discussion with a land owner. Completion was expected to occur in the fall.

Further negotiations ensued regarding line road maintenance of 340th Street Way. Warsaw Township representatives indicated that they were agreeable to alternating all maintenance, year by year, comparable to the agreement that Stanton Township carries with Northfield Township.

Mr. Lundell declined, via Zoom, indicating that the demand for his time was already high during plow season. Ken Burns stated that the township maintains 32.57 miles of roadway.

Ken Burns noted that the township currently does not employ a second plow driver. Some discussion ensued regarding “stand by” pay for plow drivers.

Bob Benson made a motion to pay Warsaw Township \$2000, for one year, in exchange for line road maintenance services rendered on 340th Street Way. Ken Burns seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding a request for the logging of Warsaw Township hours, for the sake of maintenance records. The motion passed 3/0.

Bob Benson made a motion to extend the line road agreement to a five year period at \$2000 per year. Karen Slininger seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Chairman Maher thanked the Town Board.

2. Chair Slininger shifted the order of “Old Business” and called Hannah Regenscheid to the podium to make her request for maintenance on 323rd Street and perhaps a traffic sign on 59th Avenue Way or 323rd.

Discussion ensued regarding a review for maintenance of 323rd Street to the curve; maintenance was recommended. Bob Benson made a motion to direct maintenance for 323rd Street to the curve; Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Some discussion occurred regarding traffic control at the convergences of 60th Avenue Way, 59th Avenue Way and 323rd Street. No signage was recommended, per the township standard.

3. Levy Certification was discussed briefly in light of the Minnesota Department of Transportation decline to award, to Stanton Township, a Local Road Improvement Program grant award. Ken Burns asserted that the township was ranked third for Levy dollars relative to township population and recommended a restoration to the amount of the levy certified in 2020, \$240,000. He noted that the township has historically been able to accommodate its needs. Due to Bob Benson’s absence, the vote had been postponed out of courtesy.

Ken Burns made a motion to certify the 2022 Levy at the pledged amount of \$240,000, because the Oxford Mill Road project had not been awarded a grant. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

4. Bob Benson reviewed the Ellingson claim for the Town Board noting the expanded scope of the proposed work. Ken Burns asserted that the invoice for the work quoted at \$1500 actually came in at over \$5000. He stated his surprise; regardless of the value of the work, Chair Slininger noted that in the

future, new quotes should be secured and brought to the table for a vote, thus honoring the “not to exceed” clause in the motions.

New Business:

1. Planning Commission Chair, Hannah Regenscheid, stated that she is planning to move to a home along the boundary of Stanton Township and Cannon Falls Township. Discussion ensued regarding residency requirements for appointments made to the Stanton Township Planning Commission. No statutes were cited and no Stanton Township Ordinance prohibits the appointments outside of township residency. According to General Counsel, Karl Christian-Johannesen from the Minnesota Association of Townships, the decision would be up to the discretion of the Town Board supervisors.

Ken Burns complimented Hannah on her excellent service to the township, and also, expressed his concern that official township representatives should reside within the township. Hannah disclosed that she was not certain when the move would actually take place. She offered to serve on the Planning Commission until it is no longer appropriate.

2. Karen Slininger reported on the road counter results provided courtesy of Goodhue County Public Works. The counter was used for one week counting 2057 vehicles; Monday thru Friday 300 per day; Saturday and Sunday 200-250.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of chloride applications. Discussion ensued regarding the comparison of other township roads.

Ordinance Review: Solar Review continues to workshop; recent discussions took place on the subjects of aesthetics and general safety.

Upcoming Meetings: Township Tuesday Conference Calls are scheduled first and third Tuesdays at 10am for township officers. Join by phone: (571) 317-3117 or Toll Free 1-866-899-4679. Access code is 659-961-501. OR join us by computer, tablet, or smart phone: <https://www.gotomeet.me/LeslieRosedah/townshiptuesday> (Make sure to have the GoToMeeting App installed).

MAT Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, September 9-11th, 2021 will be conducted remotely.

Reports of Meetings Attended: MAT's District 4 Meeting

MAT District 4 (Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, Le Sueur, McLeod, Nicollet, Rice, Scott, and Sibley counties):

WHEN: Wednesday, August 11, 2021

TIME: 6:30-7:00 PM: (OPTIONAL) Opportunity to meet individually with MAT staff for questions.

6:30 PM: Registration and dinner

7:30 PM: Meeting

WHERE: VFW Post 5727 Stary-Yerka

25 E 1st Street

Zumbrota, Goodhue County

Mary Lundell reported that she had attended. Dakota Electric offered a safety demonstration regarding the dangers of electricity. She reported that 40 townships were represented from 8 counties; 78 officers attended; Cannon City attended with a full board.

The new MAT Director attended; an insurance representative attended and urged townships to insure any new acquisitions.

ARPA was noted; some townships might want to upgrade their computers or purchase chrome books or such for their supervisors. ARPA reporting will take place once a year October 31st. The LRIP has been re-funded. New money has been allocated for internet services.

LBAE training was encouraged; the availability of the training is limited.

Mail: Bob Benson made a motion to review the mail. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Claims: Bob Benson made a motion to pay claims. Karen Slininger seconded the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Ken Burns noted that quote approvals should be strictly limited to the voted “not to exceed limits”. If such limits cannot be honored, the proposal cannot be authorized without returning to the Town Board for extended authorization.

Adjourn: Bob Benson made a motion to adjourn. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 3\0. The meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryle A. Peters
Clerk, Stanton Township

Karen Slininger
Chair, Stanton Township Board of Supervisors