**Town of Embarrass**

**October 11, 2023**

**Board Meeting**

Present: Jack LaMar, Shireen Lee, Jennifer Boese

Visitors: Lyle Dorn, Tana Johnson, Mickey White, Zane Beaton, Paul Knuti

Meeting called to order by LaMar at 6:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

September minutes reviewed. Spelling errors corrected along with added request from Knuti (MN Housing Partnership has expertise to help township with figuring out housing needs and provide funding and RAMS would be helpful and to reconsider membership and should invite executive director of RAMS) *Minutes approved with corrections*. Motion*: LaMar/Lee*

Financial Report: Report was sent to the Auditor to review and approve. Request to correct the claim number and check/EFT number on report then return for final review and approval.

Heritage Park & Campground to be closed. Caretakers will return for the 2024 season. One camping patron remains possibly till end of October. Maintenance continuously checks on campground. *Clerk to contact Culligan to have the equipment seasonally rented picked up and to severe our contract with Culligan and explore other options. Motion: Lee/LaMar* Clerk informs supervisors that after speaking with Culligan about the incorrect filter installed and invoice received for $1300, not an invoice for the quoted price of $450 an agreement was made for the township to purchase the filter for $650.

LaMar attended Cemetery Management Course and found it to be interesting and informative. Topics on safety, procedures and more were discussed. Cemetery Committee will be meeting again at some point and LaMar will share with the committee what he learned at the course.

Lee reports on roads and Local Road Improvement Project for possible funding opportunity for township roads improvements on Sauna Road and Hanka Nevala Road. There is a lot of information needed by the deadline on November 3rd, unsure if we qualify but will be making an attempt. Lee thanks Clerk for working on FEMA grant for culvert and dirt work done and restroom concrete slab, stating that chasing after funding for is a full-time job. Knuti ask about road signs missing. The clerk will contact county to see if can be replaced. Lee would like the township attorney contact information to speak about the Cemetery Road.

Maintenance Report given by Lee. Campground winter process done. Painting of storage shed, tree removal, Cemetery stone set, security light replaced, threshold replaced. Restroom floor at Visitor Center painted, rink repairs, brushing, John Deere repairs, meeting set up, regular daily duties and more. New chainsaw purchase for maintenance was tabled until Lee can get more information*.* Maintenance has asked if the chain link fence along Hwy 21 at the ballfield can be removed as it serves no purpose. The fencing could be used at the tennis court.

Letter of interest given by Eric Garman for Supervisor open seat was given to supervisors. LaMar speaks of conflict of interest being both are on Cemetery Committee; one would have to resign. LaMar asks if any others present have an interest for open seat. No interest shown. *Garman appointed for the remaining term ending in November of 2024. Motion: Lee/LaMar.*

Boese informs about CDBG grant opportunity and completed pre application. Town Hall handicap accessible doors, electrical repairs and upgrade, heater in Clerk office, flooring and outside entrance work are some of the items that were on the application for possibility of funds. Pre application was approved for Boese to move forward to the final application process.

FEMA update: Boese has continuation of daily emails and report requests by FEMA, weekly web meeting as well as upcoming meeting with FEMA representatives for on-site inspections. Estimate for concrete pad at Visitor Center restroom was received and added to the FEMA grant for funding.

Boese speaks to supervisors about the amount of extra work that has come up in the office feeling overwhelmed and has decided to hire a temp Deputy Clerk/Assistant to help with office work in order to and to help with not have to continue to work at home after leaving the office. Support by supervisors was given to Boese to hire. *Motion: Lee/LaMar agree on wage for Deputy Wage.*

Welcome Packet was discussed. Lee would like to see some changes in the packet. Discussion had on why items were not included in packet such as business’s being added, internet services and more. More discussion will be had after more information is found on what should and shouldn’t be in the packet. Welcome packet tabled.

Property Inspection Review tabled.

Lee speaks about standing Committees. Still looking for any interested parties to come forward. Need community interest in some of the township properties.

On going problem with beetles at the Visitor Center, trying to find an exterminator has been a problem. Knuti speaks about Pyhala Homestead to say we are doing nothing to a valuable piece of property. Asking for a timetable to do some restoration. LaMar speaks there is no timetable and will discuss at another time. Lee speaks it is an asset and deteriorating but in order to make a commitment we need public support, and the public is divided on the topic. Lee questions Knuti, if the community doesn’t support the Homestead restoration and maintenance then is it right for us to go against the community?

Weather Station discussed with different opinions on doing the repairs and replacing of the weather station that was destroyed by drunk driver. Boese has been in contact with an insurance agent and insurance check has been mailed but was under-insured and will not cover the cost of damage. The property that the Weather Station is located on was discussed, LaMar stated he will look into the ownership of the property and get the suggested way to deal with it. Ideas tossed around of moving the weather station to visitor center location others disagreeing as they feel the current location is Embarrass history, and once its moved and not maintained it will be an eyesore.

Ownership of Nevala House located at the Nelimark was discussed and questioned. White speaks to say she will try and get it clarified. LaMar is open for a phone call from SISU President.

Claims and Correspondence reviewed. *Motion: LaMar/Lee to accept.*

Eric Garman gives Oath of Office and welcomed to the Embarrass Town Board.

*Eric Garman to be added to all banking accounts with Northern State Bank and Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union accounts. Have Alyssa Hammond removed. Motion: LaMar/Lee*

Meeting adjourned by LaMar at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Boese