Town of Embarrass

Town Board Meeting

August 9, 2023

Present: Jack LaMar, Shireen Lee, Alyssa Hammond Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese

Visitors: Bill Wright, Lyle Dorn, Roland Fowler, Tana Johnson

The meeting was called to order by LaMar at 6:14p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Motion: Lamar/Second: Lee to approve the July 2023 minutes with the amendments made, adding the following after request from visitor. \*Discussion was had on the current needs and responsibilities between the Township and SISU Heritage for the sauna at the Nelimark\*. Carried 2-0. Clerk amended the July 2023 minutes, printed and given to those who wanted. \**Clerk would like it noted that minutes do not require to have every discussion in minutes per MATTS attorney, minutes should be brief as possible and to the point, motions and agenda topics are the only required items to be recorded in minutes, not comments by the public unless clerk is notified in advance for topic to be placed on agenda, or if the board decides otherwise, also to remind that per the signed Memorandum of Understanding between Embarrass Township and SISU Heritage Inc., any business is to be discussed between the SISU Heritage Inc. Board members and Township Board members per the signed document.

The Treasurer’s Report is to be approved once the State Auditor has fixed the clerical errors. The State Auditor has been sent all reports to correctly enter in CTAS program. Receipts and disbursements were reviewed by the supervisors. Upcoming training course on the accounting system in October will be attended by clerk and treasurer. This new course is for clerks and treasurers to help with correctly entering data and answering questions about the CTAS program.

FEMA update by clerk was given. The clerk has attended the required meetings and briefings. FEMA account has been created and associate will be meeting with clerk in September to complete the remaining reports. Clerk was informed that $12,000+ allocated so far for the township from the flood damage reports already sent in. The funds will be received in late December.

Public: Fowler speaks that the ball players that come to play during the fair are displeased with the $10 camping fee that will be charged for the overflow area. If the township charges the $10, he was told they will not come back. Fowler believes the township should not be charging the fee. Supervisors disagree and are sticking with the overflow camping fee. Feel that it is a small price to pay to help cover a portion of the time and work preparing for the fair weekend.

Heritage Park & Campground Report: Spraying for mosquitos was done after host requested. Lee would like it sprayed again with the events coming up. A brief discussion was had on township purchasing a sprayer to use at campground and other properties. Hammond will speak with maintenance. Lee would like to start a campground committee and has spoken with the Clerk and Camp host about starting a committee. Fair weekend is booked, and overflow area reservations have been taken. Culligan invoice that was received for over the amount of quote was discussed. Clerk to forward all correspondence between her and Culligan to LaMar to contact Culligan about the incorrect invoice.

Cemetery Committee Report: LaMar gives update on the cemetery committee. The first meeting was held with several members. A few items discussed during the meeting were issues that need to be addressed are garage structure, mold in garage, roofs, turf management, and the roadway. Membership for the Minnesota Association of Cemeteries was set up by LaMar. LaMar contacted the township attorney about roadway questions and has not gotten a response at this time. Lee would like no parking signs purchased before the Ice Candle Celebration. Clerk and Lee to look into some options for signs and have ready for September meeting for approval.

Road Report by Lee. All roads were checked and graded. Maintenance checked after strong winds and rainstorm for downed trees and any other damage. Roads are in good shape. An informational meeting will be attended by Lee and the clerk for possible funding opportunities for roads.

Tower Ambulance invoice received and discussed. The clerk will respond with supervisors’ approval of respectfully declining the invoice. LaMar feels this subject needs to be discussed further at another board meeting. Lee would like the topic to be discussed at a annual meeting for more public input.

St. Louis County variance application was discussed. The application states that supervisors have a choice whether to comment on the application. *Motion/Lee: Second/Hammond to make no comment. Carried 2-0. LaMar abstains.*

*Motion/Lee: Second/LaMar to approve the letter of support for the fair board association to apply for Rural and Community Art Project Grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. Carried 2-0.*

Embarrass Logo tabled from last meeting and Lee states there has been a great response to “Cold Spot” for logo. Lee wants to continue with feedback from the public.

Knuti speaks about the maintenance of the Pyhala. At past meetings maintenance on the Pyhala was discussed and the maintenance was never completed. Maintenance work needs to be done to the buildings on the property, grants are available and being listed that the Pyhala is registered on the historical society, Knuti states the township has legal responsibilities and should have sufficient staff to manage properties. Lee agrees that we need to do something with what we have, or we should take steps to sell, we do not have the capabilities of doing all the work being asked of with the limited staff. Committees are being created for some properties and some of this is going to take a community and encourages community support. Lee states the clerk and maintenance have many other duties, putting in many hours and right now there just isn’t enough staff to do the work Knuti is asking for. Wright questions why SISU doesn’t help with finding the funds with the great record they have finding funding for other historic properties. More discussion was had about developing a plan and starting a committee for the Pyhala Homestead.

Fair Board point of contacts were given to supervisors. Labor hours to help with fair set up discussed.

*Motion/Lamar: Second/Hammond to write a public letter thanking Rep. Lislegard for his support and stating Embarrass is excited for the opportunities and work together then put in the Flying FInn. Carried 3-0. LaMar to draft letter.*

Correspondence was in reference to the possibilities of moving the Town Hall to fair grounds with the Timber Hall. LaMar researched and would take 2/3rds of a town vote to do so. Would have to be decided through a special election. Was questioned why moving the Town Hall to a property the township does not own as well as it would be just a unnecessary expense. LaMar asks supervisors to think about the possibility of moving the Town Hall for economic growth and more.

Lee and Boese were asked to give update on IRRRB informational meeting they attended.

*Motion/Lee: Second/LaMar to approve the claims and correspondence. Carried 3-0.*

*Meeting adjourned by LaMar at 8:16 p.m.*

*Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Boese*