

San Francisco Township Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021

Board members convened at 6:45 Supervisors reviewed accounts payable and authorized payments. Present were Board members: Larry Schmidt (presiding), Scott Selken, Andy Olson, Treasurer: Denise Andersen and Clerk: Heidi Schmidt, 16 residents and approx. 5 zoom attendees. Larry called the meeting to order and all recited the pledge of allegiance.

The April minutes were reviewed via email. Correction of development name to Fairhaven from Mist haven. Motion carried to approve with correction.

Treasurer reported \$212,127. in checking and \$358,754 in CDs. Motion carried to Approve. Question on when the Carver fire payment is due. Contact is Kathy at City of Carver. Denise will check.

Zoning: Trimbo driveway, supers looked at. Motion to recommend approval of variance at county – 2nd – passed. / Fritzvold is looking for a CUP to construct an oversize building. Motion to recommend approval at cty – 2nd – passed. / Tony Hoen asking to remove an old sawmill building and replace with a smaller footprint, but still oversize for lot. Motion to rec approval – 2nd – passed.

Road and Bridge Report: Dahlgren Road agreement has not been reviewed yet. Road review – Andy took meeting notes. Several roads that need grading. Culvert near Kerbers and on 166th was viewed. Some markets are needed. Need to schedule a second road review. Tuesday 5-25 at 4PM meet at the hall. / Molnau send a gravel bid. We need to get a quote on 1” red rock instead. Class 5. / Chard submitted a bid to tar Beverly Dr area. Motion to table until looked at during road review. 2nd – pass.

Mining: Ron has completed the restoration. This closes out the county admin permit. The board has read all the information, comments engineer opinions regarding the Olson EAW. Scott and Andy agreed it was very thorough. Larry allowed some public comment and questions although not required. Who is Jeff? Jeff Madejczyk is from the engineering firm hired by the township as a consultant. He supplied answers to all comments and questions during the public comment period. These were distributed to anyone that emailed and were also posted on the township website. Jason Hill (township attorney) stated that SFT has one of the most restrictive mining ordinances in the state. This EAW process is not the permit. Issues on the road, noise, water will be addressed if a permit is requested. There will be a public hearing then. SFT consultant has concluded that there would not be a major environmental concern. Questions on the water table would be handled if a permit is requested. Phil S says the Ordinance requires an EIS (environmental Impact Study) because mines will last 30-40 yrs. Jason H states that it does not require the study. Christine Pauly (Olson’s engineer) Says Ordinance 8 clearly says EIS is not required. The state established the EQB with rules for environmental issues. They have 4 criteria and all 4 were met. John Duwalter says that the commenters did not get the new information requested. Jason stated the information was provided to the town board. It was not went out to residents. Jason – Intent of the Ordinance is not important, the language is clear that an EAW can eliminate the need for an EIS. Christine P – Public opposition is not a reason for an EIS. Toni Duwalter – If RGB finds errors could that be a reason for another extension to the EAW? The impact on the local roads has not been evaluated. She just wants the Ordinance to be followed. Jason – EAW evaluates the mine area not the access road. Board discussion on the EAW. Larry feels engineering firm was very thorough. Roads will be addressed later in the process. Scott also finds the process frustrating. Hard to decide what is fact and what is emotion. Board is trying to follow the process. If it was only the county they would be mining already. Andy cited portions of the Ordinance regarding EAW and EIS. Mining is a legal activity even if it is not popular. Scott motioned to accept Resolution 21-04 – A negative declaration of the need for an EIS

for the Olson Sand and gravel mine. Scott read the whole resolution which will be posted on the website. 2nd – passed 3-0. / The board voted to authorize Stantec Engineering to continue work as our consultant on the mine up to an expected bill of \$12,500. Passed.

Citizens Committee: Phil reported that Todd from McDonald Mac is preparing Plans and Specs for the townhall Rehabilitation Grant Application. Wendy Bjorn (MN Historical Society) was at the last CAC meeting and gave us information on applying for this Legacy grant. Short term goal is stabilization, Med range goal will be to add bathrooms and remodel for township use. Long term goal is to landscape and open for public use. Wendy said we should stress that the building will not last much longer without stabilization. Public support will help our case. There is a survey on the website that can be filled out by residents. Preliminary grant application is due July 23rd. Next meeting will be June 17th to review rehabilitation plans. / Is there information that should be included in a late June township newsletter? / Plaque design shared. Larry motioned to approve purchase of a large plaque (up to \$450) with National Historical Registry information. / There should be a supervisor representative on the committee. Andy offered to come to meetings.

Old Business: None

New Business: Weed inspector needed for township. \$5000 grant to fight the wild parsnips. Joe Enfield with Carver County is contact. / Because of unreliable internet Zoom is an ineffective way to hold a SFT meeting. Larry motioned that the township discontinue Zoom coverage. 2nd – passed. / Toni D submitted a written complaint against the Olson mining that was done since June 2020. Many rules of Ordinance 8 were broken. / Olson escrowed \$7500 for mine EAW. Owes \$7500 more. Escrow needs to be \$15,000. Denise and Larry will collect more escrow funds.

Notes from the clerk: There is a grant available for solid waste abatement and recycling programs. Andy motioned that Heidi collect cost to do a limited recycle program and apply for grant. 2nd – passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05PM

Respectfully submitted: Heidi Schmidt - San Francisco Township Clerk