

## Wacouta Township December 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Following is the written text of the business transacted by the Wacouta Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting held on December 12, 2022. Board members present were: Supervisors John Plehal, George Thoma, and Daryl Franklin. Also, Laan Dommer, Clerk/Treasurer was present. The meeting was held at the town hall, 27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota.

- 1) Chair John Plehal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) Approval of the minutes for the November 14, 2022, monthly meeting. Franklin made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.
- 3) Old Business: No old business was set forth.
- 4) New Business
  - a) Deputy Sheriff Mike Ayers was available to answer questions. He reviewed the protocol for those leaving for vacation/holiday from their residence. The department will send extra patrols if residents send their address, and details of their leave (*including vehicles & any individuals that may be present periodically to look after the residence*), to the Sheriff's department.
  - b) Roads and Trail:
    - i. Plehal reviewed some of the recent ongoing road snow removal communications with Riverland Excavating. If any issues with snow road conditions Plehal asked residents to contact him.
    - ii. Trail winter work statements will now come through Plaas Incorporated.
  - c) Planning and Zoning:
    - i. Property vacation update, Soroka, Johnson et al resolution: Thoma reviewed the resolution to vacate that was agreed upon last summer. Thoma made a resolution to authorize John Plehal to sign necessary resolutions on behalf of the township, to vacate said property; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried.
    - ii. Thoma reviewed pertinent portions of the AirBnB Florence township ordinance that was provided to him. Discussion included getting initial residents' and neighbors' feedback that may be impacted. Also, questions were considered whether the township needs to enact an ordinance to cover this use. Ongoing discussions and reviews will continue.
    - iii. Permits: No new permits were discussed.
    - iv. Plehal asked for consensus to seek preliminary legal advice regarding potential property ownership that could possibly include pass-through funds. More background is needed to represent the township adequately. Thoma made a motion to approve up to five hours of legal advice for the issue; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried.
  - d) Town Hall, Cemetery, & adjacent areas:
    - i. Town Hall: Franklin reviewed the pending furnace installation.
    - ii. Cemetery: Franklin suggested that the township renew the CEMTRAX software maintenance agreement for 2023, for cemetery mapping and plots. Franklin made a motion to renew the CEMTRAX agreement for 2023; seconded by Thoma. The motion carried.

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- e) Website development: No changes have occurred with the updating of the website. Dommer will contact Kyle Mehrkens to start providing digital township files that may be useful.
  - f) Cemetery, Tree Limbs: With the pending freeze and cold weather it was suggested to plan for the removal of some oak limbs on the cemetery border. Also, the future removal of two ash trees within the central part of the cemetery should be considered
  - g) Court resurfacing: A consideration to ask for a quote from Monarch Paving, to compare with a previous contractor's bid for overlaying the court surface, was discussed. Plehal will contact the company and again ask for an estimate
  - h) Meeting times for 2023: Thoma made a motion to move the 2023 monthly meetings of the Wacouta Board of Supervisors to 6:00 PM (*from the current 7:00 PM*); seconded by Franklin. The motion carried. Public notice will be provided by the clerk (*Dommer*).
  - i) Planning Commissioner vacancy: Thoma made a motion to reappoint Mark Warrington as Planning Commissioner, for the term 1/1/23 to 12/31/25; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried.  
The Planning Commissioners are: Tracy Miller (*term to end 12/21/23*); Dan Mueller (*term to end 12/21/24*); Steve Nelson (*term to end 12/21/24*); Mark Warrington (*term to end 12/21/25*).
  - j) Elections:
    - i. Special Election, County Commissioner. Dommer stated that a primary will not be needed, since only two candidates are filed for election. The election date is set for February 14, 2023. Goodhue County Elections has provided help to securing the head election judge and elections judges.
    - ii. Township Elections: The date for the election of one township supervisor will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023.
  - k) Consolidated Liability Coverage/insurance from MATIT was briefly reviewed.
  - l) Plehal noted that the Annual meeting moderator can be paid. It was agreed by consensus to offer the Annual meeting moderator \$100- for their work running the meeting, reviewing, and approving the minutes.
- 5) Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2022.
- a) Bills were presented in the amount of \$ 18,042.75 to be paid for the November 2022 checks (*disbursements & payroll*).  
Plehal made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report and bills for \$ 18,042.75; seconded by Franklin. The motion carried.
  - b) Dommer gave a year-to-date review of revenues & disbursements.
- 6) Chair John Plehal offered his appreciation to the township supervisors, commissioners, zoning administrator, and clerk/treasurer for their efforts and work in 2022.
- 7) The next scheduled monthly meeting is Monday, January 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.  
Thoma made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Plehal. Motion carried at 8:16 PM.

-Submitted by Laan Dommer