

**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting  
North Pine Government Center  
Jan. 7, 2021 Teleconferenced**

The meeting was called to order by at 7:06 p.m., by Chairman Jon Dorau, followed by the Pledge.

Present were Chairman Dorau, Supervisors Keith Carlson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, residents Don Eaton, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson and Planning Committee Member John Pitts. There were no teleconference attendees.

A motion was made by Carlson to approve the Dec. 3, 2020 minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Discussion about the treasurer's report included transfer of funds from the equipment fund to pay the first payment on the grader bond. Carlson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

An affidavit for \$471.50 of grader work done by Carlson, who stood in for Gene Kroschel who is injured, was approved on a motion by Hinsch, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Carlson abstained because he will benefit from the action.

Dorau made a motion to pay the bills which was seconded by Carlson and unanimously approved.

Croup reported on the first county board meeting of the year.

**Roads**

Carlson said the grader had several mechanical issues including the overhead lights and wiper motor which should be taken care of by the Caterpillar warranty. The wing on the grader needs repairing and there was some discussion on plowing West Fork Road.

There was discussion about having Craig Summerland doing maintaining Sievert Road.

Hinsch said Steve Grinsteinner would be available for sanding Government Road.

Carlson reported on the meeting he and Croup had with Sandstone Mayor Pete Spartz and City Administrator Kathy George. He said they agreed on a meeting of one representative from each township prior to the fire formula meeting. He said the township and city haggled back and forth about the formula and in the end, the manhours were always the problem. Kathy George said she would work it out without manhours as a factor.

Croup said she also worked out a formula which eliminate depreciation of the city's fire equipment and the contribution to the city's building fund and divided the remainder by the percentage of market value property in each township and the city. Each member had reduced fire formula costs.

The board requested Croup send the formula she worked up to the townships.

Local Assessor Nancy Fisher said she had an assessor who would be willing to take on Sandstone Township's assessing.

Croup had been in touch with a MnDOT Aeronautics representative about Sandstone's airport zoning ordinance.

John Pitts complained about the neighbor's barking dogs across the street and that they were wolves the neighbor was raising. He said there does not seem to be anyone living at the residence.

Hinsch talked about an animal control ordinance. He will contact the owners and DNR again.

Carlson made a motion to appoint Ailene Croup and Theresa Dawson as the absentee ballot board. Hinsch seconded and it was unanimously approved.

John Pitts gave a report on the planning committee's progress on the comprehensive plan.

Carlson made a motion to recess until Jan. 14, 2021, and reconvene at the North Pine Government Center at 7 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

**Reconvened meeting: 7:14 p.m., Jan. 14, 2021, at North Pine Government Center**

The board reviewed the 2020 disbursements and receipts from the annual budget prepared by Theresa Dawson. She informed the board the \$208,401.87 was received by the township from levy, payment in lieu of taxes, gas tax, housing and agricultural credits, local government aid and contract grading and plowing. The township spent \$221,395.01 which includes purchase and down payment on the grader. The board set the 2021 budget at \$221,900.

The board received the offer, of \$1,900, from MnDOT for the taking of just over one acre of the township's land for reconstruction of Highway 123 at the town hall on Poplar Road. After discussion of the land's value, Dorau said he believed the little more than one acre of land being taken by MnDOT is worth \$4,253. He said he didn't believe the township should get an independent appraiser at \$5,000 which would only add to the cost of the project. At minimum, an independent appraisal would then bring the taking up to \$6,900 and more if it was appraised higher. Carlson agreed.

Dorau made a motion to counter the offer with \$4,253 (the parcel's value), without an appraisal. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

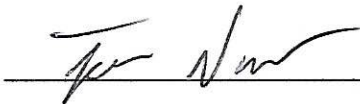
Hinsch said Steve Grinsteinner would charge \$80/hour for his truck use and \$50/yard for salt and sand.

A motion was made by Carlson to adjourn at 9:24 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup on Feb. 4, 2021.



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Chairman Jon Dorau



**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting  
North Pine Government Center  
Feb. 4, 2021 Teleconferenced**

The meeting was called to order by at 7:05 p.m., by Chairman Jon Dorau, followed by the Pledge.

Present were Chairman Dorau, Supervisors Keith Carlson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and resident Don Eaton. There were no teleconference attendees.

A motion was made by Carlson to approve the Jan. 7, 2021 minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

After reviewing the cash control statement from Treasurer Hansen, Carlson made a motion to move \$16,000 from the Road and Bridge fund to the Fire Fund to cover the first half of the fire formula payment, due in June. The motion was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Carlson to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Carlson presented an affidavit for four hours of work at \$23/hour for grader work done for the township. Hinsch made a motion to approve the affidavit which was seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Carlson abstained because the motion was for payment to him.

A motion was made by Carlson to pay the bills, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup reviewed her attendance at the Annual Meeting Teleconference training held by Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT). She asked for the board's direction on whether the meeting should be held virtually, a combination of teleconference and in-person or just in-person. She stated there is a lack of reliable internet at Cross Church, the annual meeting location.

#### Roads

Hinsch said his roads have held up well through the winter.

Carlson said the township's dump truck/plow has a wiring harness problem. There were numerous bad spots on the harness according to operator Gene Kroschel. Boyer is building a new harness and it's expected to cost \$1,500 to \$1,600.

He also said because of Kroschel's recent injury, he has been unable to maintain roads. Carlson and operator Tom Colsrud are sharing the plowing work. The wing cable broke and Carlson said they managed to repair it so they could continue plowing.

Carlson said John Nelson's mailbox, on Tenquist Road, had been knocked down by the grader. Hinsch said he would take care of getting a new one to replace it.

Croup said she would contact Barry Township and let them know operators would not get their contract plowing done until late tomorrow.

Fire Formula

The board discussed the outcome of Sandstone's fire formula meeting with the townships. Dorau, Hinsch and Croup attended. The townships complained about the big hike in fire coverage costs. Sandstone Township's went from a bill of \$18,000 in 2020 to \$31,000 in 2021.

Dorau said they offered several options and the townships wanted to have a contract that wasn't based on the per hour per firefighter. He said the city needs to inform the townships when they want to buy large items like the recently purchased ladder truck.

Croup asked that they should provide a yearly written contract for the board's approval.

MnDOT had presented an offer of \$1,900 for the taking of .55 acres of township land at the corner of Poplar Road and Hwy. 123. Croup passed on to MnDOT the board's request for \$4,253, the comparable price of a comparative acre of land in the county. The board said they would consider anything over \$1,900 and Carlson made a motion to have Dorau negotiate the terms, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to hold the annual meeting in-person, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup said she'd had a request for information on a cartway though the caller refused to give a name.

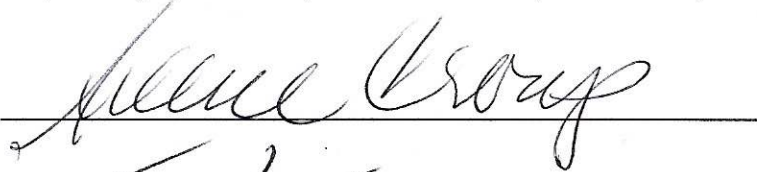
A motion was made by Dorau to approve Jan Yaste, Ailene Croup and Theresa Dawson as judges for the annual election and any trained judges, as necessary, from the township's list. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Hinsch said at their last meeting the planning committee was working on updating the comprehensive plan and discussed development of the southwest corner of the freeway.

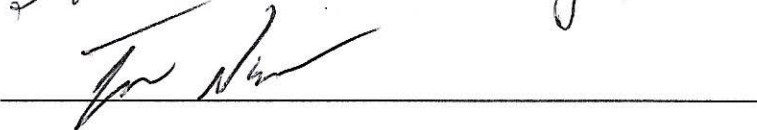
It was the board's consensus that Hinsch should clean out snow in the parking lot at the town hall in an emergency so residents can check the meeting posting board.

A motion was made by Dorau to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Carlson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup on March 4, 2021.



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Chairman Jon Dorau

**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting  
North Pine Government Center  
March 4, 2021 Teleconferenced**

The meeting was called to order by at 7:03 p.m., by Chairman Jon Dorau, followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Keith Carlson and Gary Hinsch. Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, residents Linda Thomson, Skip Thomson and Don Eaton.

At 7:05 p.m., Dorau recessed the meeting and opened the board of audit. The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the Feb. 4, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Keith Carlson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau asked for public input from the floor and resident and planning committee chairman Skip Thomson asked if the board wanted to take back their minor subdivision ordinance from the county. Thomson said there were advantages for the township to do its own subdivision and cited the instance of a cul-de-sac and dead-end road where a subdivision had not been developed though the road was in. The township would be required to take it over in this case and maintain the dead-end road though there were no residents on it.

He said the board's subdivision ordinance could cover that by not allowing dead ends or cul-de-sac roads.

Dorau said if the township took back control of minor subdivisions they would have to have someone willing to do the oversight.

Keith Carlson also was concerned about whether Skip Thomson would be willing to stay on the planning committee and oversee the subdivision rules.

There was a consensus of the board to have the planning committee move ahead with doing the subdivision.

A motion was made by Keith Carlson to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to accept the affidavit submitted by Keith Carlson for 16.5 hours of grader work at \$23/hour totaling \$379.50. Hinsch seconded the motion. It was approved on a 2-0-1 vote with Keith Carlson abstaining because he was the recipient of the money.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Keith Carlson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved

Roads

~~Keith Carlson~~ <sup>GARY HINSCH</sup> said the roads were going to get bad and Government Road is rough right now.

Dorau said his roads wintered well. He mentioned that John Nelson's home had burned and had inquired about whether Nelson Road could be closed.



Croup said she'd received a fire formula contract from the city of Sandstone. The board reviewed the base cost, list of services provided under the contract and the 5-year term of the contract.

Resident Linda Thomson said the base charge for the fire formula could change each year and the 5-year contract would not control the increasing cost.

Dorau made a motion to have the township's attorney Peter Tiede take a look at the contract to find out if a year-to-year contract would be better. The motion was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

MnDOT was still considering the township's counter offer on their taking of township property on Poplar Road. MnDOT's \$1,900 was rejected. The township countered with \$4,253 per acre which was the per acre average of comparable property. MnDOT representative said the .55 acre would then be \$2,620. The representative has not received approval yet from the appraiser to make that offer.

Croup updated the board on the Local Road Improvement Program Grant for upgrading Government Road. She said the county board had approved being the fiscal agent for Sandstone Township. However, the engineer and assistant engineer said it would be unlikely the project would be chosen, and the township would be required to put up matching funds if it were. The grant application opened on Oct. 2, 2020 and closed March 3, 2021.

The county assessor, Lorri Houtsma, had contacted Croup and asked if the township would like the county to take over assessing in 2021, knowing that Nancy Fisher would no longer be assessing for the township. The board agreed to look at the request at its next meeting when the new supervisor was seated.

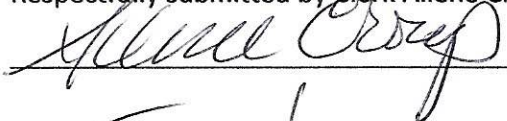
Planning committee minutes were reviewed along with the committee's recommended changes to the comprehensive plan to date. Keith Carlson made a motion to accept the changes, seconded Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Hinsch made a motion to continue with quarterly budget reviews through 2021. It was seconded by Keith Carlson and unanimously approved.

Jon Dorau presented Keith Carlson with a plaque for his 12 years of service to the township as a supervisor.

Keith Carlson made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup, on April 1, 2021,



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Chairman

**Sandstone Township Board of Audit  
 North Pine Government Center  
 March 4, 2021 Teleconferenced**

The meeting was called to order by at 7:05 p.m., by Chairman Jon Dorau, followed by the Pledge.

Present were Chairman Dorau, Supervisors Keith Carlson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and residents Don Eaton, Linda Thomson, Skip Thomson and Ruth Carlson and Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson. There were no teleconference attendees.

Dorau gave an account of the last two years of the board's recommendations for the levy.

2020		2021	
General Fund	\$38,000	General Fund	\$44,000
Road and Bridge	\$36,000	Road and Bridge	\$40,000
Equipment	\$18,000	Equipment	\$28,000
Fire	\$8,000	Fire	\$13,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Annual Inc.	\$10,000		
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>		<b>\$125,000</b>

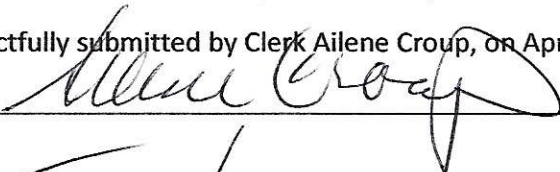
Clerk Croup said the township has received a 10 percent reduction in gas tax this year and on a motion from County Commissioner Terry Lovgren and second by Commissioner Matt Ludwig, at the February meeting county board approved keeping an additional 10 percent of the tax forfeited sales and timber sales in the county and not distribute it to the townships.

Croup said the town board had spent \$137,000 on the town hall and grader lease and purchase and had depleted its unreserved funds. The fire formula increased \$13,000 in 2021. The grader went from lease to purchase, increasing the yearly cost \$14,000. Last year the levy was increased \$15,000. It does not cover the increasing cost to run the township.

Keith Carlson said the board could reevaluate where the township stood financially at the second half of the annual meeting in September. He made a motion to recommend to the electors at the annual meeting that the levy be increased from \$125,000 to \$129,000, Hinsch seconded and it was unanimously approved. Carlson also recommended the levy be split \$44,000 in the general fund, \$45,000 in road and bridge, \$20,000 in the fire fund and \$20,000 in the equipment fund.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Keith Carlson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup, on April 1, 2021.

  
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Chairman

**Sandstone Township**

**Board of Canvass**

**March 9, 2021**

Town Board Chairman Jon Dorau called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Gary Hinsch, Keith Carlson and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer and Election Judge Nancy Peterson.

Croup read the minutes of the 2020 Board of Canvass. Keith Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Nancy Peterson gave the results of the 2021 Township Election with Supervisor seat "B" up for election.

Linda Thomson was the only person to file for the seat.

Nineteen votes were cast.

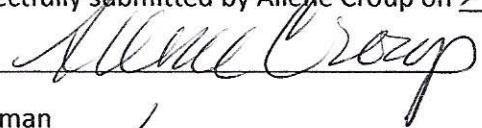
Thomson received 19 votes

Write-in votes 0

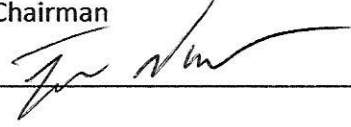
Keith Carlson made a motion to approve the results, seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Keith Carlson made a motion to adjourn the Board of Canvass at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April, 2021.

  
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Chairman

  
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## **Sandstone Township**

### **Regular meeting and Reorganizational Meeting**

#### **Teleconferenced April 1, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jon Dorau at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk, *COOKIE THOMSON* Theresa Dawson, local assessor Rich Koons, Don Eaton, Kathy Horbacz and Bobbi Butler. There were no attendees by teleconference.

#### **Minutes**

Hinsch made a motion to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved. Thomson made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 Board of Canvass minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved. Thomson made a motion to approve the March 4, 2021 Board of Audit minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Don Eaton commented on the condition of Bear Lane.

Assessor Rich Koons was recommended by the township's current local assessor Fisher to serve as the township's assessor. Fisher has given notice this is her final year. Koons attended the meeting.

Koons told the board he is a field assessor and has been a deputy assessor in another county for seven years. He said he is pretty flexible and has all the required updated education and is familiar with the old and new technology for entering data.

A motion was made by Dorau to hire Koons to do the assessing for 2022 at \$7 per parcel, Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. [richardkoons@charter.net](mailto:richardkoons@charter.net)

#### **Reorganizational Meeting**

When no nominations were made, Chairman Jon Dorau made a motion to nominate himself as chair. Thomson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to nominate Gary Hinsch as Vice Chair, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to appoint Gary Hinsch zoning supervisor, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved. Hinsch made a motion to appoint Linda Thomson as fire board supervisor, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved. Thomson made a motion to appoint Jon Dorau noxious weed supervisor, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

- Chairman - \$90 regular meeting
- Supervisors - \$80 regular meeting
- Clerk - \$20/hour, \$80 regular meeting
- Treasurer - \$20/hour, \$80 meeting
- Deputy Clerk and Treasurer - \$75 regular meeting
- Zoning Officer - \$10 per hour plus mileage

Supervisors – non-affidavit work such as checking on roads and getting quotes State minimum wage \$8.21/hour

Attending all day meetings – Supervisor’s meeting fee \$10/hour.

Election Judge - \$12 per hour plus mileage

Head election judge - \$13 per hour plus mileage

Planning committee pay - \$50 per meeting plus mileage

Thomson made a motion to set the fees as stated, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Operating patrol and truck, and maintenance work:

Regular Operator - \$26.50 per hour

Assistant Operator - \$26.50 per hour

Supervisor Operator – \$ per hour

Traveling for parts – current state minimum wage plus mileage

General Labor – current state minimum wage

Mileage – current federal rate

Mower – subject to the available operator rate

Use of personal equipment (tractors, bobcats, etc.) \$50 per hour pay to operate those machines.

Township Equipment use:

Grader - \$130 per hour

Truck - \$110 per hour

Motion by Dorau to maintain the current operating and equipment charges with changes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Fees for:

Photocopies, time and mileage – requested copies of minutes, etc., .50 for one-sided copies \$1 for two-sided copy. Copies, time, mileage estimated at \$50 or more must be paid in advance. (The township is a non-data practices body and not required to supply copies at township meetings)

Dorau made a motion to approve the photocopy fees, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Site permits - \$75

Dorau made a motion to increase site permit fees from \$50 to \$75 seconded by Thomson. Hinsch was opposed saying he didn’t think the permit was high enough to prevent people from



starting work with no site permit because the penalty was only double the permit fee. The motion passed 2-1 with Hinsch voting no.

1. Hold the Board's regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at North Pine Government Center (NPGC) at 7 pm.
2. Planning committee at Sandstone City Hall third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.
3. Pine County Courier as the official newspaper to print notices and post notices as appropriate at the Town Hall and Victory Station.
4. Northview Bank, Sandstone, MN as the official depository.

Motion was made by Thomson to accept the designations, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

1. Snowplowing Policy – Plowing of the Township roads will be done on the normal route schedule and will be at the direction of the Board of Supervisors. In addition, pursuant to the snowplowing policy for the Township roads there will be a charge of \$130 per hour with the grader and \$110 per hour with the truck for any request for snowplowing of a Township road. However, there will be no fee for special requests for snowplowing of a Township road for ambulance or fire truck calls or a life threatening or property damage situation.
2. Culvert Policy – The planning commission will design the culvert policy. The supervisor assigned to the planning commission will bring the culvert issue to the planning commission. Land owners must purchase and install the minimum of a 15" x 30" culvert, for their driveways at their own expense. However, if the Township damages the culvert when it rebuilds the road, the Township will repair and /or replace the culvert as appropriate.
3. Fire Call Policy – Will charge \$750 for each fire call and if not paid then will put it on the individual's property taxes. Amendment: whereby the individual may come to the Board within 30 days after notification from the Board to establish a reasonable time period to repay the fire call bill.
4. Sandstone Township Equipment – Equipment will be kept at the town hall as weather permits. The storage site must be accessible by the Supervisors and Equipment Operators. A temporary storage or parking area may also be used when necessary. When using a temporary parking area for four (4) or more days the Supervisors are to be notified. The storage or parking location roadway to, turn around, and parking area is to be maintained as follows: The Equipment Operator shall use the Township Equipment to grade or snowplow these areas. When Township Equipment cannot do the type of maintenance needed then the Township Supervisor must be notified.



An Equipment Usage Report is to be filed with the Treasurer at the end of the month of all the hours and work locations. Also, an Equipment Usage Report is to be filed with the Treasurer for equipment usage on each Service agreement/contract with billable hours.

A motion was made by Dorau to approve policies 1-4, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

5. Grader and Truck use for other Township's Roads will be charged \$130 an hour for grader use (Barry Twp. will stay at \$120 and \$110 an hour for Truck use with an operator (if the truck is used on contract roads, it must be reflected on their timesheets so the bill is correct, or change it to \$130 per hour).
6. Mailbox policy will copy Pine County's policy.
7. All utilities installed along our roads will be placed on the backside of all our ditches.

Dorau made a motion to approve policies 5-7, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

#### **Regular meeting business**

Motion by Dorau to have treasurer Hansen cancel the second grader payment check made in error. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dorau to pay the bills, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson attended MAT teleconferenced meeting on April 1, 2021, as recommended by MAT. A motion was made to pay Dawson for her training hours, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

#### **Roads**

Hinsch reported it was the first official day for the township maintenance of Robin Street according to the mutual, every other year, agreement with the city of Sandstone

Thomson noted she'd review the roads in her supervisor area and Thomson Road has a few frost boils.

The end of Tenquist Road had a culvert fall apart according to Dorau. He said Lee Hessenius would put an 18x40 foot culvert in at that residence.

Ditching and culverts are needed on that road according to resident Steve Miller. Residents will have to go through suppliers.

Supervisors discussed complaints of dogs running unattended, trailers, campers and people running around in their underwear at a residence on the north side of Hwy. 61 near Eiten Road. The sheriff has been informed by nothing can be done unless they're caught violating the law.

Due to the poor living conditions noted from the highway, Thomson suggested contacting County HHS.

Fire supervisor Thomson said she'd reviewed the fire contract with the city of Sandstone and wondered how the city decided on a contract amount. She wants concrete data and she wants to see insurance information.

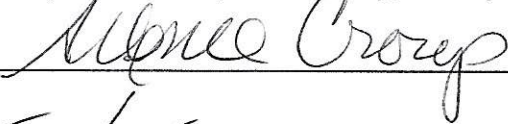
Dorau instructed Croup to send a letter of response to the city saying the township was unwilling to sign a 5-year contract and that they plan to pay the 2021 bill and continue good faith negotiations for the future. The letter should ask for a time to meet with the city and discuss the contract and come up with some kind of mutual agreement.

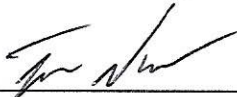
Dorau made a motion to approve resolution 2021-01 Sandstone Township declaring itself a Second Amendment dedicated township and imploring the Pine County Board of Commissioners to also make that declaration for the people of Pine County. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve resolution 2021-02 Denying Governor Walz' authority to continue an unending executive order requiring masks and limiting assembly. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Dorau, at 9:35 p.m., to recess and reconvene on April 15, 2021, at 7 p.m., at North Pine Government Center.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on May 6, 2021.

  
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Chairman Jon Dorau

## **Sandstone Township**

### **Board of Appeal and Equalization**

**April 13, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Jon Dorau at 7 p.m.

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the meeting followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson and attending by phone were County Assessor Lorri Houtsma and Local Assessor Nancy Fisher.

Approval of Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, to record minutes due to the need to conduct meeting by teleconference. Clerk needed to be able to have those who may come in use her phone and look at Beacon on her computer. Motion to approve Deputy Clerk, Theresa Dawson, made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch. Roll call vote Dorau - Yes, Hinsch - Yes, Thomson - Yes. Approved 3 to 0.

Clerk Ailene Croup, read the agenda. Motion by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch - Yes, Thomson - Yes, Dorau - Yes. Agenda approved 3 to 0.

Minutes of 2020 Board of Appeal and Equalization read by Clerk Ailene Croup. Motion to accept the minutes by Dorau and seconded by Hinsch. Roll call vote Thomson - Yes, Dorau - Yes, Hinsch - Yes. Motion to accept 2020 minutes passed 3 to 0.

Nancy Fisher report.

Parcel number 30.0126.000, Joshua and Chelsey Palmateer.

Suggested change by Nancy Fisher, local assessor, estimated cost at \$68,700 change to \$57,949 due to unusable buildings. Motion by Dorau, Second by Thomson - Roll call vote. Dorau - Yes, Hinsch - Yes, Thomson - Yes. Motion passes 3 to 0.

Parcel number 30.0412.000, Corey and Julie Johnson

Nancy Fisher estimated value at \$33,600 reduced to \$23,893 because of lack of buildings. Structures brought down to zero value (\$230 total) Motion by Dorau, seconded by Thomson. Roll call vote Hinsch - Yes, Thomson - Yes, Dorau - Yes. Motion passes 3 to 0.

Parcel number 30.0591.002, James and Susanne Reibel

Estimated value \$96,100 suggested reduction to \$95,419 due to the building being unusable due to water damage cause by vandalism. Motion to accept the change Thomson, seconded by Hinsch. Roll call vote – Thomson - Yes, Dorau - Yes, Hinsch - Yes. Motion Passes 3 to 0.

Parcel number 30.0474.000 Jon Dorau

Estimated value \$69,200. Fisher concluded that it had been overvalued because of well, electricity and driveway which are not on his property. Suggested reduction to \$55,700. Motion by Thomson, seconded by Hinsch. Roll call vote – Dorau abstained because of this being his property, Hinsch - Yes, Thomson - Yes. Motion passed 2 to 0 to 1.

County Assessor Lorri Houtsma discussed county's valuation process.

No other appeals made.

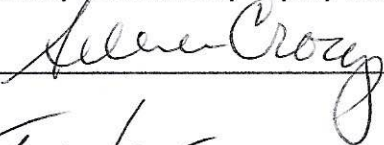
Discussion – The board would like the Clerk Croup, to make up a resolution to state that Sandstone Township does not want to pay for the expansion and extra work and personnel at the county for assessing townships who choose to have county assessing.

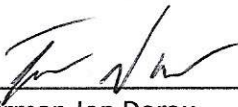


The board discussed the difficulty the clerk had preparing for board of appeal due to lack of internet. Approval given by chair, Jon Dorau, for Croup to buy a hotspot.

Motion to adjourn made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch. Roll call vote – Dorau - Yes, Hinsch - Yes, Thomson - Yes, 3 to 0. —  
Motion approved at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson on May 6, 2021.

  
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Chairman Jon Dorau

## Sandstone Township

### Regular Meeting Reconvened ARPA Fund Expenses

April 15, 2021

The meeting was reconvened by Chairman Jon Dorau at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, resident Skip Thomson, Genesis Wireless Representative Jay Mankie and PCS Wireless Representative Tim Johnson. *COOKIE HANSEN*

Sandstone Town Board is considering using the American Rescue Plan Act funds for bringing wireless communication to Sandstone Township. Mankie and Johnson were there to explain how they could do that with Genesis Communications.

Mankie told the board Genesis Wireless was started in 1999 in Braham, Minnesota. He said there is an antenna on the water tower in Sandstone and one in the country east of Sandstone. Mankie said the company has a track record of bringing internet where other companies won't go. Recently, they installed wireless communication towers in North Branch Township. They currently have 1,200 sites.

Genesis has the capability of providing 100 mbps download and 25 mbps upload. Mankie said updates can be done in the future and that Johnson is familiar with making grant applications.

Linda Thomson asked if the cost was \$45/month for 25 mbps download and 6 mbps upload which they said yes.

Mankie said they have 3-4 minutes of down time per year. He said it would cost approximately \$162,000 for three towers.

Dorau asked if the communications dish is line-of-sight to which Mankie responded it was, however, the signal can go through some cover.

Mankie said the board could talk to Renee at North Branch if there are any questions about their satisfaction. The board could hire PCS who would do a propagation study to determine how many towers the township would need. Johnson said the cost for the study would be \$1,400.

Dorau said the board would discuss the study.

#### Roads

Linda Thomson said Little Sand Creek Road needs gravel badly.

Dorau said he talked to the grader operator and he's scared to run down there right now because he may break through the frost boils.

Hinsch said Dupuis and Government Road also need attention.

Linda Thomson asked about Wild Blueberry Road being minimum maintenance and Croup confirmed that it was. On her road review she noticed one mis-shaped culvert and lots of gravel in the ditches.

Dorau made a motion to have vendors and employees get their hours and claims to the treasurer by the last day of the month. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson made a motion to have single signer payroll for 1 year, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to hire Keith Carlson as the township's assistant grader operator. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup gave an employment application, I-9 and W-4 to Dorau to have Carlson fill out and return to the treasurer as soon as possible. She reminded Hansen to update Carlson on PERA.

#### Fire Contract

The board reviewed the fire contract received from the city of Sandstone for 2022. Linda Thomson, who was appointed fire supervisor, said after looking at the contract the township should be paying a fair and equitable contribution for the fire formula.

She said the city went to DNR permitted fires and that's their problem. Thomson said the \$5,000 building fund is a savings account and she is not willing to contribute to a savings account. She also did not agree with paying for a ladder truck.

The township is paying for the city's fire hall and other equipment, Thomson added, and numbers don't lie.

Linda Thomson said the township should play hardball. She also mentioned the city may come up with another building project and the township would be expected to pay for it. The township could negotiate for a joint powers board where they'd vote on the fire budget. She said township residents need to have representation and they don't now.

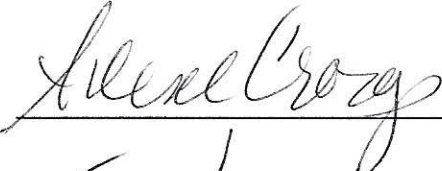
Hinsch made a motion to pay \$250 for the hotspot purchased by Croup when her internet went down, and \$60 per month for the internet bill, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion for Clerk Croup to use the hotspot for personal use to compensate her for the five years the township has used her internet. Thomson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.


The board reviewed the township's road agreements.

A motion was made by Dorau to adjourn at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on May 6, 2021.



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Chairman Jon Dorau