

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Jan. 6, 2022 and reconvened Jan. 20, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, Sandstone Township Residents Skip Thomson, Donald Eaton, Stan Jensen, Pam Hogberg, David Hogberg and Doris Helm, Sandstone city residents Julena Rahier, Kathy George, Pete Spartz, Ross Degerstrom, Chaz Mann, Andrew Wilkening, Valerie Palmer and Pine County Sheriff Jeff Nelson and Pine County Courier reporter Jennifer Yocum-Stans.

Chairman Dorau asked the people present to share their opinions during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Sandstone Township resident Doris Helm said she was concerned about the township providing fire protection saying the concern is protecting the most valuable thing they have – their property. She said the township should pay the fire protection bill.

Sandstone Twp. resident Stan Jensen asked why the township decided not to pay the bill. He was reminded that it was a comment portion of the meeting and there would be no feedback from the board during that portion.

David ^{Hogberg}~~Helm~~ said he wanted the township to come to an agreement, adding whether it's the Sandstone Fire Department or another department, they do a great job.

Resident Skip Thomson said he was opposed to the city of Sandstone's fire contract. He said the city can dictate at any time what the township pays, he added that the contract went from \$14,000 to \$31,000 in two years. No one is saying the department is bad, he said, but the township can never say no.

Dorau asked for any additional comments. When there were none, he made a motion to close that portion of the meeting, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau said there has been a lot of negotiating back and forth and the township thought they would reach an agreement. Dorau said the township had continued fire protection with the city extending it. He said he thought they were narrowing the gap in the city's demands. He said the gaps are concerning. It takes a whole year to get the money together to pay the fire formula contract. The city gives the township a number and they can either take it or leave it, he said.

Dorau said the board negotiates on behalf of the 805 people in the township. He said the board wants to be able to see what's coming in the way of fire protection and reviewed that the township had offered \$20,044.42 for three years and the city shot that down. It was the same offer the city made and rescinded.

Chairman Dorau read the prepared resolution for fire coverage that would be offered as part of negotiation with the city. Resolution #2022-01 offered two options \$20,000 for three years with a consumer price index (CPI) increase in the third year based on the CPI from Jan. 1 of the second year. Option 2 was for a base contract of \$10,000 per year plus \$2,000 per fire not to exceed \$24,000 total.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Hinsch abstained saying he had not had time to discuss the two options with the rest of the board.

Croup asked Sheriff Nelson if he was in charge of emergency management and whether fire departments had to respond to fires. He wasn't in charge but said that fire coverage applies to fires and extrication.

The town board encouraged the residents at the meeting to attend the annual meeting where they could give valuable input on the levy and whether to increase based on fire coverage increases. They were reminded that residents set the township's levy.

The extended warranty on the grader was discussed with Dorau informing the board that following the inspection at the end of the manufacturer's warranty, it was discovered that there are \$1,000 worth of hydraulic repairs needed and travel costs to make those repairs.

A motion to pay the warranty bill when it arrives was made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dorau, to pay the AT&T bill when it arrives each month to avoid a late payment, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to pay the current bills, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup said she had spoken with Elliot Golly who has a landscaping business and had sent the township a brochure about brushing services. She asked that he send a quote for brushing to the township. He said he does not do mowing but mentioned Jerry Telker for those services. Dorau said supervisors should keep an eye on their roads for brushing needs.

Sandstone Mayor Pete Spartz stood up and said he didn't know if it was the right time but he had something to say. He said there was an outstanding offer for 2022 and said he can look at something involving the consumer price index.

Dorau said he wanted to lock in the price at the city's next meeting for the year 2023. He said he didn't want to repeat this process mentioning the fact that the year of special meetings and negotiation was costly. He said he would like to see two years locked in.

Spartz said he would like to walk away knowing 2022 was locked in, adding he did not have the authority to approve two years.

Sandstone Councilmember Valerie Palmer said they could not negotiate a contract.

One thing the township will not do is the city's current contract offering, Linda Thomson said.

Spartz gave his objections to a standard contract amount.

Dorau said each township can pay their locked in amount and the city and townships wouldn't have to do it for a contract term of three or five years. He said he was just trying to eliminate the fight.

Palmer said Dorau was asking them to do Sandstone Township's contract.

Dorau said the city could negotiate with any one of the townships in its fire coverage area. He said the township was offering \$60,000 for three years and wondered how much more the city needed.

Skip Thomson said the city of Sandstone can raise their formula every year and they had a monopoly on fire service in the area.

Spartz said just in case the city's offer didn't go through, the township should explore other options.

The board assured Spartz they had already been doing that since 2020.

Dorau said the city's contract had too many variables.

Palmer said the present offer is the city's final offer.

Spartz said the township could go to Askov for 2022 if they wanted to.

Resident Dave Helm said, where the township was right now was making a decision for 2022.

Dorau asked the city to put him on the agenda for their next meeting where he would find out what they were going to say about what they wanted for fire coverage for 2023.

Linda Thomson said each of the townships under Sandstone's fire coverage area had different needs and different problems. The city wasn't comparing "apples to apples" when they said negotiations weren't fair to all the townships.

Sandstone City Administrator Kathy George asked if there was a township fund balance for fire coverage.

Croup said it had been eaten up by unforeseen bills and the jump in fire coverage costs.

Administrator George said the town board had not done a good job if they had no fund balance.

Croup said the township's residents are required to set the levy amount each year, not the board.

Spartz said he would like to do the 2022 fire bill tonight because he worried about what would happen in February.

Linda Thomson said the board could approve a first quarter payment of \$5,000, which would be one-fourth of the city's fire coverage requirement for 2022. She added, maybe the city and township can come to an agreement about how things are done, if the board is in agreement.

Spartz continued speaking saying people in the township lived a stone's throw from him.

Dorau asked what expenses were coming up that the city was not telling them about. "What's coming down the road?" he asked.

Are the other townships paying enough, Dorau said.

Hinsch said each year when the townships are invited to the city's fire formula meeting, the city hands out the formula and that's it. Every year it's more and more expensive.

Linda Thomson said the city constantly says they can't negotiate because of the other townships.

The board wondered what happened with the city when Dell Grove said they were leaving.

Palmer said the city has to treat each township the same.

Kathy George explained the 50 percent discount the townships were given when Sandstone Township's bill went from \$28,000 in 2022 to \$20,000.

Croup asked how that could be a 50 percent reduction. She said the story about Dell Grove leaving Sandstone's fire coverage area and negotiating with Finlayson's fire department came out on May 19, 2021 and the township got a revised contract for \$20,000 and all the townships' coverage costs reduced. The new contract was dated May 20, 2021. She wondered if the possibility of Dell Grove leaving the coverage area caused the revised formula.

Croup asked how they would cover the expense of Dell Grove leaving Sandstone's fire coverage area if that had happened and the change because Kroschel Township did leave.

Spartz said he was trying very hard to stay out of Sandstone Township's business and the township should stay out of the city's business.

Dorau said he thought the township could agree on the 2022, \$20,000 contract.

Kathy George assured Dorau there was nothing happening in the fire department.

Dorau asked if the city of Sandstone's taxes went down because Sandstone Township paid so much in 2021.

Spartz said he wanted to move forward.

Hinsch said the fire formula was a burden at the end of the year and made him wonder if there'd be funds to cover it all.

Dorau made a motion to pay the city's 2022 contract of \$20,044.42, with a contingency to withdraw if anything drastically changed. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Linda Thomson made a motion to pay one-fourth of the \$20,044.42 contract to carry the township through March 2022 and past the February fire formula meeting. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Spartz said the city and township should work together because March will come up very quickly when that quarter ends.

Dorau said the city should consider knowing they will have \$60,000 with a three-year contract.

Hinsch repeated that Dorau was worried about the city's unforeseen increases each year.

The board continued with the agenda.

Dorau made a motion to approve the Dec. 2, 2021 minutes, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of Dec. 16, 2021, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

The board discussed the orderly annexation document and said it would require some wordsmithing.

Dorau made a motion to recess at 9 p.m., and reconvene at 6 p.m. on Jan. 20, 2022 to continue the meeting. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Jan. 20, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau reconvened the meeting at 6 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen (Cookie) Hansen and Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson.

Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson reviewed the 2021 final quarter and the end of year budget. The township ended the year \$12,000 above projected receipts. This does not include ARPA funds. The expenses exceeded the receipts by \$25,000.

The projected expenses for 2021 were \$221,900. Actual expenses were \$191,650.

Croup said expenses continue to exceed receipts and there are no reserves remaining after purchasing the grader, doubled fire coverage and warranty expenses. A levy increase is necessary to cover the loss of reserved funds and to meet the demand for new equipment and increased gravel and fuel expenses.

Dawson encouraged the board to take the \$10,000 in equipment replacement funds on the books and put it in a savings account so it will remain unspent until needed.

Croup said the rules for spending the ARPA funds have changed and the township can take the money and spend it on anything except existing debt and savings accounts. There is no longer a need to calculate loss revenue and that the federal government considers all townships have experienced a revenue loss during COVID.

A motion to approve "Resolution to Spend ARPA Funds on Lost Revenue Replacement Category," Resolution 2022-02, was made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup reviewed a request from the county to explain how the \$25,000 in funds, Linda Thomson requested for completion of the town hall, would be spent. Croup said she submitted \$25,000 septic and well bills/infrastructure. The money must be spent on these items by Dec. 31, 2024, with any unspent funds returned to the county.

A motion to pay the bills, including one-fourth of the fire contract, was made Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The board discussed their attendance at the Sandstone City Council meeting where the council approved offering three-year fire contracts to the townships with consumer price index increases each of the three years.

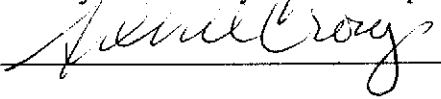
The board decided to take no action until after the city has its fire formula meeting in February.

Hinsch said he met with architect Leah Kangas and did a walk through at the town hall to determine construction needs and costs. She will be in touch with the township.

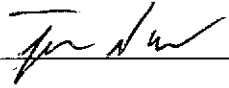
There were no planning committee minutes to review.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Feb. 3, 2022.



Chairman



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Feb. 3, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the regular meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jan. 6, 2022 Regular Meeting, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to approve the Jan. 3, 2022 Special Meeting minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Deputy Clerk Dawson reported that she had been asked questions by resident Stan Jensen about the fire formula. She explained the fire contract and how costs had increased over the years.

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

A motion was made by Thomson to pay the bills. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A discussion of the fire that destroyed Dr. Chris' building brought a request by Dorau to get a report of the fire, who was called and who arrived first.

Sandstone city's annual fire formula meeting scheduled for Feb. 7 was discussed. The board also reviewed the 3-year fire contract proposal from the city. The contract takes the 2022 fire support charges and increases it by 3 percent for each of the next three years.

Hinsch said he has no trust in the city when it comes to the fire contract.

The negotiation of the fire contract is something Thomson said she sees as an opportunity, adding the other townships throughout the state will be watching.

Dorau would like the clerk to contact Pine County Sheriff about getting fire reports from Dispatch.

Down the road, Dorau said, he'd like to ask the other townships if they're willing to stay at that number or renegotiate their contracts.

Roads

Hinsch said he has not had to contact Grinsteinner about sanding his roads.

Croup updated the board on the USDA pre-application for the construction grant. She said they need to get the architect's numbers and the cost of the project so she can finish the application.

Dorau made a motion to approve Theresa Dawson, Ailene Croup, Jan Yaste and any of the trained judges to serve as township election judges. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Following a request by the board for Croup to provide a template for orderly annexation to the planning committee, Croup contacted MAT and was informed there was none. Instead, she went through the administrative law hearings on orderly annexation and picked out a half dozen that resembled Sandstone Township and the City of Sandstone in size, population and geography. She gave those results to the planning committee for their February meeting.

Dorau asked Croup to create a resolution for the township that would keep the economic development as a function of the township and not the county.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorau at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on March 3, 2022.



Chairman



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 3, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson (and acting treasurer by Treasurer's appointment).

Dorau made a motion to recess and convene the Board of Audit meeting, at 7:05 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Thomson to approve the minutes of the Feb. 3, 2022 regular meeting. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

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

An affidavit for 1.25 hours/\$75 of work by Hinsch with his own equipment was presented with a motion by Dorau to approved, seconded by Thomson and approved 2-0-1, with Hinsch abstaining because the motion was for his work.

Hinsch made a motion to approve paying the bills, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Hinsch to approve \$400 for Cross Church for use of the building for the public accuracy test, township elections and annual meeting. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to approve the city of Sandstone's fire formula charges for 2022 and payment for the remainder of the first half. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The board discussed the grader breakdown from last month. Dorau said he spoke with VJ Polkus, from Ziegler, who said if it was an item that would have been covered on the extended warranty it would be covered. Because the work outlined in the inspection for the extended warranty has not been completed, they would extend the warranty until it was complete.

Hinsch said the technician who did the repairs lives in Pine City. He said he had a discussion with the Ziegler technician on the breakdown.

There was a discussion on the USDA grant and the architect Lea Kangas who inspected the town hall.

Thomson asked about how to get copies of the building permits and suggested a township phone for the zoning supervisor.

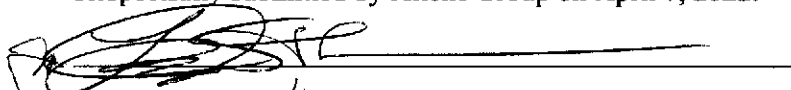

A motion was made by Dorau to approve Resolution 2022-03 Reestablishing the Polling Place for 2022. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-04 Supporting Health Care Freedom. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Planning Committee: The board's consensus was to have John Pitts finish the comprehensive plan and add the changes. They also want the planning committee to finish the zoning ordinance with the language of any non-conforming lots be those that exist before Jan. 1, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorau at 9:58 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 7, 2022.


Chairman


Sandstone Township Minutes

Board of Audit

March 3, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the Board of Audit meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson (and acting treasurer by Treasurer's appointment).

The board reviewed the 2021 Board of Audit and the Annual Meeting to compare expenditures and the amount of money received through all sources in 2021.

Discussion concerns included the cost of diesel fuel to maintain roads with a nearly 50 percent increase in the cost of fuel since this time last year. Clerk Croup said she had attended the recent county board meeting and this year's gas tax increase should cover the additional cost of fuel in 2022. There is no guarantee that distribution will carry over to 2023 because residents of the state will be driving less and filling their tanks less due to price increases. The gas tax is a per gallon tax.

The board also discussed the aging dump truck and whether they will replace it. There were \$10,000 in repairs to the dump truck in 2021 and it is only used a few months per year. The grader had a major 29-day breakdown in 2021. It was still under warranty so the replacement grader and repairs were covered. That warranty has expired and the board is waiting for a bill for the extended warranty. It will be \$14,200 up front for five years for drive train and hydraulics.

The board has negotiated a more stable 3-year fire contract over the past year. If all townships agree to the price, it will be just over \$20,000 per year plus a 3-percent increase per year. They also negotiated a higher sale price for the town hall land taken by eminent domain by MnDOT. The state's offer was rejected and the board requested \$2,600. Several months later, the state accepted the township's price.

The board talked about how to lessen the impact of an increase in taxes. There were several new housing starts in the township but not enough to lower taxes. The increased market value of property, seen this past year, could mean increased county taxes.

Clerk Croup used the last three year's budgets and actual spending to show the board where the township stands. Over the past three years, township taxes have increased \$29,000. The township still spent \$45,000 more over the past three years than they took in for taxes, timber sales, tax forfeited land sales and township aid. In 2017, \$60,000 was spent on constructing the town hall shell. The township has spent most of its reserves for the grader purchase, fire formula increases and dump truck repairs.

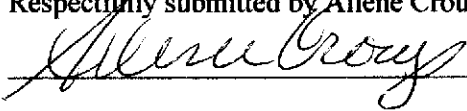
The board voted to recommend a \$16,000 increase in the township's levy for 2023 to cover increased fire protection costs, equipment replacement, fuel costs and increases in gravel prices due to the fuel costs to haul it.

They are as follows:

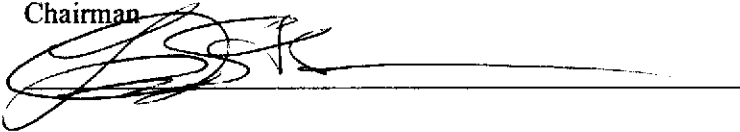
2021		2022		<u>2023</u>	
General Fund	\$44,000	General Fund	\$48,000	General Fund	\$55,000
Road and Bridge	\$40,000	Road and Bridge	\$40,000	Road and Bridge	\$42,000
Equipment	\$28,000	Equipment	\$28,000	Equipment	\$28,000
Fire	\$13,000	Fire	\$13,000	Fire	\$20,000
<hr/>					
Total	\$125,000		\$129,000		\$ 145,000

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorau at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 7, 2022.



Chairman



Sandstone Township Minutes

Board of Canvass

March 8, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the Board of Canvass meeting at 8:09 p.m.

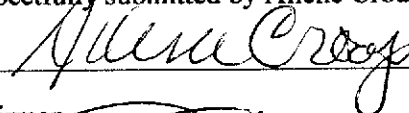
Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Election Judges Theresa Dawson and Janice Yaste and Treasurer Maureen Hansen.


Yaste reported there were 19 votes including two absentee votes. All 19 votes were cast for Jon Dorau.

Thomson made a motion to accept the election report, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 7, 2022.



Chairman 

Sandstone Township Minutes

Annual Meeting

March 8, 2022

Clerk Ailene Croup opened the Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

She called for nominations for moderator. *SKIP THOMSON WAS APPROVED AS MODERATOR*

Present were Jon Dorau, Linda Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, election judges Theresa Dawson and Janice Yaste, Morris Carlson, Darlene Carlson, Dale Wilkening, Raven Fredrick, Gary Thomson, Maury Peterson, Ruth A. Carlson, William J. Carlson, John Pitts, Donald Eaton, Keith Carlson, Bernard Marx, Cookie Hansen and Skip Thomson.

Gary Hinsch made a motion to forego reading the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, seconded by Gary Thomson and unanimously approved.

The Pledge was recited.

Linda Thomson made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Don Eaton and unanimously approved.

Election Judge Janice Yaste read the results of the township election with all 19 votes cast for Jon Dorau.

A motion was made by Keith Carlson to accept the election results, seconded by Bernie Marx and unanimously approved.

Bernie Marx asked how many parcels there were in the township and the cost per parcel for increasing the levy by \$20,000.

Skip Thomson said it would basically increase the tax by \$20 per parcel.

Ailene Croup review the American Rescue Plan Act funds received by the township and the township's application for USDA for a grant to complete the town hall.

Keith Carlson said about the town hall, "We surveyed residents and they don't want it."

Gary Thomson said it should be completed.

Gary Hinsch said some things in the building are awful.

It's going to have to be heated, Gary Thomson said.

Maury Peterson volunteered to help with the engineering.

Linda Thomson made a motion to have Maury Peterson and Jon Dorau work together on the engineering. It was seconded by Keith Carlson and unanimously approved.

Supervisors reported on the condition of the roads.

Gary Hinsch said the roads are holding up quite well. He expects complaints. Some roads have more material than others. His third of the roads are in pretty good shape.

Linda Thomson said her roads need gravel. She said she put extra gravel on Double C Road at the end of last year. Thomson Road needs gravel. She said she asked Craig Summerland to give a quote on putting fabric on Little Sand Creek Road.

Jon Dorau said the state of the roads are in pretty good shape. He said the board had \$106,000 of gravel put on the roads in the last three years. Class 5 gravel is \$163 a load and lots have been put on roads. He said the township no longer has a grading contract with Barry Township.

Jon Dorau said the grader broke down in May last year and it was a lesson on how to stay off roads when they're breaking up.

This year, Dorau said, the board is looking at doing road review earlier. He said the board relies on the grader operators to tell the board how the roads are doing.

Skip Thomson said he assumed the supervisors agreed on how much gravel to put on each road.

The board gets two or three quotes for gravel each year, Dorau said.

What happens when someone puts gravel on a road that hasn't been approved, Skip Thomson asked?

Jon Dorau said the board would be talking about it and added that most of the roads had been covered in the last four years.

Skip Thomson said he just wanted to make sure the supervisors agree to the amount of gravel put on each road each year.

What happens if there's a rain and a washout, Don Eaton asked?

That would be considered an emergency and the board can meet in that case, according to Jon Dorau.

~~Pine County History~~
~~Askov Community~~ Center houses the township's historic records. Gary Hinsch made a motion to pay them \$125 for use of the storage. It was seconded by Don Eaton and unanimously approved.

Gary Hinsch reported about the planning committee and said the township had issued 10 or 11 permits, with one housing start in 2020 and three housing starts in 2021.

Morris Carlson talked about the Cat Sanctuary saying it was not tax exempt.

Skip Thomson said he thought it was time for people to go on the internet and get zoning permits. Zoning Supervisor Gary Hinsch can always go out and do setback checks.

Gary Hinsch said he has problems with that.

This day in age, Maury Peterson said, it should be online.

During general discussion, Bernie Marx said more gravel is needed on the roads and it's going to get more expensive. He said they can't drive on clay because they slip and slide.

Morris Carlson said he thought the roads were in good shape.

The roads weren't good until a couple years ago, Skip Thomson said.

Don Eaton said the ditches need to be cleaned out and brushing needs to be done better.

Keith Carlson asked about the township's internet site and if it was taking more time to update it.

Ailene Croup said it still takes about the same amount of time and costs the same.

Bernie Marx said Thomson Road needs to be straightened at the south end. It has too much of a slope.

Gary Thomson asked about the cost of repairs to the dump truck. He said the township was going backward by \$15,000 per year. He said it was cheaper and faster to use the grader on the roads.

The truck doesn't cost that much, Gary Hinsch said. It's a backup like it has been when the grader is down.

Linda Thomson and Gary Thomson said if the truck is cheaper to run, why not run it on all the roads?

One of the reasons we have to raise the levy is because of the grader costs, Linda Thomson said.

Grader operator Keith Carlson said he and grader operator Tom Colsrud have a pretty good system.

Are there any major repairs coming up on the truck, Skip Thomson asked?

Keith Carlson said it looks pretty good. Everything has been electrical except the first problem.

Hinsch said he talked to John Deere representatives and they said all problems are electrical.

I'm worried about that levy if the grader breaks down again, said Gary Thomson. We'll have to budget for an electrical breakdown again.

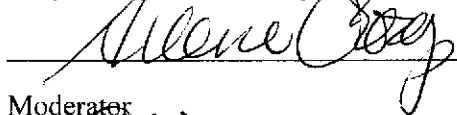
Skip Thomson asked if there was a consensus to raise the levy a minimum.

Linda Thomson said there should be a minimum of \$20,000 increase and look at it again in September before the levy is final.

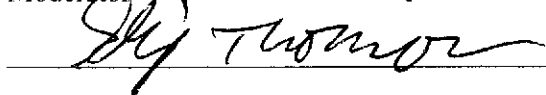
Jon Dorau made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting for March 14, 2023, 8:15 p.m., at Cross Church or at the Town Hall if it's complete. The election will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. that day, followed by the Board of Canvass and the Annual Meeting. It was seconded by Morris Carlson and unanimously approved.

Maury Peterson made a motion ^{Start} made at 9:20 p.m. to recess the Annual Meeting and reconvene on Sept. 1, 2022, at ~~North Pine Government Center~~ ^{at 8:15} at 8 p.m. It was seconded by Don Eaton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Sept. 1, 2022.



Moderator



Skip Thomson

Sandstone Township Minutes

Reorganizational and Regular Meeting

April 7, 2022

Chairman Jon Dorau opened the regular meeting at 7:04 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson and grader operator Keith Carlson.

Dorau made a motion to recess the regular meeting and convene the reorganizational meeting, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Reorganizational meeting

The first order of business was nominating a chair. When no nominations came forward, Linda Thomson nominated herself as chair. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Thomson took over the duties as Chairman.

Thomson appointed:

Gary Hinsch – Vice Chair

Gary Hinsch – Zoning Supervisor

Linda Thomson – Fire Supervisor

Jon Dorau – Noxious Weed Supervisor

Linda Thomson – Personnel Supervisor

Dorau made a motion to accept the appointments, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Chairman - \$90 regular meeting

Supervisors - \$80 regular meeting

Clerk – \$21/hour, \$80 regular meeting

Treasurer - \$21/hour, \$80 meeting

Deputy Clerk and Treasurer - \$80 regular meeting, \$20/hour

Zoning Officer - \$10 per hour plus mileage

Supervisors – non-affidavit work such as checking on roads and getting quotes State minimum wage \$8.41/hour

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

Election Judge - \$12.50 per hour plus mileage
Head election judge - \$13.50 per hour plus mileage
Planning committee pay - \$52.50 per meeting plus mileage

Dorau 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.) \$60 per hour pay to operate those machines.

Township Equipment use:

Grader - \$150 per hour
Truck - \$125 per hour

Motion by Dorau to approve the charges, 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)

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

Site permits - \$75

Dorau made a motion to approve the site permit fee, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Designations

- 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 North Pine Government Center second 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.

Policies

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 \$150 per hour with the grader and \$125 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' corrugated steel 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.

5. Grader and Truck use for other Township's Roads will be charged \$150 an hour for grader use and \$125 per hour for the truck.

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. Prior to installing new/replacement utilities, abandoned utilities must be removed.

8. Beaver bounty. Request to remove must be made to supervisor and approved prior to trapping. \$50

Dorau made a motion to approve policies 1-8, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn the Reorganizational meeting and reopen the regular meeting. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Regular meeting

The March 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Thomson, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to approve the March 3, 2022 Board of Audit minutes, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

The March 8, 2022 Board of Canvass minutes were approved on a motion by Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Public comment

Keith Carlson asked the clerk to research abandonment of the last 400 feet of Rocky C Road which, on Beacon, shows it going right up to his house. There are no residences other than his on the last 400 feet.

Carlson also commented that after looking at the list of registered voters which circulated at the March Annual Meeting, he could find no others to purge from the list.

The board reviewed the bills and Dorau will contact Ziegler to get a revised bill which supervisors believe was incorrect.

Dorau made a motion to pay the bills except the two Ziegler bills until Dorau talks to Ziegler, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

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

Thomson made a motion to approve the 3-year fire contract with the city of Sandstone, with the language removed that states the board must present the information at the annual meeting. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

There was a consensus of the board to hold a special posted meeting for road review.

The supervisors all want to meet with the engineer on completing the town hall. Thomson instructed Hinsch to get all the contractors' numbers to the clerk so she can determine an amount to complete the USDA paperwork for the grant.

Quality Homes' attorney requested a resolution of support from the township on their bid for detachment from the city of Sandstone. Croup gave the legal information from MAT attorneys on the township's participation.

She told the board a resolution of support could obligate the township for legal costs if the administrative law judge approves the detachment and the city sues.

The board of supervisors approved take a neutral stance on detachment which was approved on a motion by Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

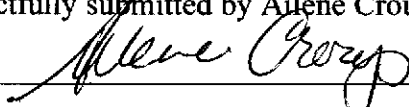
The board approved a special road review meeting for April 16, 2022, 8 a.m., beginning at the town hall on Poplar Road. The motion to approve was made by Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

There was a discussion concerning variances for two properties on United Country Road. No request had been made yet and timing was critical in order to get notices out, review by the planning committee and publication.


Croup gave the latest information on the ARPA grant.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 9:34 p.m., seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on ^{MAY 5,} April 7, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Board of Appeal and Equalization

April 12, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen Deputy Clerk, County Assessor Lorri Houtsma, Local Assessor Rich Koons, residents Forrest and Sandy Yaste, Mike and Jennifer Heide, Richard Kukuk and Morgan Yaste.

Houtsma reported that 2020-2021 was the first time recreational land exceeded agricultural land. Everything is driven by sales, she said. Sandstone Township did not see as much of an increase (in property tax) as some townships. Almost everything went up in the county because of what people are paying for property.

Koons said Pine County is kind of on the low end.

Houtsma said the sales were driven by the unrest in the Twin Cities, the pandemic and low interest rates.

This was Koons first year to work as Sandstone Township's local assessor and said he assessed the south section of the township.

Houtsma encouraged the residents to review the reverse side of their property tax statement where there is information about a special property tax refund. It applies to properties where taxes increased more than \$100 and over 12 percent.

Parcels 30.0035000, 30.0088000, 30.0021001 and 30.0026000 Marvin and Maureen Hansen – Maureen Hansen asked about Green Acres status for these parcels. Houtsma said she would be sending information on qualifying for Green Acres.

Houtsma said parcels qualifying for Green Acres would bring their estimated market value down for unproductive land.

Thomson made a motion to accept Houtsma's decision to send Green Acres info to the Hansens. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Parcel 30.0059003 Mike and Jennifer Heide – The Heide's appealed the assessors' refusal to grant them Green Acres status on the 20-acre parcel where they raise fowl.

Houtsma said in order to claim it is productive farming, they would have to increase their acreage and have an enclosure. It can't be free range.

Mike Heide said the taxes went up and there were no improvements to the house.

Houtsma said she would make no changes at this time but would send Koons out and review the property. She said she would have to go out and take a look at the property this summer. Houtsma will send a letter with the results of the review.

Thomson made a motion to accept the review of the home by Koons and the Ag by Houtsma, seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

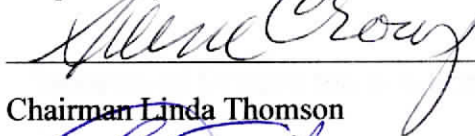
Parcel 30.00631001 Forrest and Sandra Yaste – the Yastes had questions about turning their land into conservation easement and how it would affect the value and taxes on the land.

Houtsma said it will not change the value.

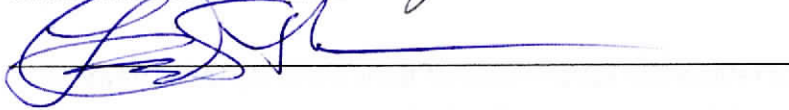
Hinsch made a motion to pay Koons' bill when it comes in, seconded by Thomson and approved 2-0.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Hinsch, approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on May 5, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township

Special Meeting Road Review'

Town Hall, April 16, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Gary Hinsch and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup and driver Gary Thomson.

The board discussed moving the roads they live on to another supervisor and felt it best to leave it as it is.

Johnson Drive – 1 load gravel at east end

Robin Street – The board drove the road to determine the condition. It's the city's year to maintain it.

United Country Court – Brushing and 1 load gravel at cul-de-sac.

Skunk Lake Rd. (West of Highway) – take a look again mid-summer

Skunk Lake Rd. (East of Highway) – 2 loads gravel. One at first driveway north and one a half mile in.

Faulkner Rd. – 2 loads gravel

Goebel Drive – pylons placed by resident halfway in. Looks good.

Svercl Rd. – 2 loads at 58194

West Fork Rd. – none

East end West Fork Rd. (min. maint. Rd.) – none

Dupuis Rd. – 6 loads gravel minimum...one at 53857, 53675 and 53241, 3 loads gravel at Halls.
Replace one culvert with 50"x30', 51090 gravel at culvert. Bad culvert at 51216.

White Oak Drive – 1 load gravel at end

Friesland Rd – None. Discuss a road agreement with Dell Grove Twp.

Eitens Lane -

Airport Rd – N/A

Old Military Rd.- 10 loads

Nurses' Rd. – 2 loads at 25521

Kettlewell Lane – None

Government Rd – Ask Rabe about their class 5 gravel on Barry Twp end. 10 loads end-to-end, south to north as needed.

Poplar Rd. – Ditching on east side plus 4 loads gravel.

Old Wagon Rd. – Pull out corduroy. 3 loads gravel. Contact DNR Clarissa Pane about sharing cost.

Anderson Drive – 2 loads east end and up to 4 loads additional.

Klejski Rd. – 10 loads class 5 gravel starting at stop sign going east

Eaton Lane – Brushing

J. Nelson Drive – 1 load gravel

Tenquist Rd. – Clean culvert at S-curve sign. 2 loads gravel.

Tenquist Trail – Up to 4 loads gravel

Bear Lane – 6 loads gravel

Kukuk Drive – 2 loads at culvert, 1 load at east driveway

Seivert Drive – 2 loads gravel in the low spot. Pull gravel in from north side.

Double C Rd. – Rocks on the east side of curve

Rocky C Rd. – 2 loads gravel

Larson Rd. – 2 rocks south of hill, 8 loads gravel, 2 rocks at swamp

Little Sand Creek Rd. – Brush south of Greenly, 30 loads gravel north of Cat Sanctuary

Thomson Rd – Curve north 2 loads up to 15 loads

Koland Rd – 2 loads east of 40992

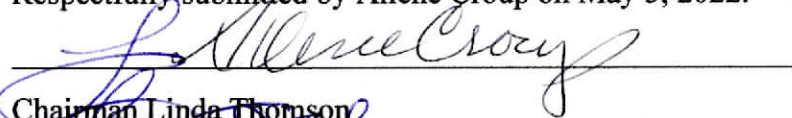
Wild Blueberry Lane - Brushing

At the end of the review, the board discussed maintaining the roads they live on.

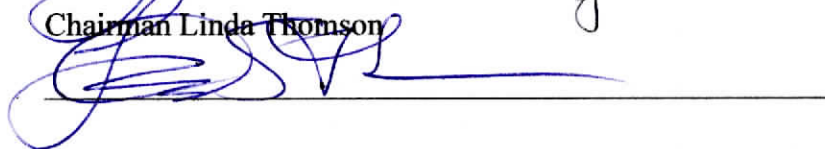
The board decided a special meeting should be called to meet with the structural engineer, any day Monday through Thursday after 6 p.m.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 12:36 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on May 5, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Special Meeting

May 4, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the special meeting at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, resident Gary Thomson, Sandstone Twp. Planning Committee member Maury Peterson, engineer Bill Becklin and his assistant. Supervisor Jon Dorau was absent.

The special meeting was a walk through the town hall to determine what needs to be done to make it usable as a town hall with the recommendations of the engineer and the cost to apply for the USDA grant.

Linda Thomson asked if there were consequences for the cement slab if the office space and bathroom were the only parts heated. She said she had been told it could heave up if the temperatures were different between the garage and office since it is all one slab.

Becklin said it would not be a problem to heat just one side and they could use forced air heating. He said if a stairway was built to the area above the office, it would require posting that there was a weight limit of 40-50 pounds per square foot on the ceiling above the office.

The bathroom could be added inside and a hole drilled through the cement for the septic pipes. Becklin said it also could be an outside add on to the building.

Hinsch talked about the points in the building corners where the metal didn't meet. Becklin said they could be blocked and added that paneling wouldn't do. They would have to use $\frac{5}{8}$ inch drywall. He also said no firewall would be required between the office and garage.

Becklin asked about the rating of the wood used in the trusses. Hinsch explained he was never able to get a building plan from the former supervisor. Becklin recommended going to the lumber store for a list of the materials used. And, if it doesn't meet code, it should be fixed.

The 2x6s in the garage walls need to be braced and strapped properly. When asked he suggest two construction firms, DKN construction, in Mora, and Kotek, in Pine City. Becklin said the repairs need to get the building structurally sound would be \$20,000 - \$30,000.

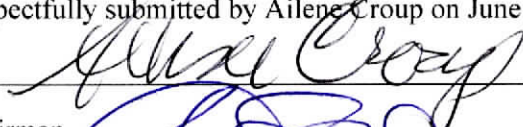

He said not to contact contractors because the quotes need to be apples to apples. Linda Thomson said one person to general who contacts subs and have Ailene Croup contact the generals with a letter. Quotes for spray foam insulation were also discussed.

Hinsch will get the materials list from Lampert and Croup will get the information to Becklin who will give details for work and estimates.

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Thomson at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on June 2, 2022.

Chairman

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 5, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, residents Rita Schumacher, Matt Ludwig, Deb Ludwig, Sandra Yaste, Forrest Yaste, Rod Lavin(?), Marvin Mix, Joe Jacobson and Don Eaton.

Public Comment

Sandra Yaste commented on Government Road saying “kids fly through there” and something needs to be done.

Rod Levin said Kettlewell Road needs class 5 (gravel) and there’s a smashed culvert.

Marvin Mix said the grader operator dug in deep and got it back in shape.

Matt Ludwig said people are driving around the bad spots on Government Road and he wanted to know what the road plan is.

Forrest Yaste – concerning Government Road – Nothing’s been done to bring the road back to the shape it should be in. He said the township should fix it a piece at a time.

Rita Schumacher said people are dumping trash along Government Road.

Linda Thomson said the board had completed their spring road review and culvert and gravel needs have been identified.

Marvin Mix said there is no crown on Dupuis Road. He said he took his truck and fixed some holes and said the road needs to be narrower.

The minutes of the April 7, 2022 regular meeting were approved on a motion from Hinsch, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved. Minutes of the Board of Appeal meeting on April 12, 2022 were approved unanimously on a motion from Thomson and seconded by Hinsch. The special April 16, 2022 Road Review minutes were approved unanimously on a motion from Dorau and seconded by Thomson.

The board approved the treasurer’s report.

A motion to pay the bills included payments to local assessor Rich Koons for \$6,046.50, Minnesota Power for \$21.21 and engineer Bill Becklin for \$550. Also included in the motion was payment to Ziegler for the extended warranty for \$14,200, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup told the board County Assessor Lorri Houtsma had forgotten to bring the appeals filed at the county to the May 12 Board of Appeal. Croup said she emailed Houtsma that the board would expect the assessor to explain to those two residents that the mistake was the county’s since the appeals won’t be addressed until June at the county’s appeal and equalization meeting.

The board received the revised 3-year contract, 2023-2025, with the city of Sandstone for fire protection. It was unanimously approved, with the wording revisions, on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Hinsch.

Hinsch made a motion to put the latest version of the zoning ordinance on the website with the site permit, seconded Thomson and unanimously approved.

Board discussed blighted property on the north side of Highway 61 S., on the west side of I-35.

Thomson believes it is a public health hazard due to the debris and old vehicles. It is not large enough to be considered a building site and was so noted to the realtor who sold it. It is zoned seasonal recreational which means it is not a year around residence. Thomson felt a formal letter to the county health and welfare department was warranted. She said it would be up to the department head to determine if it meets the criteria as a health hazard. There is no sewer at the site and appears to have year around residents.

The board discussed the 5.4.22 building inspection by the engineer. Dorau said he'd like to talk to people about the building and give it to the planning committee to look at.

Thomson said there needs to be a centralized place where there's access to things like building permits. The board needs to be able to access documents during meetings.

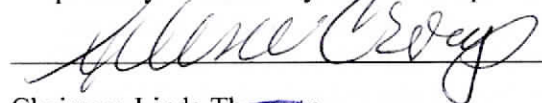
The engineer will produce a report that the township must purchase for \$2,700. It outlines the work needed for the town hall. Thomson made a motion to get the engineer's report, Hinsch seconded the motion. It was approved 2-0-1 with Doran abstaining.

Dorau reported that Trent Rabe's gravel was now \$165 a load. He made a motion to approve the road work and gravel purchase as determined at the April 2022 road review, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.


Dorau said one property owner on Eaton Lane wanted a culvert put in on the road. Dorau said there are no permanent residences and it's a minimum maintenance road. It needs ditching to be effective.

A motion to adjourn was made by Thomson at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on June 2, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

June 2, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau (attended by phone due to last minute health issues) and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, residents Sandra Yaste, Forrest Yaste, Joe Jacobson, Don Eaton and Gary Thomson.

Public Comment

Sandra Yaste told the board she would like information on the cost to repair roads. She would like the board to get estimates for the annual meeting so she knows how much the township needs to increase the levy.

Don Eaton said beaver are working in the culvert on Bear Lane.

The condition of the roads was discussed at length.

Gary Thomson said he drove the board around for road review, in April, and they drove every road in the township. He said he was on Government Road this evening and he drove 35 mph down the road and 40 mph on the way back. It was in pretty good condition despite needing gravel in a couple places.

Linda Thomson said the worst road right now is Little Sand Creek Road.

Joe Jacobson said a culvert is needed at Nurses and Government Roads.

Forrest Yaste said the intersection of Nurses and Government Road needs the culvert increased in size. He said both roads were washed out and had water over them this spring.

Gary Hinsch said he had an estimate to put a 4-inch mat of gravel on the 2.4 miles of Government Road and the estimate was \$53,000.

Linda Thomson said it's impossible to predict where frost boils will be each year. And, the township needs to find a way to reclaim more of the gravel from the ditches.

Forrest Yaste said the north quarter mile of Government Road is terrible. He said the township needs to get a bid to fix the problem. He said when we go to the meeting when the levy is set, we don't have the data you have.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

The chair asked Croup to get the payment date changed for the AT&T bill.

Linda Thomson mentioned that solar energy may be an option for the town hall completion.

The board consensus was that Linda Thomson and Ailene Croup should attend the detachment hearing for Quality Homes to be held, at Sandstone City Hall, on July 7, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Dorau informed the board that Summerland's gravel prices have increased. He said Trent Rabe had a minimal price increase and is holding prices down for the first roads.

Linda Thomson said she got in touch with Summerland. She also talked to grader operator Keith Carlson. She said Carlson wants a guaranteed amount to do crushing in his pit. She didn't know how that would work.

Hinsch said he talked to Pine County land manager Caleb Anderson about the county's ditch which runs next to Dupuis Road and affects that road. He will be talking to the DNR about the culvert replacement program.

Hinsch said he has cleared out around the culvert on Nurses Road.

Linda Thomson said she was not opposed to paying someone to determine the cost of repairing roads. The board outlined the worst roads as Little Sand Creek, Government Road, Bear Lane and Tenquist Road.

Linda Thomson reported they had not signed and sent the fire contract yet. Croup noted the most recent fire report from the city was a tree down on the road for which the department responded.

Linda Thomson said she talked to Commissioner Matt Ludwig and he is not going to have Health and Human Services help with the blighted property on Hwy. 61.

Gary Hinsch said if it meets the criteria for a junk yard, it has no permit. He will contact MPCA about it.

Linda Thomson posed the question of whether the roads would be better if they were graded more often and should there be a minimum of times they are graded.

Dorau said he didn't know if the board could set an exact number. Right now, the East roads are graded Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and the West roads are graded Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Linda Thomson said some guidelines would be good.

Dorau said once it's set up and good, you don't have to touch the roads. There's a point when they get dry that you leave it alone.

Linda Thomson said she would like zoning and site permits to come in front of the board monthly and have it on the agenda.

Croup said she would start bringing special assessment inquiries to the board monthly.

The board reviewed the planning committee's recommendations on orderly annexation. She said they need to discuss parameters with the township's attorney and go down to his office saving the cost of

him coming to a meeting. The board members can submit questions to the clerk so they can cover as much material as possible.

Hinsch made a motion to accept the planning committee's recommendations on orderly annexation, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson made a motion to appoint herself and Ailene Croup to negotiate the orderly annexation with the city of Sandstone, with Jon Dorau and Theresa Dawson as alternates. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Hinsch made a motion to set a special meeting for June 16, 2022 at the town hall to discuss orderly annexation, zoning and crushing gravel. Additional agenda items will be sent to Croup before it's posted, to meet the 5-day requirement. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup was asked to find out about the township prebuying gravel from an employee from the Minnesota Association of Township's attorney.

The board discussed zoning options. Linda Thomson said planning committee Chairman Skip Thomson doesn't think the board should allow any single-wide trailers in the township. Linda Thomson said mobile homes are a part of an impoverished community.

Hinsch said mobile homes were a concern. They should have a septic system and be on a slab. We don't want to allow anything over 5-10 years old and the same with replacements. And, old trailers must be removed completely from the property. Thomson said the board needed to make a decision at some point.

Dorau said he was in favor of 15-years-old being the maximum with a foundation or slab.

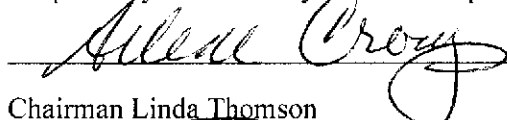
Linda Thomson said the decision should be made at the next meeting and the board can make a stipulation of skirting and permanent foundation.

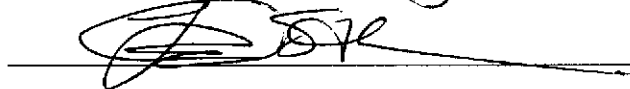
A motion was made by Gary Hinsch to approve the reappointment of John Pitts on the planning committee. Dorau seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The supervisors will come to the next meeting with candidates to fill the empty seat on the committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorau, at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on July 7, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson


Sandstone Township Minutes

Special Meeting at Town Hall

June 16, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and resident Gary Thomson. Supervisor Jon Dorau was absent.

Linda Thomson began with the orderly annexation (OA) discussion and the answers provided by Attorney Peter Tiede. She said the board should reach out to the city and request a date to meet about orderly annexation.

Having the committee meet with the board to discuss the OA. The questions and answers will be sent to the planning committee.

A recent variance request was brought to Linda Thomson by a landowner who was unhappy about not being given a variance. It triggered discussion of the variance procedure.

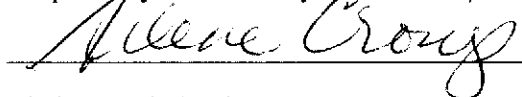
The zoning ordinance will be on the July 2022 agenda.

The board approved having Don Eaton continue as planning committee alternate until a replacement can be appointed. Linda Thomson made the motion to appoint Eaton as an alternate, seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

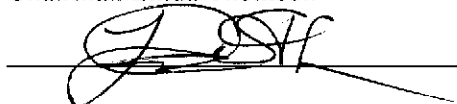
Linda Thomson said she had a request from Keith Carlson for \$50,000 to crush gravel at his pit. She said Carlson told her the township would not be able to get the gravel until September and the board could do it if they used the ARPA funds. Linda Thomson said she told Carlson the ARPA funds were set to be used to complete the town hall construction. She said the town hall needed structural work for its safe use.

A motion to adjourn was made by Hinsch at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on July 7, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

July 7, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Jon Dorau and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, residents Mike Greely, Don Eaton, Maury Peterson Gary Thomson and John Pitts.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 2, 2022, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of June 16, 2022, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The planning committee recommended approval of the Greenly variance in the North Oaks subdivision. Hinsch made a motion to approve the variance, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

The treasurer's report was unanimously approved on a motion by Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch.

There were errors on the Rabe gravel bill. The board approved payment of the bills and the adjusted bill Rabe bill when it is received on a motion made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved

Roads

Hinsch discovered that the county has a ditch, Friesland Ditch, which flows under three of the township roads, Dupuis, Government and Nurses Road. He said erosion is progressing around the culverts that divert that ditch under Dupuis Road. Hinsch has made several attempts to get the county to address the problem by talking to the assistant county engineer and Commissioner Matt Ludwig. He said they have denied it is the county's responsibility.

Minnesota Association of Townships' Attorney Steve Fenske sent a legal decision about a similar instance where the water authority was ordered to compensate a township for the repairs.

The boards' consensus was that Hinsch ask to be put on the county's agenda for their July 19, 2022 regular meeting to have discussion of the ditch on record from the county.

Linda Thomson discussed Little Sand Creek Road. She had received an estimate from Craig Summerland about repairs to the road. The estimate was for several sections totaling 1,400 ft., at \$27,580. He said he would move the gravel to the sides and lay fabric and heavier material and cover with class 5.

Thomson said she was not aware of any grants to do the project. She will bring the cost of repair to the annual meeting and stated that they would have to plan each year to a little bit on each road.

Dorau said Rabe is nearly finished with his roads. Kukuk and Tenquist roads need gravel. He said the ditching on Poplar Road still hadn't been completed. If Hessenius doesn't complete the project by the end of July, Dorau said he would be contacting Rabe to do the work. He said Poplar Road ditching needs to be finished this year and next year they can look at Little Sand Creek, Thomson and Government Roads.

The blighted property on Hwy 61 can be given notice of cleanup according to attorney Tiede, Linda Thomson said.

A motion to approve the liquor license for Countryside Campground a\$390 township licensing fee was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0-1. Dorau abstained.

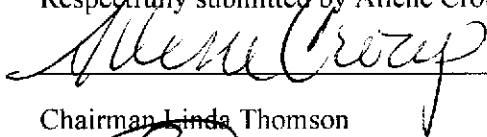
The board will continue to look for candidates to fill the planning committee member and alternate vacancies.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve administrator Ailene Croup, head judges Janice Yaste, Nancy Peterson and Theresa Dawson and election judges Gary Hinsch, Cookie Hansen, Darlene, Irene Thomson, Don Eaton, Judy Magnuson, Maury Peterson, Forrest Yaste and Sandy Yaste. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

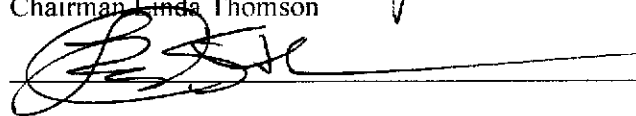
The board approved purchase of two minimum maintenance signs and posts for Wild Blueberry Road and Eaton Lane and installation by the county. The motion was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Hinsch, at 9:06 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 4, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Emergency Meeting

July 11, 2022

At 2:40 p.m., Vice-Chairman Gary Hinsch opened the emergency meeting held at the Victory Station. Attending were Hinsch, Linda Thomson by phone, Clerk Ailene Croup and Supervisor Jon Dorau called in at the end of the meeting.

On July 10, 2022, strong winds knocked down trees on four Sandstone Township roads.

Croup notified Hinsch on July 11, 2022 that she'd had several calls for trees down on roads. Linda Thomson was out of town and Dorau was work in another area of the county.

Croup and Hinsch drove the roads to find trees blocking roads. Koland Road, Old Wagon Road, Klejeski Road and Tenquist Road all had trees down.

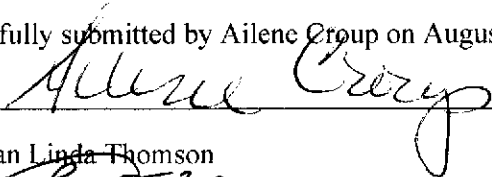
Croup called for Linda Thomson to arrange an emergency meeting. Dorau did not respond because of his location.

Thomson made a motion to spend up to \$4,000 to have the trees removed, Hinsch seconded the motion and roll call vote was take. Thomson – yes, Hinsch – yes. Motion passed 2-0

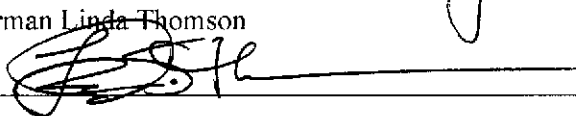
A motion to adjourn was made by Hinsch, at 2:55 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and approved by roll call vote, Hinsch – yes, Thomson - yes. Motion passed 2-0.

Dorau called in and Croup said she had driven Sievert Road and found some washed out areas.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 4, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

August 4, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Jon Dorau and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Maureen Hansen.

Dorau made a motion to approve the July 7, 2022 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The minutes of the July 11, 2022 special meeting were unanimously approved on a motion from Thomson and seconded by Dorau.

The treasurer's report was unanimously approved on a motion by Dorau and seconded by Thomson.

Gary Hinsch presented an affidavit for 2 hours of tree removal done for the township on July 11, 2022, following the storm blow down. Thomson made a motion to approve the affidavit, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Hinsch abstained because he was the subject of the motion.

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

Croup updated the board on the local assessor's increase in per parcel assessing from \$7.25 to \$10. She also noted the township has paid almost as much in fuel for the grader through June as they did all of 2021.

She explained the unknown fuel costs for 2023 and the expected decrease in the state's gas tax distribution will push the need for a levy increase next month. Also, adding to the increased need in taxes will be the cost of gravel which is driven by the fuel costs.

Thomson said the board needs to balance the budget and can't continue to overspend.

Hinsch said he told the county the township can't afford to put gravel on the roads, when he spoke at the July county board meeting.

A motion was made by Thomson to follow the state's minimum wage increase from \$8.42 to \$10.33 for supervisor's work. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup said she had received a call from Marie Randolph who has land on the west side of 123 where it heads north. Croup talked to the planning chair, Skip Thomson who said that area is in Zone 2 and only requires a 5-acre minimum split. She confirmed all setbacks conform to the current 35-foot requirement. Linda Thomson let her know in an email that she would be okay to have the county split off that portion of her land.

Roads - Hinsch said he had received a call from Dan O'Flanagan of Dell Grove Twp. who wants to put gravel on the Eiten Lane which is a shared road. The consensus was for Hinsch to direct Dell Grove to send a contract that would outline the maintenance of the road with the two townships.

Linda Thomson said Craig Summerland is holding off on graveling Little Sand Creek Road. She said one rock had popped up in the road.

Dorau said Ronnie Roberts has a gravel reclaimer.

Poplar Road still needs ditch work done. Hessenius was scheduled to do it two years ago. Dorau will arrange it with Trent Rabe if Hessenius can't do it.

Hinsch reported all trees were removed from the township's roads following the July 10 blow down. He said Elliott's got everything handled and they did it for less than \$2,000. There were about a dozen trees on four roads.

An emergency meeting had to be held because two supervisors were out of town and there was no way to approve the expense. A resolution allowing a supervisor to authorize up to \$25,000, with the approval of the clerk, who can verify the funds are available and the work is necessary, was created. The board unanimously approved Resolution 2022-05 Authorizing Supervisor's Expenditure of Township Funds in Case of an Emergency. The motion was made by Linda Thomson and seconded by Hinsch.

Thomson and Hinsch reported on their presentation concerning the Friesland ditch which runs under three of the township's roads and the erosion it is causing on Dupuis Road, at the county board's July meeting. Thomson said the county's assistant engineer said the road has gotten too wide from the gravel being pushed off to the sides and that is causing the problem. The county refused to take responsibility, she said.

Hinsch had been given case law that address the situation and it states the water authority, the county, is responsible for the damages caused by the culvert/ditch. Hinsch also said the place, residents on Government Road complained about the water going over the road, was where the county's ditch flowed under. He talked about contacting an engineer to who knows District 3 Watershed.

Zoning ordinance - The board reviewed the updated planning committee changes in the zoning ordinance. Dorau said he would prefer trailer home age to be no older than 15 years.

Dog breeders would have to apply for an interim use permit. Dorau said the board doesn't want to discourage business. Thomson said Section 8K can address the breeds of dogs that can cause problems and restrictions can be inserted.

The board unanimously approved a contract with Richard Koons as local assessor at \$10 per parcel for 2023. The motion was made by Thomson and seconded by Hinsch.

Theresa Dawson went through the second quarter budget.

There will be a public hearing on the Haley Roberts variance in North Oaks and a notice will be published in the Courier. The board may need to set a special meeting to handle the planning committee's recommendations for the variance. Croup will schedule the NPGC room for mid September.

Thomson made a motion to put Maury Peterson on the orderly annexation committee, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Thomson, at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Sept. 1, 2022.

Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Sept. 1, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Jon Dorau and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer

Maureen Hansen residents Bernie Marx, Don Eaton, Joe Jacobson, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste, Gary Thomson, Keith Carlson and Skip Thomson.

The meeting was recessed at 7:06 p.m. to be reconvened following the second half of the Annual Meeting.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the public forum.

Keith Carlson asked why the supervisors didn't take care of the trees that were blown down on the township's roads in July 10th storm.

Croup said one of the roads was cleared by Gary Hinsch because there was no other way out of Old Wagon Road. According to legal requirements, the township must hire the work done.

The treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Clerk Croup gave an update and printout of the results from the primary election. She talked about the increased traffic at the township's website and reported the signed 3-year fire formula had been given to the city of Sandstone.

Hinsch reported on his presentation to the county concerning the county's Friesland Ditch, its culvert and damage on Dupuis Road resulting from lack of upkeep on the culvert. He said the county board and the county's assistant engineer denied responsibility even though there was case law mirroring a similar incident where a county, as the water authority, was held responsible for the damage.

Eiten Lane is a shared boundary road with Dell Grove Township. Sandstone and Dell Grove Townships have no road maintenance contract. Croup had drawn up a sample contract for the board to review at Hinsch's request.

Dorau talked about Poplar Road ditching still incomplete after two summers. He would be talking to Hessenius about getting the ditching done once more. Dorau said Trent Rabe could not get to it this year.

The discussion turned to Keith Carlson doing the ditching with the grader. He will do it if Hessenius can't.

The board reviewed the latest updates to the zoning ordinance and added the interim use permit.

Alternative energy such as solar fields and windmills were reviewed and their affect on surrounding properties. The board would like an interim use permit to be required for energy fields.

Linda Thomson asked Jon Dorau to take her place on the orderly annexation committee with Ailene Croup and Maury Peterson. Dorau agreed to take her place.

Following the board's discussion, Linda Thomson made a motion to divide the 2023 levy of \$204,000 into these funds, road and bridge \$90,000, general, \$60,000, fire \$24,000 and equipment \$30,000. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The board asked Croup to contact Gerald Schmidt, Brett Paige, Jeff Nelson and Rob Sahlen to give quotes to do the town hall structural repairs necessary to prepare it for completion. Dorau asked for the quotes to be sent to him.

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Thomson, at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Oct. 6, 2022.

Ailene Croup

Chairman Linda Thomson

Vice Chair GARY HINSE

Prosser

Sandstone Township Minutes

Second Half Annual Meeting

Sept. 1, 2022

Clerk Ailene Croup opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. and Skip Thomson who was nominated as moderator at the first half of the Annual Meeting was on hand to continue with the second half.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Jon Dorau and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Maureen Hansen, residents Bernie Marx, Don Eaton, Joe Jacobson, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste, Gary Thomson, Keith Carlson and Skip Thomson.

Croup read the minutes from the first half of the Annual Meeting and Gary Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup reviewed the half year budget and, using Hansen's report, showed how much had been spent on fuel for grading roads. She said the township had already spent as much money at the mid-year budget on fuel as had been spent totally in 2021 due to the increase in diesel prices. The township's local assessment charges are increasing from \$7 to \$10 per parcel, town aid from the state will be cut in half and the county is taking 10 percent more of the tax-forfeited and timber funds.

She told the electors/residents that the board had discussions about the worst roads in the township made it possible to outline which roads needed the most work. Several spots in these roads need reconstruction and Croup said she had asked County Engineer Mark LeBrun the approximate cost to reconstruct a mile of gravel road. She said LeBrun said about \$100,000 per mile.

Keith Carlson asked about the three roads and Croup said they had discussed Little Sand Creek, Government and Tenquist Roads.

Gary Hinsch said there were 2.4 miles of Government Road in the township.

Linda Thomson said a quarter mile on Little Sand Creek had been marked as needing reconstruction.

Jon Dorau said there is no need for reconstruction on Tenquist Road.

Bernie Marx said the only way to repair Government Road is to build it up.

Linda Thomson said she had discussed Little Sand Creek Road with contract grader operator Craig Summerland who said years earlier they had repaired portions of Little Sand Creek Road by removing the material from the top and laying fabric down and putting additional material over it. He had told her those spots have held up.

Forrest Yaste asked if all of Sand Creek Road would have to be reconstructed and Linda Thomson said no.

Sandy Yaste talked about doing reconstruction on the roads needing it. She said Barry Township had fixed their end and there was someone walking in front of a machine pointing out the rocks and they were removed.

Linda Thomson said first the town board would have to cover their budget rather than spending more than they took in. Clerk Croup had outlined in her report to the township that over the past three years, the township had spent \$45,000 than it had taken in.

Skip Thomson said the large rocks in Government Road could be dug up and the holes filled with gravel.

A 10-year road plan was suggested by Linda Thomson.

Barry Township had dug out the rocks on their township's end of Government Road. She said that is an easy fix and the township should just do it.

Gary Hinsch said the board had discussed putting solid red rock gravel on Government Road and he get a price of \$56,000 to complete that work. He said the township did not have that kind of money.

Skip Thomson said they should be able to identify where the rocks are.

Keith Carlson asked if American Rescue Plan Act Money could be used for the roads.

Croup told him the board had voted to use the money to complete the town hall which is in questionable shape and needs structural repairs to keep it from being damaged due to poor construction.

There needs to be a reserve of funds and road work needs to be done along with covering deficit spending, Sandy Yaste said.

Croup had supplied a document showing the cost of increasing the township's levy in increments up to \$75,000.

Sandy Yaste made a motion to increase the levy \$75,000 in 2023. Bernie Marx seconded the motion.

Skip Thomson called for additional discussion.

Jon Dorau said his taxes would go way up with a \$75,000 increase and that he has several parcels that would be affected,

More taxes are paid to the schools, Bernie Marx said.

The motion was called by Skip Thomson with yes votes from Bernie Marx, Don Eaton, Joe Jacobson, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste, Gary Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Linda Thomson and Skip Thomson. Voting no were Keith Carlson, Jon Dorau and Maureen (Cookie) Hansen. Moderator Skip Thomson said the motion to increase the levy \$75,000 passed 9-3.

"This is an investment in our own community," said Linda Thomson. She also said it would provide money for emergency situations.

Sandy Yaste said roads need to be the priority and are the only purpose of the township.

Linda Thomson said not only does the township take care of roads, they have additional responsibilities including elections and fire coverage.

Roads and bridges are the priority, Gary Hinsch said.

Bernie Marx asked what the orderly annexation topic concerned.

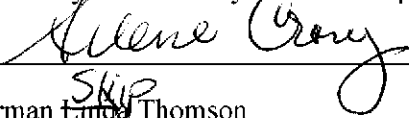
The city has made moves over the past several years including an attempt at a 2-mile extension, and development of the west side of the freeway of which all but one parcel is township. She said orderly annexation is a pre-negotiation of what the city can take and a time frame in which it can be done and what the township gets in return.

Linda Thomson said meeting with the city of Sandstone about orderly annexation can protect some of the people who would be annexed.

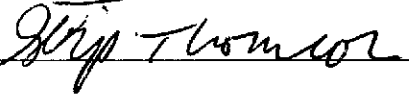
Skip Thomson said one day someone will come and develop the west side of the freeway.

Gary Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. It was seconded by Don Eaton and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Oct. 6, 2022.



Chairman ^{SKIP} Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Special Meeting

Sept. 15, 2022

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and resident Andrew Martin. Supervisor Jon Dorau was absent.

Croup read Andrew Martin's variance request for his land on United Country Court. Martin's parcel has less acreage than is allowed by the township's zoning ordinance. Martin spoke to the board regarding his request and the fact that it meets all other requirements of the ordinance.


The planning committee held a public hearing on the variance on Sept. 8, 2022 and recommended the town board approve the variance.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the variance recommended by the planning committee. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0.

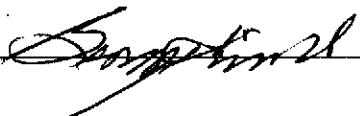
The board reviewed the latest updates on the zoning ordinance with a plan to complete any additions or changes at the October meeting and send it on to the attorney.

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Thomson, at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Oct. 6, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Oct. 6, 2022

Vice Chairman Gary Hinsch opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Jon Dorau and Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Maureen Hansen resident Don Eaton and Dell Grove Supervisor Nick Harris. Supervisor Linda Thomson was absent.

During public comment, Don Eaton informed the board that the Bear Lane's road sign and post had been taken. The county will be informed.

Dorau made a motion to approve the Sept. 1, 2022 regular meeting minutes, seconded Hinsch and approved 2-0.

The Sept. 15, 2022 special meeting minutes were approved 2-0 on a motion from Hinsch which was seconded by Dorau.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0.

A motion to pay the claims was made by Hinsch, Dorau seconded and it was approved. 2-0.

Resolution 2022-06 In Appreciation for David Koland's service to the board and township was approved on a motion by Hinsch, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0.

Nick Harris said Dell Grove would be graveling Eiten Lane. He asked if Sandstone Town Board would be interested in sharing the use of brushing equipment Dell Grove will be renting from Ziegler. Harris said they have rented it for a month and it would work out to about \$100 per hour. He said it wouldn't matter if the township wanted to use it for 20-30 hours and they may get another township to share the cost. Dell Grove will pay for the use up front.

Dorau made a motion to share the brush mower with Dell Grove Township and not to spend more than \$4,500 to brush ditches.

A preliminary contract for road work on Eiten Lane, a boundary road for Dell Grove and Sandstone Township was given to Harris to present to his board for revisions and approval. The contract would require approval of both townships for repairs and work and there would be a odd even year sharing between the two.

Harris asked what would be done about the erosion around the culvert on Dupuis Road where he lives.

Hinsch said he had talked to the county board and county engineer about replacing the culvert but the board said the erosion was not the county's responsibility and said the township would have to repair it because it was caused by the road being too wide.

Dorau reported that quite a bit of work had been done by Lee Hessenius on Poplar Road today and more would be done tomorrow.

The board and planning committee has been updating the zoning ordinance for more than a year. Dorau made a motion to send it to Attorney Peter Tiede to review it legally and make necessary changes and prepare the notices. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

After reviewing the fire report from the city, the board decided to question insurance companies as to whether they cover car fires and for what amount.

Dorau made a motion to certify the 33.72 miles of township roads to the county. Hinsch seconded and it was approved 2-0.

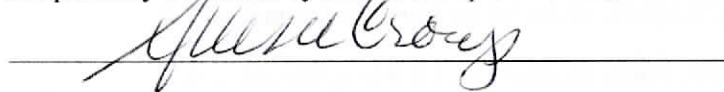
A motion was made by Dorau to approve the list of election judges and any additional the clerk would have to add to fill the election requirements. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Additional election training was being offered by the county for head election judges. Dorau made a motion to approve Theresa Dawson, Nancy Peterson, Jan Yaste and Ailene Croup to attend the training. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

The Minnesota Association of Townships is holding Board of Appeal and Equalization training for supervisors and end of year reporting for clerks and treasurers. Dorau made a motion to approve the payment for all supervisors, clerk and treasurer to take the additional training in Cotton, MN. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorau, at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Nov. 3, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ailene Croup", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Linda Thomson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Thomson", is written over a horizontal line.

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Nov. 3, 2022

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Cookie Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Nelson and Planning Committee Members Chris Nathan, Don Eaton, John Pitts and Maury Peterson. *and SKIP THOMSON*

The board reviewed the request for a variance on the Bill Nelson property located at 54597 United Country Court, Sandstone, MN 55072 parcel ID# 30.500.9000. The planning committee approved the request waiving the minimum lot size and frontage requirement.

A motion was made by Hinsch to approve the planning committee's recommendation to grant a variance for the Bill Nelson property. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve the Oct. 6, 2022 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The treasurer's report was unanimously approved on a motion from Hinsch and seconded by Thomson.

Thomson made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The board reviewed the fire contract signed by the city of Sandstone. It was not the same contract Croup delivered, signed by the township to the city. They also discussed setting a fee schedule for residential fires at the 2023 reorganizational meeting.

Resident Don Eaton had informed the board that the Bear Lane road marker had been taken along with the stop sign.

A motion was made by Hinsch to order the stop sign and road marker from the county along with installation. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Roads

Linda Thomson asked about grading Koland Road, and where Partridge Twp. graded the border road.

Hinsch said he had not heard anything yet from Dell Grove Twp. about the contract between them and Sandstone Twp. for maintenance of Eiten Lane, which the townships share.

Dorau said Poplar Road was complete including ditching.

According to Dorau, the grader operators would be brushing the roads the upcoming week and the week of Thanksgiving.

The board discussed Victor Kukuk wanting to build a road and divide his land.

Croup informed the board of someone entering the building when she was delivering packets. When she asked the person how many people had the lock code, he said a few. The board unanimously approved changing the lock code on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Hinsch. The only people granted access are the board and the grader operators.

The process for addressing site permits was brought back up for the second month along with a description to be followed by the zoning supervisor. Thomson said the process gives the board the ability

to step in if they need to complete the process. Thomson made a motion to approve the description, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The third quarter budget standing was presented to the board by Theresa Dawson. She reminded the board about make actual deposits into the equipment fund for future purchases.

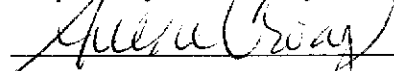
Thomson noted that the township was way over budget so far in 2022. One area was office expenses. Croup noted the unexpected need to purchase a new printer and software for the township.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the budget report, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

The board had no work slated for the planning committee for the following week.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Dec. 1, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Special Meeting/Town Board and Planning Committee

Nov. 10, 2022

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Gary Hinsch. Jon Dorau was absent. Also present were Clerk Ailene Croup, and Planning Committee Members Chris Nathan, John Pitts and Maury Peterson.

Croup handed out comments and questions from Attorney Peter Tiede who is working on the changes to the zoning ordinance.

The board and planning committee answered Tiede's questions and requested these modifications:

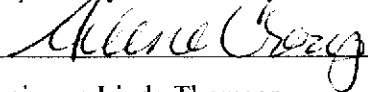
- Make sure Section 8C is emphasized that the property must be surveyed and survey lines are used to determine the property's boundaries.
- With Tiede's explanation, they want "morals" to stay in Section 1.
- The county does zoning and only in jurisdictions that request it. Sandstone Township does its own zoning.
- The planning committee and the town board are questioning whether a shared driveway is a boundary line for each residence? If so, should that be stated?
- They want the expansion only to be applied to expansion of structures on the property, not businesses. The board does not want to discourage business and does not monitor home-based businesses, though the county has been talking about it.
- The board wants the interim use permit to include uses for businesses, solar and wind fields. The attorney may have a better handle on typical uses for the interim permit. The township would like his ideas on what would be the best use of an interim permit.
- The board wants to implement Tiede's suggestion that all other forms of energy "fields" be prohibited and be addressed at the time of the request.
- The board would like solar and wind field interim permits to require surety bonds for decommissioning; they would also require annual updates on the use and an expiration date which can be extended if need be. Would a predetermined expiration date be required for an extension of the permit?

The board should create a policy on interim use permits.

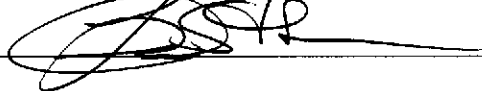
The interim use permit should only be on commercial solar or wind fields.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 8 p.m., seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Dec. 1, 2022.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Dec. 1, 2022

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Cookie Hansen.

There were no residents present for open forum.

The Nov. 3, 2022 minutes were approved on a motion from Hinsch, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held Nov. 10, 2022, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup reported the city of Sandstone responded to a Sandstone Township resident's car fire. The city billed the resident. The board would like Croup to write a letter to the city asking why they are charging for a resident's fire when they are also contracting with the township for fire service.

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

The board would like a letter to go to all employees and Ace Hardware that states who has permission to charge parts at Ace. The board approved these people, Linda Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Gene Kroschel, Keith Carlson and Tom Colsrud. Linda Thomson will pick up parts if necessary.

Hinsch let the board know the plow truck is now out at Tom Colsrud's home for the winter.

Thomson made a motion to pay the bills which was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Roads

Thomson reported that Seivert Road needs gravel.

Hinsch said his roads are in good shape.

The brushing did not get done, Dorau told the board.

Croup said she took pictures of the new culvert at the Gebhart driveway on Poplar Road, after the resident called with complaints of the gravel being washed out around it. She brought in a culvert policy courtesy of Minnesota Association of Townships.

Dorau said 8-12 inches of gravel was put over the Gebhart culvert.

The board discussed the appeal policy following the attorney's question about if there was one in place. Supervisors agree they would recess the meeting and reconvene with the planning committee the following week to get their input on the appeal policy.

The 2023 budget meeting was set for Jan. 19, 2023 if North Pine Government Center is available.

Resolution 2022-07 Designating 2023 Polling Place was approved on a motion from Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau asked Croup to send him the link to take the certification for the Board of Appeal and Equalization.

The board discussed where setbacks begin when a shoreland boundary is set. Croup will contact the Minnesota Association of Townships' attorneys.

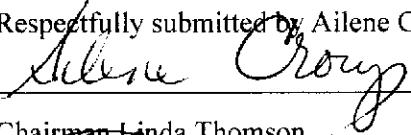
Croup said she had received a site permit, by mail, from Steve Volk. He included the cost of the permit and the fine for not following the townships' procedure of not building until the permit has been approved. Hinsch said he had talked to Volk quite a while ago but had heard back from him. Hinsch also said this is the problem with putting the permit online.

During discussion it was mentioned that the revised zoning ordinance will have a more rigid enforcement code with much larger fines for such incidents.

The board approved Croup changing the website address to a dot-org instead of a dot.com to save the domain costs.

Thomson made a motion to recess at 9 p.m., and reconvene at 7 p.m., Dec. 8, 2022 at North Pine Government Center during the planning committee meeting. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Jan. 5, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Reconvened from Dec. 1, 2022 Regular Meeting

Dec. 8, 2022

Chair Linda Thomson reconvened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Cookie Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, Planning Committee Members Chair Skip Thomson, John Pitts, Chris Nathan, Don Eaton and Maury Peterson and resident Matt Gebhart.

The town board and the planning committee reviewed the information from Attorney Peter Tiede with the latest changes on the zoning ordinance.

They discussed whether controlling expansion of a home business should require a permit.

Skip Thomson wondered at what point the town board wanted to regulate businesses. Should it be with significant change.

Maury Peterson thought there should be something in the ordinance about businesses.

It was determined that driveways that divide property should rely on the survey or the attorney could give examples if there were problems in this area.

The board and committee agreed with the attorney that solar and wind fields would require a conditional use permit and everything else concerning energy fields would be denied. It can be changed if there is a change in the future.

John Pitts asked about the wolf dog section and it was explained that the dogs can't have been bred to wolves for several generations back and be allowed in the township.

Raising fees for interim and conditional use permits was also discussed.

Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson attended the meeting to back up the Croup because she wasn't well and thought she may have to leave before the meeting was over.

A motion was made by Hinsch to pay Dawson for the meeting. It was seconded by ^{LINDA THOMSON} Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Matt Gebhart talked about wash out around his culvert which was installed this past fall. He believed it was too shallow.

Jon Dorau confirmed there were communications lines in the ditch that made it impossible to dig the ditch deeper.

Linda Thomson said the township policy is that the homeowner buys the culvert and has it installed by a trained, insured installer.

The board agreed to have Gebhart hire someone to ^{RE-INSTALL The existing culvert} install and do the culvert work on a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 8 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Jan. 5, 2023.

Ailene Croup

Chairman Linda Thomson

[Signature]
