

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

North Pine Government Center

Jan. 4, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Jon Dorau, clerk Ailene Croup, treasurer Maureen Hansen residents Matt Gebhart, Andrew Rypkema, Sandra Yaste, Forrest Yaste, Keith Carlson, Ruth Carlson, Don Eaton, Jonn Mans and Skip Thomson and Dell Grove Twp supervisor Nick Harris.

Croup shared the letter of resignation received from Supervisor Gary Hinsch. The board had been notified of Hinsch's resignation and that they would need to appoint his replacement.

Dorau asked why the board would want to fill the position immediately.

The board would have a special budget meeting in two weeks, the fire formula were coming up in February and any transfer of funds would require a unanimous decision of a full board, Croup listed as reasons for filling the supervisor's position as soon as possible.

Linda Thomson nominated Matt Gebhart to fill the open supervisor's seat. Jon Dorau nominated Andrew Rypkema. Croup did not offer a candidate for nomination.

Thomson made a motion to appoint Matt Gebhart to fill Hinsch's seat, Croup seconded the motion stating that Hinsch recommended Gebhart to her to fill his seat, the motion passed on a 2-1 vote with Dorau voting no.

There was no vote taken on appointing Rypkema.

Gebhart accepted the appointment and was sworn in.

Skip Thomson said Gebhart's appointment would leave a vacant seat on the planning committee.

Water was seeping in between the cement slab and the block above it at the town hall. And water was leaking around one of the windows. Contractor Jason Monson made the repairs in order to complete the town hall construction.

A motion was made by Gebhart, Linda Thomson seconded the motion to approve additional work on the town hall beyond what was stated in the contract. The total bill was \$1,950. It was approved unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Gebhart to pay the bills including the Dell Grove Twp bill for work on Eiten Lane. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

The board discussed Government Road and narrowing it by bringing in the shoulders.

The board discussed brushing several roads because there was no snow. Croup said they should wait until after the budget meeting so they knew how much money they had to work with.

The board approved up to \$500 to have Skip Thomson brush sections of roads to see how much could be done with that amount of money. Motion to approve was made by Dorau, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Chair Thomson said Supervisor Gebhart would take charge of Hinsch's roads for now.

The board approved resolution 2024-01 closing the west end of Old Wagon Road for four months since there was nothing open beyond the last driveway. It will prevent people getting stuck in the snow. The motion was made by Linda Thomson and seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The board was informed that Anderson Recycling voluntarily picked up the tires lying beside Old Wagon Road at no cost to the township.

Croup said FEMA had repaid work done during the flood emergency from April 2023. She had finished the last requirement and the check had been received.

Linda Thomson said the Hollihans who have property on Bear Lane have requested a site permit for a garage with plumbing and a kitchen.

Chair of the planning committee, Skip Thomson, said they can have a bathroom but no kitchenette.

Linda Thomson said according to the zoning ordinance they would be required to subdivide and follow the setbacks in order to have another residence on the same property. She will be sending them a notice that states the requirements.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to deny the Hollihan site permit, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The Wildcat Sanctuary submitted a permit for permanent structures to house cats following the zoning ordinance requirements. A motion to approve was made by Dorau, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Dorau said the Wildcat Sanctuary has plans to build on the Danforth side of Little Sand Creek Road.

Croup told the board the request she made to the county for \$25,000 to aid with the building of the town hall has been sent to the township. She submitted building receipts for the well, septic and bathroom bills for reimbursement by the county with their ARPA funds.

Dorau made a motion to have up to 75 township election ballots made by the county, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The board discussed the new Earned Sick and Safe Time law requirement by the state and how it will affect the budget for 2024.

Croup informed the board that the Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7 p.m., at North Pine Government Center. The board agreed to the time, date and place.

Dorau said the township's plow/dump truck has the king pins out and needs \$3,000 in repairs right now. He said Gene Kroschel got two estimates.

Linda Thomsons said it was just a couple years ago that the township spent \$10,000 in repairs to the plow truck and she wasn't interested in spending any additional repair money on it.

Dorau said the game plan should be to have another truck.

Gebhart said the plow truck is only used a couple months of the year.

Linda Thomson said Scott Trenholm is going to be trained to operate the grader.

The township residents can wait a little longer to get plowed out for a few more winters, Gebhart said.

Grader operator Keith Carlson said it takes about 24 hours to get all the township roads plowed.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to appoint Andrew Rypkema to the planning committee. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart will take over Hinsch's responsibilities on the planning committee.


Croup asked the board to recognize the years of service by Darlene Carlson as an election judge for the township. She said Carlson was a great teacher and always ready to serve and offer her expertise.

At 9:08 p.m., Dorau/made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Feb. 1, 2024.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Special Budget Meeting Minutes

North Pine Government Center

Jan. 18, 2024

Vice Chair Jon Dorau opened the special budget meeting at 6:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Dorau and Matt Gebhart, clerk Ailene Croup, treasurer Maureen Hansen residents Sandra Yaste and Morgan Yaste.

Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson presented the 2023 4th Quarter and year-end review.

The board noted expenses in the payroll and road and bridge budgets that were well over 100 percent of the project expenditures for 2023.

The board noted the harsh winter and spring flooding, both declared disaster accounted for much of the added expense.

Croup added \$10,000 less than the projected gas tax had been received from the state and that they were short \$6,500 in levy payments accounting for some of the budget shortfall for 2023.

Following itemized review of 2023 receipts and disbursements, the board set the 2024 budget at \$272,180.

The board decided to have maintenance personnel Scott Trenholm remove the township 16 stored culverts from former supervisor Gary Hinsch's residence and have the taken to the town hall property within the next 14 days.

Supervisor Gebhart had talked with HSEM (Homeland Security Emergency Management) about reimbursing the cost of tree and brush removal from the December 2022 declared snowstorm disaster. He had also reviewed the downed trees with Carlson Timber and they had agreed to invoice the job and accept 25 percent of the cost of the job and wait for payment from HSEM.

Gebhart will wait for there total cost before he brings it back to the board.

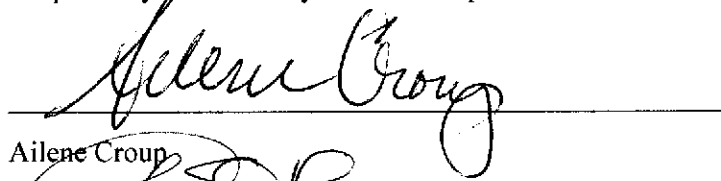
Croup applied for a 12-month extension so the work could be done when the township has the funds to cover the 25 percent.

Linda Thomson had gone to a used office furnishings store and purchased chairs and desks for the township at very little cost.

The board reaffirmed five additional hours of work from Theresa Dawson to organize disaster paperwork.

At 7:49 p.m., Dorau/made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Feb. 1, 2024.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

North Pine Government Center

Feb. 1, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart, clerk Ailene Croup, treasurer Maureen Hansen residents, maintenance Scott Trenholm, residents Rita Schumacher, Forrest Yaste and visitors Peggy Brant and Steve Fischer.

Rita Schumacher spoke during public comment about the tree removal on Government Road.

Peggy Brant, resident of Danforth Twp wanted the south end of Little Sand Creek Road abandoned and she wanted to gate the south end to keep people from traveling across her land.

The board vote to approve Resolution 2024-02 making the south end of Little Sand Creek Road after the last residence, a minimum maintenance road. The motion was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The minutes of 1.4.24 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Thomson and seconded by Gebhart.

Dorau made a motion to approved the minutes of the 1.18.24 special meeting, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The board had a consensus to continue putting tabs on the dump truck. They also discussed the over-billing by the city of Sandstone for the 2023 fire protection.

Dorau motioned to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Thomson said she purchased used chairs and desks to furnish the town hall and was donating the purchase to the township.

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

Gebhart brought an offer from Carlson Timber to remove the trees from the December 2022 snowstorm on the 33 miles of township roads. He said the estimate was \$95,000 to \$98,000 and would do less at the board's request.

He said Carlson Timber agreed to accept a 25 percent down payment and wait for the remaining bill until the township is reimbursed by Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM).

The board discussed how to pay the estimated \$25,000 down payment.

Croup said the ARPA fund will have about \$13,000 remaining after the town hall is complete. Croup applied and received \$25,000 from the county to replace the ARPA funds used for the septic, water and bathroom facilities in the town hall.

The board unanimously to move the remaining ARPA funds into the road and bridge fund on a motion from Thomson which was seconded by Dorau.

Gebhart made a motion to accept Carlson Timber's tree cutting and removal proposal. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

The board unanimously approved Resolution 2024-03 making Goebel Road a minimum maintenance road on a motion by Thomson which was seconded by Gebhart.

Gebhart told the board he spoke with road contractor Ronnie Roberts about moving the shoulders in on Government Road and reclaiming the gravel. Roberts would take care of the phone lines in the ditch. The cost, according to Gebhart, would be \$47,000 per mile.

Gebhart also got the cost of gravel from Roberts at \$170 per 10-yard load. Croup said the gravel they get from other haulers are per 12-yard load. Currently Rabe is at \$185/12-yard load.

Gebhart also talked about scheduling a third of the roads for end-to-end gravel each year to keep up with maintenance. He wanted to know how the grader is being scheduled.

Thomson said she contacts the grader operators when there is trouble.

The board unanimously approved charging Danforth \$125/hour for grader use under the new contract and re-evaluation when needed on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart said he would be looking for other quotes to do the ditching on Government Road.

Dorau said the township should be GPSing their culverts, counting and numbering them to make it easier to keep track of maintenance and for any future flooding damage as has been required for the spring flood in 2023.

Maintenance operator Scott Trenholm will begin numbering ~~a~~ GPSing culverts.

Linda Thomson had a site permit request for a building on her property. The board reviewed the request and Dorau made a motion to approve the permit which was seconded by Gebhart. The motion was approved 2-0-1 with Thomson abstaining because of a conflict of interest in that it was her property.

Zoning permit changes and fees were discussed. Thomson will work on the permit and recommend changes when the work is complete.

An older mobile who was placed on Vork property, Thomson told the board. She said she had left multiple requests for permits and discussion with the property owner about the age of the mobile home and if it meets the requirements of the township's zoning ordinance.

A motion was made by Gebhart to proceed with legal action against Vork and communicate with the township's attorney. The motion was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Thomson said she would be in touch with the owners of the Hollihan property.

There was a consensus of the board to sell the dump/plow truck and put the money in the equipment budget.

A motion was made by Thomson to approve the election judges, Irene Thomson, Maureen Hansen, Theresa Dawson, Don Eaton, Judy Magnuson, Janice Yaste and Nancy Peterson and Ailene Croup as administrator. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

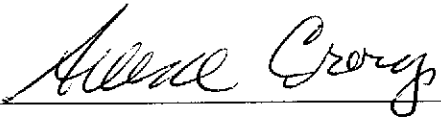
Theresa Dawson and Janice Yaste were unanimously approved as the ballot board for the 2024 Presidential Nominating Primary on a motion by Thomson which was seconded by Dorau.

Job description for clerk, treasurer and grader operator were discussed and unanimously approved on a motion by Gebhart which was seconded by Dorau.

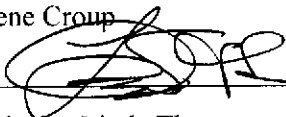
Internet access at the town hall was discussed along with use of a hotspot or available internet in the area. The donation of cameras by Gary and Linda Thomson was also discussed.

At 10:21 p.m., Dorau/made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on March 7, 2024.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ailene Croup".

Ailene Croup

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Linda Thomson, written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Board of Audit

March 7, 2024

Chair Linda Thomson convened the Board of Audit at 7:03 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, John Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Maintenance Worker Scott Trenholm and Resident Gary Thomson.

Clerk Croup read her report on upcoming expenses in the township and the percentage of increase in expenses from 12.5 percent increase to 15 percent increase beginning in 2022. Croup said with that pattern, the board could expect a 17.5 percent increase in 2025. Croup gave the board a copy of all the townships' levies in Pine County for 2024 and said the population and net tax capacity showed every township levying accordingly.

Linda Thomson said she wanted to find a way to promote more structural building in the township to increase the tax base.

Dorau commented that the grader would be paid off in June of 2025.

Gebhart felt the money in the equipment fund used to pay the grader bill should continue to go in there for future equipment and repairs after it is paid off.

The township has been working on at a deficit for several years, spending more than it takes in, Linda Thomson said. She added that the township should have a half year's levy in reserve.

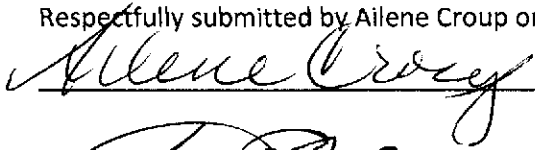
A motion was made by Matt Gebhart, seconded by Linda Thomson to raise the levy to \$345,000, an increase of \$110,000. The motion passed 2-1 with Dorau voting no.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to divide the \$345,000 into the four funds with General - \$116,000, Road and Bridge, - \$140,000, Equipment - \$65,000 and Fire - \$24,000, seconded by Gebhart and approved 2-1 with Dorau voting no.

	2022	2023	2024	2025 Recommended
General Fund	\$48,000	\$60,000	\$91,000	\$116,000
Road and Bridge	\$40,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$140,000
Equipment	\$28,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$65,000
Fire	\$13,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
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Total	\$129,000	\$204,000	\$235,000	\$345,000

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 4, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 7, 2024

Chair Linda Thomson opened the Regular Meet at 7:02 p.m. and recessed the meeting to convene the Board of Audit at 7:03 p.m.

Chair Thomson reconvened the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, John Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Maintenance Worker Scott Trenholm and residents Gary Thomson, Keith Carlson and Ruth Carlson.

Public comment include Scott Trenholm who felt it would be helpful to do a video before and after the tree and ditch clearing.

Gary Thomson commented that the ditches look good.

Gebhart said he had spoken with Carlson Timber, the company clearing the trees and ditches. They are concentrating their work where there currently are no wet spots.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes of Feb. 1, 2024, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

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

A motion was made by Dorau to pay the claims, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Roads

Gebhart said the minimum maintenance signs were being delivered at Ace Hardware but they were out of poles. He also said maintenance worker Trenholm had completed the GPS report of all the township's culverts. They will be given to Linda Thomson who will create a spreadsheet of the culverts. He questioned how often they would need to be replaced.

Dorau said depends on how much ^{water} sits on them.

Two 8-hour days of grader operator training has been set up by Gebhart at no cost to the township. He said it includes grader maintenance. Gebhart said it should be a requirement for all the employees.

Gebhart said if they made it a requirement, the operators would have to go. He said it was an investment in the township's operators.

Operator Keith Carlson said he did not have the time to spend eight hours on training and said he made time during a snowstorm to clear the roads.

Gebhart said they were telling the operators to make the time.

Dorau said he didn't think the operators needed to be at the training the whole time. He asked what happens if they can't make the training.

Then they should not be grading, Gebhart said.

Linda Thomson said the operators would be paid for their mileage and the day. She added that the oversight on the grader operators has been lax.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the training, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Dorau said he did not want to lose the operators.

A report on FEMA culvert compensation gave two culverts that were okayed for replacement by the Legislature.

Gebhart asked when the township received gravel bids.

Linda Thomson asked if there was a place where they grade the quality of the gravel.

Dorau said it is based on how much sand and how much rock is in the mix. He will contact the gravel haulers and look at April 13, tentatively as Road Review day.

Zoning Supervisor Linda Thomson brought several zoning requests and issues to the board.

The first was a landowner whose property had been made into a bed and breakfast type of property without a conditional use permit, which is required by the township's zoning ordinance. She will be send of letter of "come into compliance" within 20 days.

Next was two trailer houses on one property when the zoning only allows one residence and the age of the trailer house is in question. Chair Thomson will be researching the compliance.

Another is a trailer house which through communication with the owner, he does not intend to put it on a foundation and said he would move it out of there. Gebhart suggested a letter with a deadline of July 1, 2024 for removal of the trailer.

Chair Thomson asked the board to review her permit for a new outbuilding in which she had the wrong dimensions. She submitted a new site permit with the correct dimensions. On a motion by Gebhart, seconded by Dorau, the permit was approved 2-0-1 with Thomson abstaining due to her involvement in the permit.

A longterm issue with the Hoffihan property on Bear Lane. Thomson said she met with the property owners and they were respectful, shut the water off to the bathroom in the accessory building and only intend to use the bathroom in the summer. At this point, it meets the zoning requirements of one residence on the property.

Dorau made a motion to approve the site permit based on the information from Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson said she had a request to put a brand new trailer on a property and another request for a site permit for a carport.

A sign ordinance was discussed.

The board discussed finishing the floor in the town hall. The pipe for the bathroom where it was before the building completion needs to be filled in. Linda Thomson talked about carpet squares in the office end.

Croup requested a review of the election judges pay. She said of the 33 townships in the county, the election judge pay was second to the bottom. They had only had \$2 in increases in eight years. Judges are hard to come by and once they are trained, they can work anywhere in the state including precincts that pay more.

Dorau made a motion to increase the election judge pay to \$19 per hour and the head election judge pay to \$20 per hour. It was seconded Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The current fire contract with 3 percent increases over a 3-year period beginning in 2026 was unanimously approved by the board on a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart.

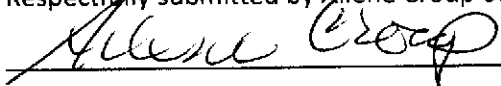
Chair Thomson said the job descriptions and employee policies need to be sent out with employee paychecks.


The board discussed the frequency of oil changes on the grader and what is recommended in the owner's manual. Gebhart said the manual says the oil and filter should be changed every 500 hours. According to operator Keith Carlson, operator Gene Kroschel changes the oil and filter every 250 hours.

Gebhart said he will be going to the grader training and maintenance classes to find out about the maintenance schedule.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved at 10:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 4, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township

Annual Meeting Minutes at Cross Church

March 12, 2024

Clerk Ailene Croup convened the meeting at 8:10 m.

Present were clerk Ailene Croup, maintenance operator Scott Trenholm, residents Linda Thomson, John Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Maureen Hansen, Sandra Yaste, Forrest Yaste, Josh Nelson, Greg Olson, Sharon Olson, Bernard Marx, Joleen Marx, Gary Thomson, Don Eaton, Jonathan Koenig, Kara Plunkett, Chris Nathan, Sara Juhl, Lee Juhl, Terry Zerwas, Scott Heller, Keith Carlson, Ruth Carlson, Anna Carlson, William Carlson and non-resident Terry Croup.

Nominations were taken for moderator with Jon Dorau receiving 11, Skip Thomson receiving 9 and Matt Gebhart receiving 4.

Dorau read the agenda and called for a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was made by Keith Carlson, seconded by Skip Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau said speakers would be allowed three minutes each.

The annual meeting minutes from March 14, 2023 were read by the clerk and a motion to approve them was made by Matt Gebhart, seconded by Don Eaton and unanimously approved.

The minutes of the second half of the annual meeting on Sept. 7, 2023 were read by the clerk. A motion to approve them was made by Skip Thomson, seconded by Terry Zerwas and unanimously approved.

Jan Yaste reported the election results: Linda Thomson received 54 votes, Josh Nelson receive 51, there were four write-in votes with 2 for Skip Thomson and 2 for Matt Gebhart.

Terry Zerwas made a motion to accept the election results, seconded by Skip Thomson and unanimously approved.

Jon Dorau read the cash control statement for February 2024.

Skip Thomson made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Sandra Yaste had questions about the balances in the funds as of March 4, 2024.

Clerk Croup reported on the expenses and receipts from 2023 and the budget for 2024 which she based her projection for the financial needs in 2025. Croup said the township should increase the levy at a minimum of \$41,125 to break even if the township received the same gas tax and the expected smaller receipts from the state in 2025 as in 2023 and 2024.

Jon Dorau said the town board approved 210 loads of gravel on the roads in 2023 and quite a bit was used to replace what was lost in the flooding disaster in April 2023.

Newly appointed supervisor Matt Gebhart said the first thing he did was look at Government Road and what would be needed to build it up. Taking the gravel from the ditches and narrowing the road would

cost \$150,000 at \$50,000 per mile. He had maintenance operator Scott Trenholm mark GPS and note all culverts so they could create a history of replacement.

FEMA will only allow replacement of two of the 11 culverts Jon Dorau claimed for replacement due to flooding damage.

Linda Thomson agreed with the other supervisors that more gravel is needed on the roads. The brushing and tree removal ordered by Matt Gebhart and approved by the board will prevent shading and allow the roads to dry out. She said the board will no longer take responsibility for Little Sand Creek Road. Danforth Twp will be paying for half the cost of maintenance. She also believes Government Road should be a priority and that the board should pick one troubled road per year for additional maintenance.

Matt Gebhart said Carlson Timber is brushing and cutting trees on the wet roads first while they are frozen.

A motion was made by Chris Nathan to donate \$125 to Askov History Museum where the township's historic records are stored. It was seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

A request was made by Jon Dorau to fill the planning committee alternate seats.

The general discussion began with Terry Zerwas saying all the roads including his road, Johnson Road, need attention.

Grader operator, Keith Carlson, said he stopped by the regular board meeting last week and mentioned the board getting rid of the grader operators. He said he was surprised they wanted to get rid of the plow truck. He said he knows supervisor Matt Gebhart wants them (grader and plow truck) kept in the town hall. He said, the grader operators go out when everyone is asleep and keeping it at his house is cheaper. He said the other operators know where it is at when he has it. He said he plows at night and keeps a tow strap in the grader.

Keith Carlson also said Gene Kroschel charges a third less for the work he does maintaining the grader and plow truck. He also said he had a problem with Matt Gebhart scheduling training for the operators because no one asked him, and if his dad was sick he was going to stay home. He said the board would have to fire him because he would not quit.

Keith Carlson made a motion to hire from the township first if candidates are equally qualified, seconded by Jon Dorau and unanimously approved.

Jon Dorau said Gene Kroschel is an asset because the township has no tools and Kroschel brings his own to the township to repair the equipment.

Matt Gebhart said he found out oil changes were being done more frequently than necessary. Doing them as recommended by the owner's manual will cut maintenance fees 75 percent.

Forrest Yaste asked if the township has a maintenance schedule for the grader and plow truck.

The maintenance is set up by Keith Carlson and Gene Kroschel, said Jon Dorau.

Forrest Yaste said traveling back and forth to the township doesn't make sense.

Terry Zerwas said changing oil more often is not good for the engine because the oil has detergents in it and they are acidic.

Lee Juhl said qualified volunteers could change the oil in the grader. He also said he had tools he can share with the township.

Jon Dorau said donation can be made for gravel.

Payroll is much higher in 2023 than 2024 noted Chris Nathan.

Clerk Croup said more hours were used by the operators during the snow storm and flooding.

Sandra Yaste added that the budget sheet also shows the employment taxes added to the payroll category this year.

Greg Olson said this is the first time his road has ever been graded in March. He said he told the board not to by the Sterling plow/truck before they bought it because they can't get parts for it anymore.

Ruth Carlson said the board said at the second half of the annual meeting last September that they hired Scott Trenholm to take care of the downed trees. She said than position can be removed.

Clerk Croup read that portion of the September 2023 meeting and indeed Scott Trenholm was hired for that but it was not the only thing the maintenance person was responsible for, she said having been on the hiring committee. When he could not get additional help from the operators to move the trees, the board chose to hire the work done.

Jon Dorau read the Board of Audit recommendations from the town board for levy.

Minutes

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to divide the \$345,000 into the four funds with General - \$116,000, Road and Bridge, - \$140,000, Equipment - \$65,000 and Fire - \$24,000, seconded by Gebhart and approved 2-1 with Dorau voting no.

	2022	2023	2024	2025 Recommended
General Fund	\$48,000	\$60,000	\$91,000	\$116,000
Road and Bridge	\$40,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$140,000
Equipment	\$28,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$65,000
Fire	\$13,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
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Total	\$129,000	\$204,000	\$235,000	\$345,000

The Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held April 16, 2024, at 6 p.m., at North Pine Government Center, Dorau told the residents.

Chris Nathan said he does budget at his work and if you don't live within your means. You guys don't cut anything.

Terry Zerwas said the township is way in the hole and there is no buffer in the budget for the unexpected.

Sandra Yaste asked about the fire coverage costs and the grader payment total for 2025, which is approximately \$37,000 for the year.

Chris Nathan made a motion to increase the levy \$5,000 to \$240,000, Greg Olson seconded.

Terry Zerwas said there is nothing you can buy for \$5,000.

Chris Nathan said there had been a lot of one-time disasters.

Sandra Yaste said she had a lot to do with raising the levy. She said if the levy was raised there would be no one to support it.

Linda Thomson said the board would be willing to listen to anyone who had suggestions about how to spend money. She added that she donates her time as zoning supervisor.

Andrew Rypkema said the board made a decision to spend money on a town hall and a lot of discretionary things. What other surprises are there on discretionary spending?

Jon Dorau said he agreed with Chris Nathan that the levy needs to increase. If the plow truck is sold, how do we do the plowing, he said, adding, we should make the year with out budget though we have been hit pretty hard.

Jon Dorau called the motion he seconded that was made by Chris Nathan to raise the levy \$5,000 to \$240,000, it failed with a vote of 8 yes and 12 no.

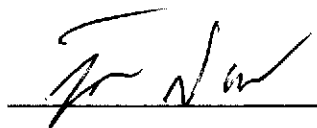
Sandra Yaste made a motion to wait until the second half of the annual meeting in September to set the levy, seconded by Chris Nathan and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Forrest Yaste to set the 2025 Annual Meeting for March 11, 2025, at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Terry Zerwas and unanimously approved.

Jon Dorau made a motion to recess the meeting until Sept. 5, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the town hall. Linda Thomson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 4, 2024.





Moderator

Sandstone Township

Regular Monthly and Reorganizational Meeting

April 4, 2024

Chair Linda Thomson opened the Regular Meeting at 7 p.m., followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, John Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Maintenance Worker Scott Trenholm and residents Lee Juhl, Gary Thomson, Skip Thomson, Don Eaton, Keith Carlson and Ruth Carlson, and visitors Nick Wilson and Theresa Dobasenski.

Chair nomination and Appointments

The reorganizational meeting began with a nomination for Linda Thomson as chair, by Matt Gebhart. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Thomson appointed Jon Dorau as Vice Chair.

Pay as follows:

Chairman -\$90 regular meeting;

Supervisors - \$80 regular meeting;

Clerk – \$28/hour, \$80 regular meeting;

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

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

Zoning Officer - \$10.85 per hour plus mileage;

Supervisors – non-affidavit work such as checking on roads and getting quotes \$8.63/hour;

Attending all day meetings – Supervisors meeting fee \$10.85/hour;

Election Judge - \$19/hour plus mileage

Head Election Judge - \$20/hour plus mileage

Planning Committee pay - \$52.50/hour plus mileage.

Motion by Matt Gebhart to set fees as stated, second by Jon Dorau, unanimously approved.

Operating patrol and truck, and maintenance work:

Maintenance Worker/Operator - \$20/hour

Regular Operator - \$27/hour; Assistant Operator - \$27/hour; Supervisor Operator - \$25/hour.

Traveling for parts – current state minimum wage plus mileage - \$10.85/hour. General Labor - \$10.85/hour.

Mileage – current federal rate - .67/mile

Mower – subject to available operator rate – assistant operator - \$27/hour.

Use of Personal Equipment (tractors, bobcats, etc.) \$60/hour pay to operate those machines.

Township Equipment use (with full board approval and Sandstone Twp operator):

Grader - \$150/hour

Truck - \$125/hour

Motion by Linda Thomson to approved the charges, seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Fees for:

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

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

Site permits - \$80

Interim (IUP), Conditional use permits (CUP) and Variance - \$500

Matt Gebhart made amotion to approve the site permit fee and IUP and Cup fees, seconded by Linda Thomson and passed unanimously.

Designations

1. Hold the Board's regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Town, at 7 p.m.
2. Planning Committee at the Town Hall the second Thursday of the month, 7 pm.
3. North Pine County News as the official newspaper to print notices and post notices as appropriate at the Town Hall and, if possible, the Victory Station.
4. Northview Bank, Sandstone, MN as the official depository.

Motion was made by Matt Gebhart to accept the designations, seconded by Linda Thomson 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 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. Culvert permits will be required a \$50 fee.
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 townships’ roads will be charged \$150 an hour for grader use and \$125 per hour for the truck.
6. Towing of a township vehicle must have a supervisor’s approval and must be done by a licensed, insured company.
7. Mailbox policy will copy Pine County’s policy.
8. All utilities installed along Sandstone Township’s roads will be placed on the backside of the township’s ditches. Prior to installing new/replacement utilities, abandoned utilities must be removed. **Look at this later.**
9. Beaver bounty. Request to remove must be made to supervisor and approved prior to trapping. \$75 **With documentation.**

Jon Dorau made a motion to approve policies 1-9, seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Following the reorganizational meeting, public comment was taken.

Keith Carlson said he thought a licensed person should pull the grader out when it is stuck.

Don Eaton said the "stop sign ahead" is down on Bear Lane.

Air B&B was discussed at the county board meeting Skip Thomson told the town board. Thomson said he thought the township's planning committee needs to take a look at tiny homes and Air B&Bs to be put into the ordinance.

Lee Juhl said he has neighbors living in trailers. He also said the board should look at grates at the end of culverts where beavers are a problem.

The March 7, 2024 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Dorau and seconded by Linda Thomson.

Dorau made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to pay bills withholding Contractor Jason Monson's final payment until the township receives the IC134 document. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to approve Supervisor Matt Gebhart as a signatory on Sandstone Township's bank account at Northview Bank. It was seconded by Dorau and approved, 2-0-1. Gebhart abstained because the motion was concerned him.

Gebhart said he was going to try something new on the culvert on Bear Lane. He will be putting in screening at the ends, at his own expense, to control the beaver.

Grader operator gave a brief report about the grader training he attended.

Gebhart reported the downed tree removal will continue when the snow is gone.

Linda Thomson made a motion to support the PUCs case against Century Link to remove the abandoned equipment in the ditch on Poplar Road. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Croup said Old Wagon Road should have the closed signs removed now.

The dump truck's flashers are out and Dorau asked about repairing them. Matt said he already told grader operator Tom Colstrud "no." Dorau also said the grader operators did a great job during the last snow storm.

Dorau said Gebhart has a conflict with selling things to the township from Ace Hardware and wondered if what they buy from Ace was cheapest. And said that Linda Thomson could not vote on Summerland's gravel because he buys gravel from Thomson's mother-in-law.

Dorau commented that now the township could buy Keith Carlson's gravel.

Clerk Croup said the board does not buy gravel. The board gets quotes from gravel haulers who can buy their gravel wherever they want.

The board agreed to hold the road review on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 8 p.m. at the town hall.

Linda Thomson reviewed zoning requests and brought up the options of conditional and interim use permits.

The board talked about penalties for site permit violations and enforcement.

Linda Thomson made a motion to install cable internet at the newly renovated town hall, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson said her husband Gary made special dollies to move the furniture from the garage into the town hall. A move in date has not been set.

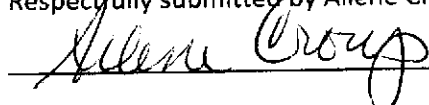
The board discussed the benefits of a second meeting each month. Croup had produced researched a few months ago showing the board had 21 and 23 meeting in two consecution years.


Linda Thomson made a motion to hold a second meeting each month, if there is business to discuss, in the new town hall, on the third Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approve.

The planning committee will meet in April.

Jon Dorau made a motion to adjourn, at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on May 2, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township
2024 Road Review
April 13, 2024

Johnson Drive – 4 loads

Robin Street – City is responsible this year

United Country Court – 2 loads

Skunk Lake Rd. (West of Highway) – 4-6 loads (top of hill and shaded area)

Skunk Lake Rd. (East of Highway) – 6 loads (east end)

Faulkner Rd. – 2 loads (low spot)

Goebel Drive – minimum maintenance

Svercl Rd. – 8-10 loads (start at west end) Culvert plugged

West Fork Rd. – 6 loads (start at west end)

East end West Fork Rd. (min. maint. Rd.) – Finlayson?

Dupuis Rd. – 20 loads needs ditching and narrowing (8 loads from White Oak south, 2 loads uphill of White Oak heading north)

White Oak Drive – 4 loads (put culvert on 5-yr fix list) (1 load on end)

Friesland Rd – 4 loads

Eitens Lane – Dell Grove Shared

Airport Rd – City

Old Military Rd.-

Nurses' Rd. – 15 loads (from the corner W to E 6 loads)

Kettlewell Lane – Clean Culverts and ditch

Government Rd – Add a Culvert N side of nurses 24" or larger. Remove old approaches. Creek is blocked by Yaste Rd. needs ditching

Gravel reserved until we know what we are doing for the fix of this road

Poplar Rd. – 6-8 loads

Old Wagon Rd. – none DNR will put some gravel on and needs culvert to be moved and lowered at the end

Anderson Drive – 20 loads? Plus ditching

Klejski Rd. – 14 loads (4-5 by Eaton lane, culvert collapsed needs replacement)

Eaton Lane – ditch with the grader by Keith

J. Nelson Drive – none

Tenquist Rd. – 20 loads (from the hill N needs gravel, culvert at 56005 by Nelson Dr. replace, 5 loads)

Tenquist Trail –15 loads (east end needs 3 loads, Top to base of hill and by John Deere mailbox)

Bear Lane – 30 loads (ditch and tree removal needed)

Kukuk Drive – 30 loads start at one end, and do entire rd

Seivert Drive – 20-25 loads (ditch, pull in with grader, talk with Craig S. See if residents want to help with cost)

Double C Rd. – 2 loads (coming off highway. Clean ditches)

Rocky C Rd. – 2 loads (culvert longer and bigger)

Larson Rd. – 20 loads 15-6 by swamp, 53889 needs culvert on driveway, 4-5 loads by 51947, ditching and 1 culvert.

Little Sand Creek Rd. – 45-50 loads, pull ditches in and cap

Thomson Rd – 30 loads (ditch, south of 56998 needs gravel and culverts should be bigger, North end by 57920 20 loads)

Koland Rd –10 (ditching, 5-6 maybe 10 loads by corner.

Wild Blueberry Lane – none minimum maintenance

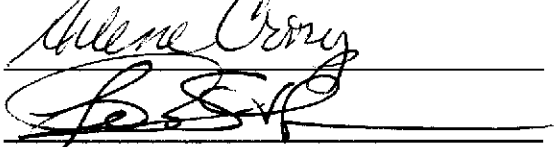
Call to order Meeting 8:05

Present: Jon Dorau, Matt Gebhart, Linda Thomson, Skip Thomson, Kieth Carlson, Jeff Shute from Danforth Township joined for Little Sand

Inspect:

Adjourn: 12:45

Presented for approval by Supervisor Linda Thomson on May 2, 2024.



Supervisor

Sandstone Township

Board of Appeal and Equalization Minutes

April 16, 2024

Chair Linda Thomson opened the Regular Meet at 6 p.m. followed by the pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and residents Kim Kylander, Lorri Houtsma, Greg Dupre and Ruth Carlson. Jon Dorau was absent.

Lorri Houtsma introduced Kim Kylander as the county's assessor for the township.

Greg Dupre, Parcel ID 30.0311.00, seasonal landowner in touch with county about cabin on the parcel. Assessor recommended parcel be reduced from \$234,400 to \$211,200. A motion to approve the reduction was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and approved 2-0.

Greg Dupre, Parcel ID 30.0311.002, informational only.

Maureen Hansen asked what the solid waster fee is for. Kylander said it pays for recycle fees.

Ruth Carlson, Parcel IDs 30.0336.000, 30.0224.000, 30.0230.000, 30.0232.000, 30.0337.000, 30.0149.002, 30.0208.000, 30.0214.000, 30.0217.000. Questioned why rural preserve designation is deferred. Why is there less of a reduction on green acres? Asked for explanation to be added to the county's website.

Assessor Houtsma brought these recommendations received at the county:

At Countryside Campground, Robert Padella, trailer, 30.8900,052. Owner provided current registration for the trailer and the county recommended removing the value of \$11,500. A motion was made by Thomson to remove the \$11,500 value, seconded by Gebhart and approved 2-0.


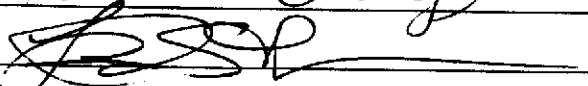
Jason Bombenek, Parcel ID 30.8900.034, current registration, assessor recommendation to remove \$13,900 value. A motion was made by Thomson to remove the \$13,900 value, seconded by Gebhart and approved 2-0.

Joseph Jacobson, Parcel ID 30.0602.000, the county assessor measured additional low ground. Recommended decrease from \$109,200 to \$107,100. Thomson made a motion to reduce the tax \$2,100, seconded by Gebhart and approved 2-0.

Thomson had questions about the Kathy Aho property and will contact the assessor's office.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 7 p.m., seconded by Matt Gebhart and approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on May 2, 2024.

Chair

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting/First in Completed Town Hall

May 2, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen and residents Marvin Mix, Chris Nathan, Scott Heller, Gary Thomson, Jean ^{Rausch}, Keith Carlson and Ruth Carlson, also attending Theresa Dawson, Scott Trenholm, Mike Wielenberg, Bob Brewster, Michael Dick and Sarah Chlebeck.

During public comment Marvin Mix said he had taken gravel samples of township roads to compare quality.

Linda Thomson made a motion to accept the 4.4.24 minutes, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The minutes of the 4.13.24 road review were unanimously approved on a motion from Gebhart, seconded by Linda Thomson.

Minutes of the 4.16.24 Board of Appeal meeting were approved 2-0-1 on a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart. Dorau abstained from voting stating he wasn't at the meeting.

An affidavit of conflict Resolution No. 2024-05 for the purchasing supplies at ACE Hardware in Sandstone, was presented by the owner, Supervisor Gebhart. The motion was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Gebhart abstained because he has monetary interest in the outcome.

Dorau made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson made a motion to pay the bills except the Carlson Timber bill for removal of the trees downed during the December 2022 storm. It will be paid after the township receives the first half of the levy in June. The motion was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Clerk Croup reported that she had finished the ARPA compliance report for 2024. She also completed the Presidential Nominating Primary report to the state to receive reimbursement for expenditures for the PNP election. Croup said she had submitted \$2,216 in reimbursement expenses.

The board discussed additional handicap accessible needs for the town hall. Dorau said he would look into the ADA codes for the building. Dorau said he would also get information on the fire department requirement for building capacity.

Treasurer Maureen Hansen gave a verbal resignation to Chair Thomson following the Board of Appeal meeting and followed up with a written resignation effective June 6, 2024. Linda Thomson made a motion to formally accept the resignation, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Theresa Dawson, who has been providing a quarterly budget since 2018, also presented a written resignation to the board effective immediately. Dawson will also be ending her deputy clerk status. Gebhart made a motion to accept Dawson's resignation, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Bob Brewster had learned Sandstone Twp. was considering hiring a zoning officer and presented information to the board about his experience as a zoning officer for two other townships. Brewster said he also performs enforcement of the zoning ordinance. Chair Thomson thanked him for the information.

Gebhart instructed Croup to place the ad for zoning officer.

Linda Thomson reviewed the zoning permit request for Wielenberg. Dorau directed the request be sent to the planning committee.

Thomson also had confirmation that Aho and Vork had received non-compliance letters. Vork has until July 1, 2024 to remove the non-compliant trailer and Aho has 20 days to request a CUP.

The board discussed getting GPS coordinate culverts on a map from the county.

Gravel purchase was discussed and the quality of gravel from different haulers. Grader operator Keith Carlson said he did not notice a difference in gravel.

Marvin Mix showed gravel samples he had collected from four different township roads. The board discussed the quality of the samples.

A motion to accept the four quotes from gravel haulers was made by Gebhart, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to do half of the number of loads identified at the road review and have the grader operator contacted to follow the hauler as they dump. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.


Gebhart made a motion to hire the shoulders pulled in on Government Road on the north end for a half mile. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

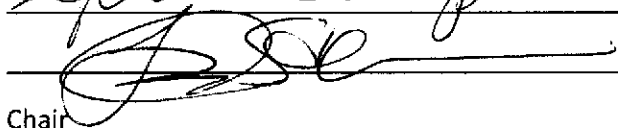
A motion was made by Linda Thomson for purchase of a new printer for the township treasurer, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Scott Trenholm, maintenance, said the ditches we cleaned on the west side of the freeway and the "slow children" sign was down on Skunk Lake Road. He reported finding 14 more tires in ditches.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m., seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on May 16, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township
55044 Poplar Rd.
Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup and resident Gary Thomson.

The township received two applications for township treasurer. One person withdrew their application. Because the remaining applicant, Jeannie Rausch, is the daughter of Supervisor Linda Thomson, Personnel Committee member, Clerk Ailene Croup, asked Supervisor Matt Gebhart to help with the review.

Jeannie Rausch was recommended by the personnel committee for the treasurer's position at the current hourly pay of \$21/hour with a review in 6 months to increase pay to \$23/hour.

Gebhart made a motion to hire Jeannie Rausch at \$21/hour reviewed for a pay increase in 6 months to \$23/hour. Dorau seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0-1. Linda Thomson abstained because it is her daughter.

Croup received a contract from Minnesota Association of Townships' (MAT) trainer, Maria Barstch, who will train Rausch on CTS and treasurer's duties. Gebhart made a motion to approve the training at \$20/hour and \$0.67/mile reimbursement to MAT. Training will take place in mid-June.

Gebhart stated the treasurer should be performing more duties to raise the bar for the position and to take some of the load from the clerk.

The board discussed the need for a backup grader operator. Gebhart said township resident Keith Petry has had training.

Gebhart made a motion to hire Keith Petry at \$20/hour with a review in sixth months, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau asked if the personnel committee had been doing background checks. Linda Thomson confirmed she ~~had~~ *will*.

Linda Thomson suggested the full board perform personnel reviews and schedule them in the next few months.

Gebhart made a motion to have the treasurer's computer hard drive upgraded to solid state and have CTAS downloaded by Cyberts for \$135. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

The planning committee will have its meeting in June before the township's regular meeting to include the public hearing for the Gordon property music festival interim use permit.

The board unanimously approved the Wielenberg property variance recommended by the planning committee on a motion from Gebhart, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup informed the board the ad had been published for zoning officer.

Roads

Gebhart said he talked to Summerland about grading which he'll be doing soon.

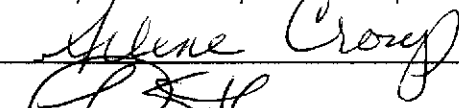
Dorau confirmed that he had not expressed interest in being an election judge contrary to information received from a political party.

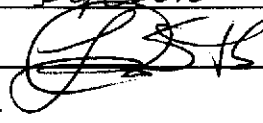
Gary Thomson told the board he has a mower that the township could use which needs some work.

Linda Thomson made a motion to reappoint Maury Peterson and Skip Thomson to 3-year term on the planning committee. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved..

Respectfully submitted by Allene Croup on June 6, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township
55044 Poplar Rd.
Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, June 6, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, and residents Don Eaton, Gary Thomson Keith Vork, Michelle Vork, and visitors Jay Pierce, Melani Pierce, Dusty Kaliin and Jeremy Gordon.

Croup read the minutes from the public hearing held by the planning committee.

There was a motion by Linda Thomson to accept the planning committee's recommendations and conditions for the interim use permit (IUP) for a music festival once-a-year on the Jeremy Gordon land on Groningen Road, PID#300401003. It was seconded by Gebhart.

The landowner is Jeremy Gordon and he brought the music festival organizer, Dustin Kaliin, to the meeting to answer questions.

Thomson asked the board for comments.

The questioned the amount of land and number of attendees expected and whether it would accommodate that number.

Gordon said he had 40 acres to the west for overflow with about 15 acres of that usable.

Thomson and Gebhart asked about the number of attendees at other similar venues they hold and Dustin Kaliin said about 200-250.

Gebhart asked if they were planning on alcohol sales. Gordon said they were not against it but they were not encouraging it.

Dorau asked if there were any permanent structures.

Gordon said there would be a stage.

The motion passed unanimously for approval of the Gordon IUP for PID#300401.

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

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

The board recognized Cookie (Maureen) Hansen, with cake and refreshments, for her nine years of service to the township as treasurer.

A motion was made by Gebhart to add Jeannie Rausch, the new treasurer, as a signer for Sandstone Township's Northview Bank account. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson presented a new site permit from John Lee. Thomson made a motion to accept the permit which was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Interviews for zoning officer were performed by Linda Thomson and Allene Croup. Thomson made a recommendation for approval of a candidate.

Dorau asked what the pay would be to do the job.

Hansen asked why the supervisor is not doing zoning.

Linda Thomson said she thought the process would be more acceptable if the planning committee made the recommendations on zoning requests handled by someone other than the board and the board was in charge of final approval. The town board is also the appeals board. Thomson felt that as the zoning supervisor, she was too involved to be effective on the appeals board.

Linda Thomson said the planning committee recommended a non-board member as the zoning officer. She said the zoning officer should be paid from the fees for site permits, variances, CUPs and IUPs.

Dorau said the board should find out if the chosen applicant will work as an independent contractor because of the added insurance and tax costs for the township.

Linda Thomson will have the answers to the zoning officer questions at the June 20 meeting.

Dorau said Summerland was graveling roads and he had also heard from FEMA on replacement of the culverts approved for replacement.

Gebhart said a permit would be needed to upsize culverts.

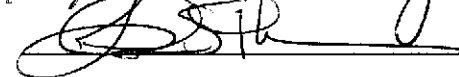
A motion was made by Linda Thomson to upgrade culverts on Little Sand Creek Road and Tenquist Road up to four culverts with the supervisors and DNR permit, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau said two mailboxes on Klejeski Road need to be replaced. Gebhart will ask Scott Trenholm to auger for the posts.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m., seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Allene Croup on June 20, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd.

Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, June 20, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart and Clerk Ailene Croup.

Dorau made a motion to accept the minutes from 6.6.24, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The board reviewed the costs for hiring a zoning officer and the cost of insuring that person. Insurance through MATIT would be about 11-12 cents per hundred dollars paid the officer. There would be the usual FICA taxes for employees.

Thomson said she had spoken with the candidate and he did not want to carry insurance and be a vendor. She said he would be satisfied to start at \$22 /hour. Thomson, the current zoning supervisor, also said she thought it was too partial if a supervisor as a zoning officer would have the decision about approval of the property from beginning to end including an appeal.

Thomson made a motion to hire Ed Melzark at \$22/hour on a trial basis and review the position in 6 months. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Croup provided information on the actual costs for the recent interim use permit and said it was about 50 percent more to complete all parts required by law than the current fee of \$500. She had created a basic instruction and cost for interim, conditional use permits and variances. She also suggested an escrowed amount to cover overruns. The fee would be non-refundable and the unused escrow would be returned.

Dorau asked about the cost of reissuance of an interim use permit. He said it should probably be less the original permit.

Gebhart made a motion to increase the interim and conditional use permit fee to \$650 with a \$500 escrow fee with the unused escrow fee to be refunded. The applicant would be responsible for all costs including those above the escrow fee and permit fee. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

The Wildcat Sanctuary donated \$4,000 to Sandstone Township for gravel improvements on Little Sand Creek Road.

Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-06 accepting the Donation to Make Gravel Improvements on Little Sand Creek (LSC) Road. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart said the township would have to return the culvert replacement funds issue by FEMA to replace two culverts damaged during the 2023 flooding. He said he had spoken to the FEMA representative who said the board should contact the DNR and mitigate every culvert that was submitted and not approved.

He added that the DNR should be involved on culverts on creeks. The two culverts on Little Sand Creek Road need to be replaced by three 48-inch culverts. Gebhart said there was money in the Upper St. Croix and Kettle River Watershed districts.

Gebhart said the DNR needs to be involved on the LSC and Government Road culverts and Danforth Twp. needs to be involved on the LSC road culvert because the road is shared.

The board approved holding a public hearing for a moratorium on cannabis businesses in the township.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m., seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on June 20, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd.

Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, July 2, 2024

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

Attended: Board members Linda Thomson, Matt Gebhart, Jon Dorau and treasurer Jeannie Rausch. Non residents: Maineng Vang, Senghoung Yongpui. Residents: Ruth Carlson & Don Eaton

Public Comment:

Mia Vang discussed putting a campground on her property on Skunk Lake. She was directed to work with Ed Melzark to determine feasibility. She will need a CUP or IUP, septic and well. Melzark stated the State would have to be involved. Ruth Carlson gave condolences to Gussie. Donny Eaton stated the grass on the edges of the road needs cutting.

Minutes from June 13, 2024 Dorau made a motion to approve and Gebhart made a second. Unanimously approved.

Treasurers report

Linda Thomson brought up that Carlson Timber needs to be paid and that is part of the reason for the high balance in the account. Matt thought the original cost was \$98,000. Jeannie Rausch will need to find the bill. Thomson commented that there are two grader payments left.

Dorau made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Gebhart seconded, unanimously approved.

Bills were reviewed. Dorau made a motion to approve paying the bills and Thomson seconded. Unanimously approved.

There was discussion regarding the cannabis moratorium. Approved for the planning committee to pick two people to send to the county meetings.

There was discussion of garbage service for the building. Rausch will set up service through Matt's Sanitation.

A motion was made to accept the new zoning with changes to Melzark as the contact person and today's date on the form for IUP and CUPs was made by Gebhart and seconded by Thomson. Unanimously approved.

Zoning

The Kukuk building permit was approved unanimously. Dorau made the motion, seconded by Gebhart. The board was introduced to Ed Melzark as the new zoning officer and the Ed Vork property issues were given to Melzark.

Roads

There was discussion concerning ditch mowing, brushing and getting bids for mowing. Gebhart will call Carlson and Rootke. Matt said three beaver were taken from Tenquist. Matt said no gravel has been spread on the west side. He said they did Little Sand Creek Road. Dorau said he did 50 percent of all his roads. Discussed log sheet for the grader and a white board in the shop. Gebhart said the state has money for the Upper St Croix watershed and we could qualify for money for culverts on several roads including Government and Nurses. Little Sand Creek, the DNR said, will need three 48" culverts and the culverts would need to be imbedded in the bottom of the creek by 8 inches.

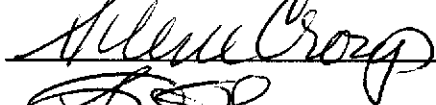
Thomson made a motion to approve the new judges, Dorau seconded. Unanimously approved.


Jon made a motion to send flowers to for Terry Croup's funeral and spend \$50, seconded by Matt. Unanimously approved.

made a motion to adjourn, Jon seconded. Unanimously approved. Adjourn 8:06 pm.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on July 18, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd.

Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, July 18, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart and Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark and Deputy Clerk Tammy Schmeling.

Dorau made a motion to accept the minutes from 7.2.24, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report: Rausch reported that grader operator Gene Kroschel brought his timesheet in late. She also said she sent \$72,500, the remainder of the payment for tree cutting, to Carlson Timber.

Thomson made a motion to pay the claims/bills, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Croup told the board the air conditioning had not been working and she called Josh Thom, from Thom's plumbing and heating who came to look at it and discovered a switch outside the building had been shut off. It works now and they will plan a date to repair the heating part of the unit.

Croup said a locksmith had been called from Mora to repair the front door lock and panic bar. Gebhart reported that he had been here when they arrived. The after-hours bill with the travel came to \$115.

The board also discussed the door code and Dorau said he did not have the code. Thomson said they were limiting who could use the door code so there was not a repeat of the code being given to people who were using the building for a drop off place for parts. Croup said she would send Dorau the code.

Thomson said the board, zoning, clerk, maintenance and treasurer would have the code. The grader operators would not. They have garage door openers to get in for the grader. Thomson also talked about securing the door between the hall and the garage.

A suggestion by Gebhart was to put a timesheet drop box in the garage for the grader operators.

Gebhart said the garage should have tools for the operators to use. There should be a battery-operated grease gun and air compressor. He said it would take very few tools to do the work being done now. Gebhart said he did not know of any equipment operator who was not responsible for keeping the machinery greased.

Thomson said she would look into having a door between the office and garage keyed.

Gebhart made a motion to have a deadbolt lock for the garage door, drop box for timesheets and a remoted garage door opener for Gene Kroschel. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Melzark said Kathy Ahoe was sending a check for \$240 for the two building permits. The one building was installed without a permit and included a penalty.

The board approved action on the Mollenhauer permit request, Pardun action and Kroschel permits on a motion from Gebhart, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Melzark also reported on the Cherzoo and John Lee request.

He also said that he had had communication with Ed Vork and asked if there was any way the trailer Vork had moved on to his property could be used as a building for storage.

Thomson said the township had addressed shoddy trailers being brought into the township in the ordinance and the ordinance had been approved to include this restriction on trailers.

Gebhart agreed the township could not approve Vork violating the ordinance.

Melzark was instructed to send a letter to Vork to remove the trailer in question.

Roads: Croup asked the board to have Summerland get the bills into the township by the end of the month so the quarterly budget would be accurate. She had no way of knowing what was available for more gravel if there were outstanding claims.

Brushing the ditches was discussed and Gebhart said they had received three quotes. Two were on pricing to brush five feet into the right-of-way at about \$3,800 each. Carlson Timber quoted \$6,200 to brush 12 feet into the right-of-way.

Dorau wondered what they do when they get to a swampy area.

Thomson made a motion to have Carlsons brush the ditches after July 31, complying with DNR regulations, for \$6,200. Seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart reported on his contact with DNR concerning the culverts on Government/Nurses Road and the culvert on Little Sand Creek Road just before Huck Road.

Performance evaluation will be scheduled. Thomson wondered how they would do Kroschel's if he is only around on weekends. They discussed the possibility of a special meeting on a Friday for the review.

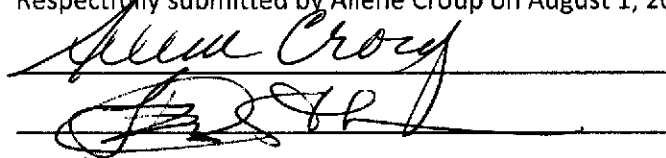
Croup introduced her new deputy clerk, Tammy Schmeling. The board approved paying her \$20 per hour including the three hours she spent today for training with Croup.

The board unanimously approved Tammy Schmeling as an additional election judge on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Gebhart. Schmeling will be at the town hall on primary election from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. to take any filings for hospital board representative.

The board voted 2-1 to approve the \$390 liquor license for Countryside Campground. Dorau voted no.

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

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 1, 2024.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ailene Croup', is written over a horizontal line. Below this line is another horizontal line with a second, less legible handwritten signature or initials written over it.

Chair

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd.

Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, August 1, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart and Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark, Scott Trenholm and Gary Thomson.

Dale WILKENING, FORREST YASTE
Minutes of the July 18, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Matt Gebhart.

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

Paying claims was unanimously approved on a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart.

Newly appointed treasurer Jeannie Rausch's attendance at the MAT District 7 meeting, in Cambridge, was approved unanimously on a motion by Gebhart, seconded by Dorau.

Croup received a complaint about the Burnstone Music Festival advertising there would be a huge bonfire at the location on Groningen Road approved for an interim use permit. Zoning officer Ed Melzark said he would be in touch with the group.

Melzark had a list of zoning requests and communications.

He gave a letter to property owner Pardun to remove the mobile home within 120 days, which is the second residence on the property and not allowed by the zoning ordinance.

Cherzoo and Jon Lee - waiting for a certificate of compliance for their septic system.

Gene Kroschel property has yet to start.

There was a letter from Kathy Ahoe asking why she needed a building permit for a building that was under 500 square feet.

The owners of the Vork property have not removed the trailer and have until August 8 to comply.

Roads

Tenquist Road was under water and beaver were removed. The supervisors are waiting to find out if there is money to do a second round of gravel.

Larson Road culvert was discussed.

Carlson Timber will begin mowing.

Vendors and contractors will be required to turn in their bills/claims two days before the end of each month.

Gebhart gave a list of duties for Scott Trenholm to complete each week.

Jeannie Rausch instructed Trenholm to write each day down and the work he performed as opposed to accumulating them and writing that number on his timesheet.

The board decided to get information on purchasing a lawn mower for the town hall. Gebhart made a motion to spend up to \$2,000 to purchase a riding lawn mower, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved. Gebhart said he would sell the township a weed whip at his cost.

Rausch was instructed to send out performance evaluation letters with paychecks.

The plow truck was taken to the auction to be sold.

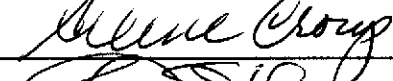
Gebhart instructed Croup to get quotes on a second grader. He said he would like the township to purchase one outright so the township would not have to pay interest. He also would like to see the roads graded after a rain, not on a schedule. It is most effective after a rain and easiest on the grader's cutting edges, Gebhart said.


There are two payments left on the grader and Gebhart said the board should continue putting that money into the equipment fund to build up funds for equipment replacement and breakdowns.

Gebhart said that after driving the dump truck to the auction, he realized it needs extensive work. He said a used grader would be something that could be used year around and Linda Thomson agreed.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m., seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 15, 2024.





Chair

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd.

Sandstone, MN 55072

Regular Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart and Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark and maintenance worker, Scott Trenholm and property owner Lynn Mollenhauer.

Minutes of the August 1, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion from Gebhart, seconded by Linda Thomson.

The board reviewed the recommendations of the planning committee on the interim use permit for Lynn Mollenhauer's property, 26685 Yaste Drive, Sandstone, MN 55072/PID#30.0631.000.

A motion was made by Jon Dorau to approve the interim use permit, on conditions that Mollenhauer first present proof of approval by Pine County of the septic system at the property and proof of a license for the AirB&B by the State of Minnesota. The motion was seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart stated he had received a complaint of loud music after quiet time from a neighbor next to the property on Groningen Road which had recently received an interim use permit for the Burnstone Music Festival. He visited the property and notified them of the violation of quiet time. They complied with the order for quiet time and there was no further problem on the weekend.

Linda Thomson said they could send the issue back to the planning committee concerning handling the violation.

The board agree they should return next year for renewal or changes at the full cost of the interim use permit.

Zoning officer, Ed Melzark, brought two new permits to the board for John Lee and Neil Shaw. The board unanimously approved both on a motion from Dorau, seconded by Gebhart.

Melzark asked the board about proceeding with the Ahoe permit. The structure in question would have to be portable and not secured to the ground to be approved as a non-permitted structure. Melzark will visit the property to inspect the buildings portability.

Ed Vork has failed through many warnings and failed to remove the trailer that was moved to his property.

A motion was made by Gebhart, seconded by Thomson instructing clerk Croup to contact the township's attorney, Peter Tiede, to proceed with legal steps. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup was instructed to inquire about whether the cost for the legal steps can be sought by the township from Vork.

Dorau said the Tenquist Road is under water and every culvert is plugged. Lee Juhl will be unplugging the culverts this weekend and Lee Greenly will be contacted for beaver removal.

Members of the planning committee will be attending the county's cannabis meetings.

The board conducted two performance reviews. Both employees chose not to have the meeting closed.

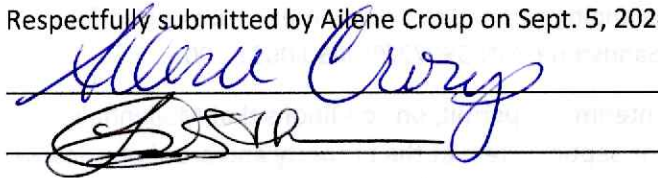
Each member filled out an evaluation and Thomson conducted the reviews.

She said Croup met and exceeded expectations. She critiqued the election process.

Scott Trenholm met expectations and was instructed to fill out time sheets in more detail according to the days the work was performed.

Gebhart made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Aijene Croup on Sept. 5, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aijene Croup", is written over a horizontal line. Below this line is another horizontal line with a second, less legible handwritten signature in blue ink.

Chair

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd. Sept. 5, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart and Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark and residents: Skip Thomson, Don Eaton, Keith Carlson, Ruth Carlson, Sandra Yaste, Forrest Yaste, Matt Ludwig, Rod Lawin, Scott Heller, Jan Heller, Bernard Marx, Debra Griffin, Josh Kester, Ti McKenen (sp.), Rita Schumacher, Nicki Heller, Doug Heller, Sharon Olson and Greg Olson.

The regular meeting was recessed at 7:03 p.m. and the second half of the Annual Meeting was reconvened from the March Annual Meeting.

At 8:15 p.m., the regular meeting was reconvened after a 10 recess between the second half of the Annual Meeting and the regular meeting.

Skip Thomson was ready with a report about the county's cannabis meeting he attended and that report was moved up on the agenda.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2024 meeting, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Skip Thomson said a small group was formed at the county to address the state's cannabis law. He said the county intends to come out with a broad zoning rule on cannabis. He said he spoke with planning committee member John Pitts after the meeting and Pitts commented that they should give all the township's cannabis zoning to the county.

Skip Thomson said all cannabis growing operations should be on public land because of how much water it takes to grow the plants. There should be a 500 foot setback for the residents and he expects a draft of the cannabis zoning document. He also said public hearing will be scheduled for the zoning ordinance and townships can opt in to the cannabis zoning.

Resident Greg Olson said commercial producers will have to pay cash and not by check because it is still illegal in the United States.

Olso also stated that you cannot have guns in a house with cannabis.

Clerk Croup presented the updated insurance package from MATIT for the completed town hall. It will increase to \$657 per year from just over \$200.

Croup said the yearly requirement just set by the federal government to update the township's UEI (unique entity identifier) number has been completed and updates will be required each year. It takes time to complete it but in order to receive funding from the federal and state government when there's a disaster, the township must have this number.

Linda Thomson said the board had completed two performance reviews and will be scheduling the others soon. She suggested the board do pay increases in conjunction with the reviews at the end of the year. The grader operators reviews will be scheduled soon.

Zoning officer Ed Melzark reported that the Ahoie file is complete and he has another permit coming up. He said the resident is moving an existing building which will require a site permit, which he will review and issue a permit on the spot.

The Vork letter to come into compliance with the trailer on his property was reviewed and approved by the board and will be sent by Attorney Tiede.

Dorau told the board there was a water problem on Tenquist Road. He said Lee Juhl will be removing the beaver.

Gebhart told the board five were already taken.

Gebhart talked about the culverts that need to be replaced on Little Sand Creek Road.

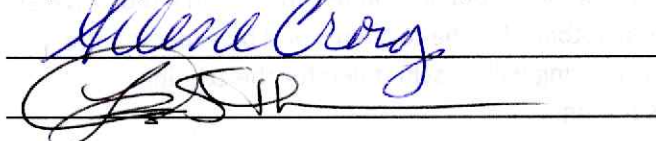
The board had approved purchase of a mower for the township. Gebhart said he found one but by the time he got to the person selling it in southern MN it had already been sold. He said it was cheaper to have Scott Trenholm mow for a few more times than purchase a mower right now. He said he is looking for a used John Deere.

Jeannie Rausch said Government Road was graded in 3.5 hours by Keith Petry and wondered about the disparity in grading times between the operators.

One resident on Government Road wanted to know if the township was going to address the boulders coming out in the road.

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

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Oct. 3, 2024.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ailene Croup', is written over a horizontal line. Below this line is another horizontal line with a second, less legible handwritten signature in black ink.

Chair

Sandstone Township
Second Half 2024 Annual Meeting
55044 Poplar Rd. Sept. 5, 2024

Clerk Ailene Croup reconvened the second half of the Annual Meeting at 7:03 p.m., which had been recessed on March 12, 2024.

She asked if Jon Dorau would continue as moderator from the first half of the Annual Meeting and he agreed. Croup said the only remaining item on the agenda was setting the levy.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau and Matt Gebhart and Clerk Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark and residents: Skip Thomson, Don Eaton, Keith Carlson, Ruth Carlson, Sandra Yaste, Forrest Yaste, Matt Ludwig, Rod Lawin, Scott Heller, Jan Heller, Bernard Marx, Debra Griffin, Josh Kester, Tim McKellar (sp.), Rita Schumacher, Nicki Heller, Doug Heller, Sharon Olson and Greg Olson.

Dorau read the projections prepared by Croup for township funding according to the expenses from 2024 and consumer price index and cost of living projections for 2025.

Keith Carlson asked if there was any FEMA money. Croup reported what had been received and used this year to pay for tree and brush removal and what had been reimbursed for the 2022 snowstorm. Tree removal was \$98,000 of which the township paid \$25,000 in advance. Homeland Security Emergency Management paid the remainder.

Josh Kester asked if the township received grants.

Croup replied that she had submitted and received requests for five grants over the past four years.

Matt Ludwig asked about money for the culverts.

Deb Griffin said the culverts on the "S" curves on Government Road should be flagged.

Forrest Yaste asked if every culvert is supposed to be marked and he asked if there was a plan to do any more gravel work on Government Road.

Matt Gebhart said the township put half the gravel that had been planned on the roads this year.

Rita Schumacher asked if the township was going to get the boulders out of Gov't Road before they gravel.

Dorau had a discussion with grader operator Keith Carlson about Old Military Road grading and that it was washboard.

Rodney Levine said Nurses and Kettlewell only get graded about every fifth time when Gov't is graded.

Sandy Yaste asked about the budget numbers.

Linda Thomson said the events that were not planned for were added expenses for the township. She said she did not think the township could afford a big raise in taxes. She also said the board has to get used to the current budget and live within it.

Jon Dorau said the township has one more grader payment.

Clerk Croup corrected him saying there were two payments remaining.

Matt Gebhart talked about the culverts needed on Little Sand Creek Road.

Jon Dorau said there would be a three percent increase each year for the next three years in the fire formula. He talked about the township now having one vehicle for grading and plowing.

Linda Thomson said the dump truck/plow was for sale on an online auction.

The truck had been driven to the auction facility by Matt Gebhart. He said there would be a lot more money needed to repair the truck.

Scott Heller asked the board why they need to meet twice a month.

Clerk Croup state that the board was meeting twice a month most month and that is more costly and restrictive to call special meetings. She said the board met 23 times in 2021 and 22 times in 2022.

Jon Dorau said there are certain times the board needs to meet and it is easier and cheaper for the board to schedule a meeting and cancel it when there is no business.

Scott Heller complained about hiring people outside the township.

Jon Dorau said they were not able to find people to fit the description of the job.


Sandy Yaste had questions about the budget.

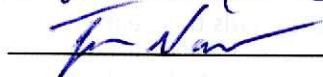
Keith Carlson made a motion to keep the levy at the current \$235,000 for 2025, seconded by Tim McKellar and approved 14 yes to 6 no. Motion passed.

Greg Olson said there are so many variables and what if we end up with no money.

Keith Carlson Made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Debra Griffin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Sept. 7, 2024.





Moderator

Sandstone Township

55044 Poplar Rd. Oct. 3, 2024/Reconvened Oct. 8, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark, Scott Trenholm and residents Don Eaton and Ruth Carlson. Supervisor Matt Gebhart was absent.

Minutes of the Sept. 5, 2024 regular meeting were unanimously approved 2-0 on a motion by Thomson, seconded by Dorau.

Rausch gave the treasurer's report and noted that approximately \$87,000 remains in the checking account. She also cleared up a request payment from Victory Station. She said those bills had been paid.

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

Croup reported that, as moderator, Dorau had not asked for a division of funds for the 2025 levy and she had to send the report in before the meeting. The board approved the division of \$90,000 general fund, \$90,000 road and bridge, \$20,000 equipment and \$25,000 in fire fund, the vote was unanimous on a motion from Dorau, seconded by Thomson.

Thomson reported the dump truck had been sold for \$10,250. The township received \$9,927.25 after the processing fee from the auction company.

Zoning officer Ed Melzark said he had received a building permit from Don Eaton. The board discussed the permit which was for property that was existing with support poles already in place. They decided no new permit would be needed.

The Ed Vork trailer has been an ongoing problem. The trailer was moved onto that property and does not comply with zoning regulations due in part to its age. The board decided to hold off taking action until all supervisors are at the meeting.

The township received a bill for beaver trapping from Lee Greenly. The number of beaver trapped was questioned because there was a previous date that the board may have paid for beaver on the back of the bounty request. They will address it at the next meeting.

Croup gave a report about the trash that was dumped on Tenquist Road. The person whose mail was found in the trash was questioned by a sheriff's deputy and he said he was willing to provide restitution. No information was received about how to process the request. A rolloff dumpster was purchased and the neighbors on the road put the trash in the dumpster. Maintenance personnel Scott Trenholm and clerk Croup spent several hours pursuing a solution to the trash removal.

Dorau stated that the brushing that was done by Carlson Timber didn't go out as far as it did when they removed the trees this year. When Gebhart returns he will be notified.

Dorau also reported that social media discussion about Robin Street was negative as far as how it's being kept up this year. It is the city's year to maintain the road.

A motion was made by Thomson to approve the election judges list: Barb Benjaminson, Theresa Dawson, Don Eaton, Cookie Hansen, Judy Magnuson, Nancy Peterson, Gary Thomson, Jan Yaste, Ailene

Croup plus any additional judges as Croup decides are needed. Dorau seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0.

At 8:25 p.m., Thomson made a motion to recess the meeting until Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, at 7 p.m., so the full board could address several of the issues that needed the full board's attention. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Oct. 8, 2024

Chair Linda Thomson reconvened the meeting, which had been recessed from Oct. 3, 2024.

New attendees included supervisor Matt Gebhart, Ed Melzark, Don Eaton and Gary Thomson.

The board addressed the question of how many beaver Greenly would be paid for trapping. The decision was three beaver. Greenly has no insurance and will no longer be used for trapping beavers.

On a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Gebhart the board unanimously approved moving \$17,997 out of the building fund into the road and bridge fund.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to approve the treasurer's report with those two spending issues addressed, it was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart agreed to take on maintenance of Dorau's roads during November when he is gone.

Following discussion, the board decided to have brushing done in the spring.

Gebhart made a motion to send the Vork violation on to the attorney to proceed with the legalities. It was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

After discussion about the township's ability to zone, license and enforce the new state cannabis laws, the board decided to turn those duties over to Pine County Zoning.

Resolution 2024-07 Delegating the Registration of Cannabis Retail Businesses to Pine County was unanimously approved on a motion from Matt Gebhart, seconded by Linda Thomson.

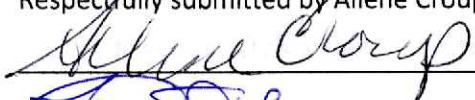
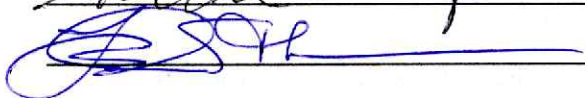
The board discussed the inquiry from a large data storage company concerning their thoughts about rezoning a Zone 1 location to allow the business. The board spoke favorably about the possibility.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to revamp the building permit to take out the part about building under 500 square feet not needing a permit, it was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The board will proceed with performance reviews in December.

Linda Thomson motioned to adjourn at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Nov. 7, 2024.

Chair

Sandstone Township Regular Meeting Minutes

Sandstone Twp Hall

Nov. 7, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson and Matt Gebhart, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark, Scott Trenholm. Supervisor Jon Dorau was absent.

Minutes of the Oct. 3, 2024 regular meeting were unanimously approved 2-0 on a motion by Gebhart, seconded by Thomson.

Rausch gave the treasurer's report noting that access to the township's checking account was limited to what she could find out by phone. Northview's online banking system was down for updates.

Croup asked about two duplicate checks she found on the cash control statements from the past three months. Also, a \$3,332 check was coded in CTAS or training. Croup asked that it be resolved since this didn't match the MAT training charges.

Thomson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved 2-0.

Thomson made a motion to pay the bills except the Victory bill because it looks like one that was already paid and the Summerland bill which also looks like a duplicate. Gebhart seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved 2-0.

Thomson said she would look into the two incorrect bills.

Croup notified the board the paperwork for the Voter Grant had been submitted to the county and it worked out to a larger amount than had been expected. She also informed the board that Homeland Security Emergency Management had requested additional paperwork on two culverts that the township had received money for mitigation.

Clerk Croup said more MAT training was available for clerks and treasurers during the month of November.

Treasurer Rausch said she had chosen Theresa Dawson to be her deputy. Croup will swear her in.

Thomson made a motion to send her to the MAT training in November, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Performance reviews for Keith Carlson, Gene Kroschel and Tom Colsrud will be completed in December.

Gebhart made a motion to accept and send the road certification to the county highway department. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved 2-0.

The board reviewed the new culvert permit.

Thomson said at this time, all the roads are rough.

Gebhart said maintenance personnel, Scott Trenholm, would be in charge of beaver removal and if he has a problem he should call Lee Juhl.

Gebhart said a problem exists with the way roads are being graded. The operators are taking turns with the grader on certain days rather than grading after the rain which is the optimal time. Carlson will do all the east roads except Poplar, Old Wagon Road, Klejeski and Anderson.

The reason the roads are graded this way is because it has always been done that way and Gebhart said that was not a good reason. He also said not grading a road because the operator has issues with the resident, is not acceptable either.

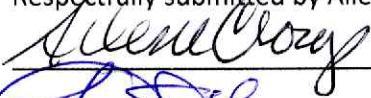
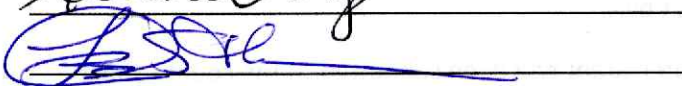
Croup was instructed to submit the additional 10 loads applied to Government Road and pulling in the gravel from the ditches as extraordinary expense to the state. This is because of the higher volume of traffic over the year with the work being done on I-35 and traffic increase on Gov't Road.

Croup told the board the county had offered to take over doing the absentee voting for the township elections. She noted there could be problems with getting the results in a timely way because the absentee voting would be open at the courthouse until 8 p.m. and then they would have to be tabulated and the township notified. She thought residents may not want to go all the way down to the courthouse to absentee vote.

The board's consensus was to keep the absentee balloting at the township.

Thomson made a motion to pay the deputy treasurer \$20/hour. *MATT GEBHART SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2-0*
Linda Thomson motioned to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Dec. 5, 2024.

Chair

Sandstone Township Regular Meeting Minutes

Sandstone Twp Hall

Dec. 5, 2024

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Matt Gebhart and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Jeannie Rausch and Zoning Officer Ed Melzark, Maintenance Scott Trenholm and residents Castonguay and Keith Carlson.

Minutes of Nov. 7, 2024 were approved, with corrections, on a motion from Gebhart, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Treasurer Rausch reported that the Victory bill was still not straightened out. And, a bill from ^DGDO Law offices was also received as an additional payment to be approved.

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

Rausch told the board she was resigning effective immediately because she could not do the job anymore due to all the things going on right now. Rausch said the treasurer should have more instruction on the duties involved with the job.

The board talked about getting help from other townships to cover the township's treasurer's position. Thomson said the treasurer needs to spend time at the town hall since this is where all the township's records should be kept.

Thomson made a motion to pay the bills including the GDO Law Office bill and the Victory bill at the mid-month meeting if they can get it straightened out. Gebhart seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Thomson said performance reviews are scheduled for the mid-month meeting and raises can be discussed once those are complete.

There was some discussion about growing cannabis and regulating it. Croup said she had been to the county zoning committee meeting and they had agreed on a growing ordinance that would be brought to the county board. The townships will be able to opt-in to the county's cannabis growing ordinance as they did with the retail. Getting the planning committee involved again was the board's direction.

Zoning – Ed Melzark told the board he had received a request for a minor subdivision for property located at 23875 Groningen Road. Property owners are Vickie Thurber and Donald and Ona Behrman. They have requested to split off a five-acre section of their 20-acre parcel. The town board said it fits into the minimum five-acre requirement for subdivision and is in favor of the minor subdivision.

Melzark also brought forward a request from Steve Volk to build a new commercial storage building. Volk would have to apply for a conditional use permit, Melzark stated.

Dorau asked why that was necessary since Volk already has commercial storage buildings on his property. He added that Volk wants to pour cement while the weather is still good.

Those buildings were grandfathered in because they were there before zoning, Melzark told the board, and any expansion of that use would require a conditional use permit. If he wants to pursue it, the planning committee should be notified.

Dorau objected to Volk being required to obtain a conditional use permit.

Gebhart, who was in charge of all the township's roads in November, said he had something happen that has never happened. He had compliments on the grading and condition of Government Road. The board approved additional gravel at the end of the season for Government Road. It suffered loss of gravel this summer due to the diversion of traffic from I-35, which had major repairs and closures.

Gebhart told the board Ronnie Roberts delivered the gravel and said the road wasn't being graded deep enough. Gebhart sent the newest operator, Keith Petry, ^{WAO} went out with instructions to pull in the shoulders which had been pushed back out by the operators. And he told him to deepen the cut. Gebhart said Petry even pulled out some large rocks and spent some time on the road learning. Petry did not turn in a timesheet. Gebhart reported that Roberts said Government Road doesn't need more gravel. He said it just needs to be graded properly.

Petry reported to Gebhart that all the tires on the grader were low and they needed a special adaptor for the valve stem because of their size. Gebhart purchased an adaptor. Rather than move the adaptor from tire to tire, Gebhart said adaptors need to be purchased for all the tires.

Thomson made a motion to put Gebhart on the Napa charge list, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Croup reported that the Public Utilities Commission had been in touch with her and that Century Link found that the communication lines in Poplar Road were live. They are in the process of moving the live lines to the other side of the road.

Gebhart said he has not received further information on the Watershed Grant for the culvert at Nurses Road.

Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08 setting the polling place for 2025 as the town hall. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09, closing Old Wagon Road, past the last residence, for up to four months during the winter. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to continue the website, sandstonetownship.com, at the increased price of \$368 per year. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

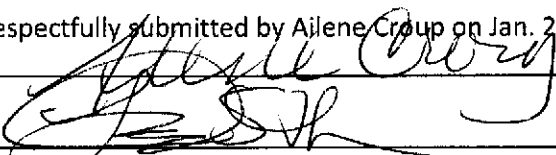
Dorau asked if there was a snow plowing plan for who is first in the grader.

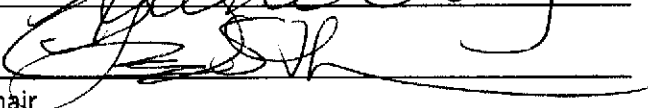
Gebhart said the only plowing complaint he had was one of the operators not plowing one road because of an issue with one resident on that road.

Thomson said the township could get a smaller grader to use in the winter in town. Both Thomson and Gebhart said there was no money available to buy one outright.

At 8:40, a motion was made by Dorau to adjourn, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Jan. 2, 2025.





Chair

Sandstone Township Regular Meeting Minutes

Sandstone Twp Hall

Dec. 19, 2024

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. followed by the pledge.

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Matt Gebhart and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup, Acting Treasurer Theresa Dawson and Zoning Contact Ed Melzark, Maintenance Scott Trenholm, grader operators Keith Carlson and Keith Petry and residents George Castonguay, Ruth Carlson and Chris Nathan and treasurer candidate Erin Hoxsie.

Grader operator Keith Carlson's performance review was conducted with the meeting open per his request.

Thomson said grading dry roads was hard on the cutting edges and the grading should be done after a rain.

Carlson said there are exceptions to the rule and Thomson agree there are exceptions to the rule such as with high traffic.

Gebhart said grading should be done in a logical pattern for all the roads. He also said operators can not eliminate a road from being graded or plowed because the operator has issues with a resident on that road.

Not grading because it is not your day to grade is not the best way to handle who will grade, Thomson said and Gebhart agreed that would have to be changed.

Thomson said there have been ^{no} ~~some~~ problems with communications and Keith Carlson said he made his opinions known.

The board discussed additional operator training through LTAP and Keith Carlson said he was willing to learn.

Thomson said she had been notified that Little Sand Creek Road, which is maintained by Carlson and 50 percent is billed to Danforth, was being graded into the minimum maintenance area.

Keith Carlson said he went as far as Doug Carlson's driveway. Keith Carlson said he himself was a taxpayer (he has land along that road). And he goes in to turn around.

The performance review ended at 7:15 p.m.

Erin Hoxsie and Chris Nathan were available for questions and had been asked about filling the vacant treasurer's position.

Nathan said he spoke with Sandra Nelson who has experience doing the treasurer's bookwork for other townships and would do that part but the township would still need a treasurer. No price for the work was known.

Croup said coordinating two people, with one not coming to the meetings, would be difficult and the board should look at training one person to do the job.

Gebhart asked Erin Hoxie if she would be able to come to the meetings and Hoxsie said she would.

Dorau asked Hoxie where she worked and her hours.

Hoxie said her hours were 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She said she would be willing to do the job.

Croup said she would spend some time with Hoxie after 4:30 p.m. to get her going and to coordinate the things Hoxie would need to address until she can manage it.

Thomson made a motion to hire Erin Hoxie, Gebhart seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dorau asked Hoxie what she was thinking about for wages. Thomson said the previous treasurer was getting \$21 per hour.

Chris Nathan told her to ask for \$33 per hour.

Dorau made a motion to pay her \$22 per hour with a review of that pay scale in three months. It was seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

The planning committee discussed the grower and grower retail combined businesses and zoning for those businesses.

They recommended the "...to let the County take over just the pot zoning now, till whenever they finally pass it for the county. Then the County will be in control of just the pot zoning. To many laws to follow and no one on the Township will take it over. Too much money to spend on it for the Township."

They also recommended that the town board use only interim permits for growers rather than conditional.

Croup read the email from the township's attorney, which she had just received on a request from the board about regulation of marijuana signage.

Attorney Andrew Tiede which stated there were already restrictions at the state level backed up by statute 342.64 concerning marijuana signage on the freeway and, also at the retailer.

Zoning contact, Ed Melzark, brought up the Volk property owner's request for a site permit for a storage unit. There are already multiple units for this business with no CUP/IUP permits.

The board determined Volk would be required to apply for a CUP/IUP permit before any additional storage shed could be erected and at that time, the fee for the previous shed would be waived.

Melzark was instructed to notify Volk of the board's decision and that Melzark should determine the number of sheds currently on the property.

Gebhart reported he had spoken to other townships about their pattern for grading their roads. He said they either go west to east or east to west.

He also talked to Carlson Timber and they said they would plow the west side of the township if the snow was bad and would leave the shop about 2:30 a.m. if needed.

The board decided on east and west backups if the township cannot handle the plowing.

Gebhart said he would contact Summerland about backup on the east and Dorau said Gus Roberts would do the west.

The board made two separate motions on payments to the Victory Station. The first was for \$595. On a motion from Dorau, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved. The second was for \$548.42 on motion from Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Gebhart made a motion to pay grader operator Tom Colsrud's payroll from October. Colsrud had not submitted a timesheet only a work log for that month. Thomson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Gebhart discussed and instructed Keith Petry training and instructing Scott Trenholm on plowing. And the board agreed on Deep Rock if the grader is stuck and Carlson Timber, and Gus Roberts for towing.

The grader operators will need a list of contractors they can call for assistance.

Gebhart said Tom Colsrud does not want to run the grader in the winter.

Neither Colsrud or Gene Kroschel showed up for their performance review and Linda Thomson said she did not know what to do with employees who did not show up for their performance review. Neither of them called her to say they could not be there.

Keith Carlson asked if the supervisors should be contacted anytime an operator goes out in the grader.

Gebhart said in the past, they had used four inches of snow as the standard for going out to plow.

Thomson said the operators should keep in touch with each other also.

Gene Kroschel has a straight blade and Dorau said he would go out and look at it for the grader.

Keith Petry agreed to keep the sidewalk clean.

Croup reported she had received the final on disaster 4722 and the prepaid mitigation amount though more than the township's cost would be considered beneficial to the township with no repayment. She also said she had been invited to a mitigation meeting with the county. She will get info to Dorau who wants to attend.

Clerk Croup created a variance application and the board approved it on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Gebhart and unanimously approved.

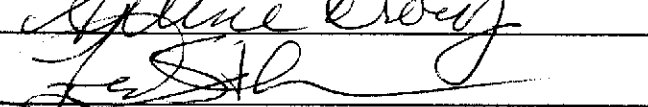
Thomson made a motion to purchase a vacuum cleaner for the town hall from Ace Hardware. Gebhart said he would provide it for the township at cost. Dorau seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0-1. Gebhart abstained because of is ownership of the store.

Melzark reported he had received a request for a site permit from East Central Energy. It will be a small pad and building.

Pay raises will be discussed at a future meeting. *at the budget meeting.*

At 8:52, a motion was made by Thomson to adjourn, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Jan. 2, 2025.



Chair