

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Jan. 5, 2023

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

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

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of the recessed meeting of Dec.1, 2022 and the reconvened meeting of Dec. 8, 2022, with changes, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

There was discussion on the amount of money in the bank including all funds. After receiving the second half of the levy and just under \$700 in outstanding checks, the total in the township's bank account is \$191,696. Approximately \$92,000 of that is ARPA money.

Croup reminded the board there will be no additional funds coming in until the first half of the levy is received in June 2023. The one exception is the state gas tax distribution which is a restricted fund and can only be used on roads and bridges.

The fire fund is in the negative following last month's second half fire formula payment. Dorau made a motion to move \$6,690.68 from the general fund to the fire fund, so it stands at zero. The motion was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Discussion about the fund balance in the equipment fund and grader payment being paid from the road and bridge fund. The board agreed that grader payments should have come from the equipment fund. A motion was made by Thomson to move \$27,000 from the equipment fund to the road and bridge fund covering last year's grader payment and future payment will come from the equipment fund. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Thomson to approve an affidavit of work done by Dorau for the emergency caused by the storm. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The work total by Dorau was 23.5 hours at \$60/hour for a total of \$1,410.

Bills

Grader operator Tom Colsrud had personal comments in his snowstorm timesheet. Thomson said they should be removed because they will be used to submit time for the disaster when it's declared by the county.

Thomson made a motion to approve the claims including Colsrud's, contingent on him changing the timesheet with removal of personal comments. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The board decided to add extra work for the troubled roads to the budget meeting. They will work toward finding contractors to do the extra work, depending on which road is reconstructed this year with the additional levy money.

All supervisors report excessive snow on roadsides.

The board decided to make some changes to the letter to the grader operators concerning who can charge at Ace Hardware and that they cannot hire employees.

Notes were made to include changes on the latest revision of the zoning ordinance.

Town Hall updates with quotes from contractors will be reviewed at the special budget meeting Jan. 19, 2023.

The board agreed they are not looking to hire anyone to cover maintenance duties. Dorau suggested the board ask grader operator, Gene Kroschel, if he needs help.

Thomson said she was not in favor of unauthorized people riding along in the grader and plow truck.

She also stated that anyone operating township equipment needs to be hired by the board with training directed by the board.

Dorau wanted information on whether grader operator Keith Carlson can rent Jon Dorau's ^{Equipment} ~~bobcat~~ to clean the sidewalk and parking area of the town hall. Croup will contact MAT for the legal side.

Dorau also wanted to know if his son could do the work. Croup said because of conflict of interest, board members cannot use their family members to do work.

The board will need one more member trained for the board of appeal and equalization. Dorau has no internet and said he would go to Croup's home to complete the online training by Feb. 1, 2023.

The board is sending the sign ordinance work to the planning committee.

Hinsch made a motion to ~~recess~~ ^{adjourn} at 9:15 p.m. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Feb. 2, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Special Meeting

Jan. 19, 2023

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

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

Town Hall Construction

Clerk Croup told the board she had taken contractor Brett Page through the building so he could give the township an estimate on the construction repairs needed to have the building ready for repairs. She said she also sent him the engineer's report and written comments.

The board asked Croup to send the information to Jason Monson for an additional quote along with the engineering report.

Winter Storm Damage Disaster/Road Reconstruction

Croup was asked to find out about using a temporary employee to address the downed trees. Brad Rootke may be an option for tree removal.

Because of the need to pay contractors as they do the work and wait for reimbursement from the state for the disaster, Thomson suggested the second half of the increased levy received in December 2023 be used to reconstruct the roads the board has identified in need of reconstruction.

2023 Budget

The board reviewed the 2022 Fourth Quarter budget details presented by Theresa Dawson and Clerk Croup.

Spending went beyond the receipts in 2022.

Croup presented an average of receipts and expenditures and showed total monthly receipts (money received) averaged -\$1,229 less than disbursements (money spent).


Thomson said she would not close the meeting until they reached a balanced budget. The board worked to balance the projected income with projected expenses.

The board's projection for the 2023 Budget was \$245,592.


Thomson made a motion to approve a 2023 budget of \$245,592, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Feb. 2, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

Feb. 2, 2023

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

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

Hinsch made a motion to accept the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Hinsch to accept the Special Budget Meeting from Jan. 19, 2023. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Hansen answered questions about the treasurer's report and a motion to accept it was made by Dorau, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to pay the bills; Hinsch seconded and it was unanimously approved.

The clerk reported on the completion of the MATIT insurance audit, county board meetings and that Jon Doau had completed the Board of Appeal training so the township can have two trained supervisors.

Roads

Dorau said he would contact Trent Rabe about sanding Thomson, Anderson and Robin St. He also got information about putting ~~sodium~~^{calcium} chloride on roads. The cost would be \$1,000 per mile and he would like to talk about it at the annual meeting.

~~Sodium~~^{calcium} chloride is not going to make the roads any smoother, Hinsch said.

Thomson said she would not travel the roads that have ~~sodium~~^{calcium} chloride because the chemical destroys vehicles.

The board talked about purchasing or renting equipment to reclaim gravel.

Dorau said the brusher the board approved renting with Dell Grove broke down last fall and they were not able to do any brushing.

A motion was made by Dorau to hire someone to do brushing first thing in the spring. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Hiring a parttime or temporary employee was discussed and the duties of the employee which would include cleaning the town hall, maintenance in the town hall and filling in on the grader if needed. Thomson agreed to bring the maintenance/operator discussion back to the March meeting. Thomson said she would create a job description.

Dorau brought up the high cost of towing during the snow event in December. Deep Rock pulled the truck out several times. He wondered if a towing contract for the year would be a less expensive way to go or if a farmer with an on call tractor could do the work.

Croup told the board would have to use someone who had liability insurance. The grader operator could pull the truck out with township equipment.

Operators would have to contact one of the three supervisors to have the grader or truck towed or pulled out. The board will write it into the new reorganizational policy.

Thomson talked about the progress in getting quotes for the structural reinforcement of the town hall. She wanted to know if it would be necessary to have the building inspected once it's complete.

Thomson made a motion to approved Theresa Dawson and Jan Yaste as the absentee ballot board for the annual election, Hinsch seconded and it was unanimously approved.


A motion was made by Hinsch and unanimously approved to have Theresa Dawson and Jan Yaste as Annual Election judges and any trained judge in case of illness. The motion was seconded by Thomson.

Dorau wanted Brad Rootke to be informed that the board was still working on plans to clear the December snow storm damage.

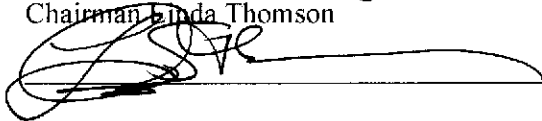
The board instructed Croup to let the two quoters for the town hall know if they had anything to add to their quote, the information must be received before Feb. 16, 2023.

Hinsch made a motion to recess the meeting at 9:10 p.m., and reconvene and Feb. 16, at 1 p.m. at 30630 Anderson Drive. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on March 2, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Reconvened Regular Meeting from Feb. 2, 2023

On Feb. 16, 2023

Chair Linda Thomson reconvened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

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

The board reviewed the three quotes received for structural improvements on the town hall. Ellingson Construction quoted \$44,970. Brett Paige construction Company, LLC quoted \$32,064.90. Monson Construction, Inc. quoted \$12,100.

Hinsch wondered why the Monson quote was so low and if he was a reliable builder.

Dorau said Monson had worked as the lead construction employee under another firm and had started his own business about a year and a half ago.

There was a question about the existing framed bathroom which needs to be removed and it was on Monson's quote.

Thomson said she was familiar with Paige's work and she trusted him. Dorau suggest they narrow it down to the two builders, Paige and Monson. The board unanimously agreed to hire Monson Construction, LLC to do the structural improvements.

The board would like the work to begin as soon as possible.

Thomson made a motion to approve Monson Construction LLC's contract and pay the first half of the contract, \$6,050, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved. Croup will contact the unsuccessful bidders and contact Monson.

Job Descriptions

Thomson created job descriptions for clerk, treasurer and grader operator. She found the treasurer's job description at the Minnesota Association of Township's ^{Township Manual} ~~website~~. She researched other townships to find grader operators' descriptions and pay scales. She said the current grader pay is comparable to other operators in other township's. She also found a title for the maintenance person the board wants to hire. It will be parttime on call.

Dorau made a motion to accept the job descriptions and schedule performance evaluations, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved. Jon will do the performance evaluations for the grader operators.

The board discussed having the grader operators at board meetings to update the board on the condition of the roads and to be sure and have at least one of them at the road review.

Payroll once every 30 days was discussed as required by the 2019 passage of the Wage Theft Law. Direct deposit is a possibility and meetings twice a month. Thomson said most months the board has to schedule special meetings so it's not out of line.

The board reviewed the Sign Ordinance prepared by the Planning Committee and agreed to set it aside until a later date.

The board approved the revised zoning ordinance and will set a time for the public hearing at the next meeting, motion by Hinsch, seconded by Thomson and failed 3-0.

Dorau was concerned about wording in Section 7.

A motion was made by Thomson to accept the Zoning Ordinance as amended with the change of wording pertaining to surveying, "will" to "may," in Section 7, Sub 4a. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Dorau talked about getting Gus Roberts to do the gravel reclaiming or renting equipment to do it.

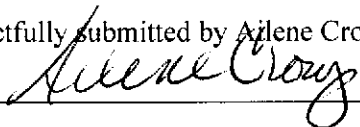
Hinsch said he'd look into the cost of purchasing the equipment.

Getting an application for part time employee and posting it on the website was discussed. Thomson will create the ad.

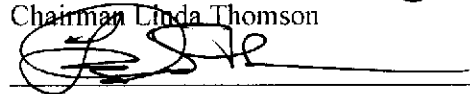
Croup said she had received a call about recycled tires being dumped in the township. She turned the information over to the county.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Aylene Croup on March 2, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Board of Audit

March 2, 2023

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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

Hansen reported the Jan. 1, 2022 beginning bank balance was \$153,491.24. Total funds received for 2022 were \$262,339.34 which included ARPA funds. Total expenses were \$224,931.25. The Dec. 31, 2022 ending balance, including ARPA funds and the December receipt of the second half of the levy, was \$191,696.74.

Croup reviewed expenses for 2022 and projected expenses for 2023. She said with the declared disaster in December, the township would have to have trees removed and ditches cleaned of debris. Croup had given an estimate of \$50,000 to complete the work which she said was just a guess. The money would have to come from township funds and then be submitted to Minnesota Emergency Management for reimbursement of 75 percent. There is a year to complete the work and could be up to a year for reimbursement.

Hinsch said the people on Government Road need to have the large rocks removed from the road this year.

Thomson said both Government and Little Sand Creek Road need attention. She said they board needs to ask for more than one quote and should ask Lee Hessenius to give them a quote on the projects.


Dorau made a motion to they

2022		2023		2024	
General Fund	\$48,000	General Fund	\$60,000	General Fund	\$60,000
Road and Bridge	\$40,000	Road and Bridge	\$90,000	Road and Bridge	\$90,000
Equipment	\$28,000	Equipment	\$30,000	Equipment	\$30,000
Fire	\$13,000	Fire	\$24,000	Fire	\$24,000
Total	\$129,000		\$204,000		\$204,000

Dorau made a motion to keep the levy at the same level as last year, \$204,000. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 6, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2023

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

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

Thomson recessed the meeting at 7:05 p.m. to conduct the Board of Audit meeting and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The Feb. 2, 2023 recessed regular meeting minutes, with corrections, was unanimously approved with a motion by Dorau and seconded by Thomson.

Thomson made a motion to approve the reconvened Feb. 16, continued regular meeting. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

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

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

Roads

Dorau predicted a late start on road work due to the snowy weather.

Thomson said grader operator Keith Carlson did a good job on the roads.

Hinsch said he had been looking for gravel reclaimers to purchase. He had talked to County Engineer Mark LeBrun about the county's equipment. LeBrun said the township could use the county's reclaimer.

LeBrun told Hinsch the county would have to charge some for the use of the equipment which the township would be operating. Hinsch said Gopher 1 would have to be contacted to locate underground utilities and the township may not be able to reclaim too far into the ditch because of utilities. Grader operator Tom Colsrud may be able to operate the equipment.

Jason Munson will be starting work on the town hall on Monday, March 6. Thomson wondered if he would be willing to bid on the completion of the building in the second phase. Croup said she had put the question out to each of the three bidders when she revealed who won the contract. Contractor Walt Walzcak said he wasn't interested in bidding the second phase.

The board is ready with the changes to the zoning ordinance, and a motion was made by Thomson to schedule the public hearing for the ordinance on April 6, 2023, at 7:05 p.m., during the regular meeting. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

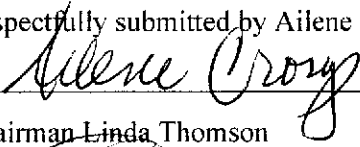
Croup will have 25 copies of the ordinance printed for the hearing.

Dorau agreed to inspect Munson's work. Dorau made a motion to have a check ready following inspection and approval of the work. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

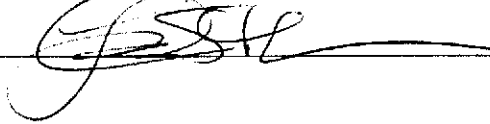
Thomson reported that job reviews had not been completed yet. She said she would create an ad for the paper to hire a part time on call employee to help with maintenance.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 6, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Board of Canvass

March 14, 2023

Chairman Linda Thomson opened the Board of Canvass meeting at 8:10 p.m.

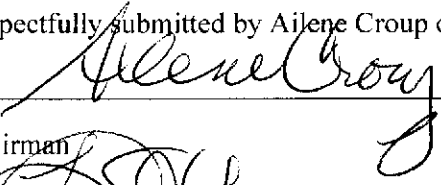
Present were Supervisors Thomson and Jon Dorau, Ailene Croup, Election Judges Theresa Dawson and Janice Yaste and Treasurer Maureen Hansen. Gary Hinsch came in late.


Dawson reported there were 20 votes cast including two absentee votes. All 20 votes were cast for Gary Hinsch.

Thomson made a motion to accept the election report, seconded by Dorau and approved 2-0.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on April 6, 2023.



Chairman


Sandstone Township Minutes

Annual Meeting

March 14, 2023

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

Present were residents Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau, Donald Eaton, Bernard Marx, Matt Gebhart, Keith Carlson, Darlene Carlson, Morris Carlson, Ruth Carlson, Maureen (Cookie) Hansen, Maury Peterson, Gary Hinsch and Election Judge Janice Yaste. Also present were Clerk Ailene Croup and Deputy Clerk and Election Judge Theresa Dawson

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to nominate Skip Thomson as moderator. Bernie Marx seconded the nomination and it was unanimously approved.

Keith Carlson made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Cookie Hansen and unanimously approved.

Jon Dorau said he would like to see the township's beginning and ending year balance at the annual meeting.

A motion was made by Jon Dorau to accept the minutes from last year's annual first half and second half meetings, Keith Carlson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Election Judge Janice Yaste reported there were 20 votes cast at the annual election. All 20 votes were for Gary Hinsch. Keith Carlson made a motion to accept the election report with a second by Don Eaton and it was unanimously approved.

Clerk Ailene Croup reported that construction had begun on the first phase of the town hall. They were able to get quotes as opposed to bids due to the threshold required by law. The structural support had been completed. The board received three quotes ranging from just over \$12,000 to just over \$42,000. The board accepted the \$12,000 bid. The next phase will be the completion of the building.

Croup updated the township residents on the December 2022 snowstorm which was declared a disaster by the county. She said the township had more than 1,500 down or in danger of falling and that the ditches also had much downed brush debris. She had been in contact with the county and state about declaring Sandstone Township as part of the disaster area. She was required to estimate the cost to cleanup the trees and she said \$50,000.

Maury Peterson asked when the time would be up for submitting township losses from the disaster. Croup said the township has one year from January 2023 to turn in township receipts for the cleanup from the storm and the township will be reimbursed at 75 percent.

Linda Thomson said the board has discussed hiring an employee to do the cleanup so they can save as much money as possible. She also stated concerns about the debris clogging the ditches this spring.

Gary Hinsch said he had talked to county engineer Mark LeBrun who said the brushers will be very busy this summer.

Discussion about the use of the American Recovery Plan Act funds was discussed.

Keith Carlson said he had asked about uses for the funds and that Croup had given him misinformation.

Ailene Croup explained that when the funds were first received from the federal government, the uses were limited. She attempted to have the whole sum of just over \$86,000 declared loss revenue. She worked on the numbers for quite awhile had County Auditor Kelly Schroeder help with the breakdown.

Because the township had not increased its levy each year, they could not declare lost revenue according to the declaration process. They could not supplant the money. However, they could use the funds for projects like completing the town hall. She said at that time the board decided the funds would be used to complete that project and a committee of Croup, Linda Thomson and Maureen Hansen met and filed for the grant funds.

Several months later, the federal government declared that every township could claim loss revenue making the fund usable for most things and eliminate the use of paying off bills and using it in conjunction with a bond or loan.

Croup said she wrote a letter to the county asking the commissioners to give some of the county's ARPA funds to the township for completion of the building. Each commissioner selected one project in their district and Matt Ludwig supported the township's request. The request for \$25,000 was granted that it be used for installation of septic and water in the town hall.

Jon Dorau said the township needs to have a group of people, not just one person, look at what we're going to do next like the planning committee. He said they need to look at whether to heat the whole building.

Linda Thomson said the contractor will use subcontractors to do the work.

Gary Hinsch said the heat needs to come from overhead.

The contractors are going to be the experts, Linda Thomson said.

Maury Peterson asked what the threshold was for obtaining quotes as opposed to bids for the project.

At \$175,000, the board would be required to request closed bids that would be opened at a board meeting.

Keith Carlson and Jon Dorau reviewed Maureen Hansen's treasurer's financial software report that \$20,802.57 had been spent under the "governing board" expenses. They expressed that as a "high" amount.

Keith Carlson said when the board gets ready to make their findings know on the building they should let the public know.

A motion to accept the financial report was made by Keith Carlson, seconded by Maury Peterson and unanimously approved.

Roads were discussed.

Matt Gebhart, who lives on Poplar Road, said he pulled many people out of the snow at the end of Wagon Wheel Road.

Keith Carlson, who operates the township's grader, said he can't get the grader down there.

The park at the end of the road closes at 10 p.m. There is a gate down there and Gebhart said he had replaced the locks on the gate many times. He also said there's a heavy drug problem down that road.

Dorau talked about closing the road and putting up a barricade. Matt Gebhart said the township could buildup snow at the end.

Croup told the residents the road can be closed for up to four months and still be within the law.

Jon Dorau said he would talk to the city and state about closing the park.

Gary Hinsch suggested having them set a date that the park closes.

Government Road needs the rocks pulled out of it this year, Gary Hinsch added.

The electors were given a list of groups requesting donations.

Ruth Carlson made a motion to donate \$125 to the Pine County History Center, in Askov, where the township's records are kept. Gary Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Skip Thomson made a motion to that the township give no other donations. It was seconded by Matt Gebhart and unanimously approved.

Planning committee member Maury Peterson said the committee has several things they have been working on.

The planning committee works well together, said Gary Hinsch, board member assigned to the committee.

Planning Committee Chairman Skip Thomson said the board has been working on variances and zoning.

Ailene Croup answered Keith Carlson's questions about the changes made in the updated zoning ordinance. Croup was instructed to put the proposed ordinance on the township's website.

The 2024 levy was discussed and Town Board Chairman, Linda Thomson, said because of the large levy increase last year, at the Board of Audit the Board recommended no change for 2024.

Resident Morris Carlson said in 2022, at the March Annual Meeting, the electors' consensus was to raise the levy for 2023 \$20,000. In September 2022, electors voted to increase the levy by \$75,000. He said he and his son's township taxes had gone up quite a bit. He wanted to know why no one stood by the \$20,000.

Linda Thomson said the voters decided on the \$75,000 increase.

Gary Hinsch agreed and said he would have been happy with a little reduction but it was the constituents who voted to increase.

Resident Matt Gebhart said from the numbers he was reviewing on disbursements and receipts, it looked like the levy should be raised another \$75,000. He said the cost of living has gone up another 10 percent and you have to raise it as the cost of living rises.

Theresa Dawson, deputy clerk and hired by the township to update the budget quarterly, was recognized by the moderator. She said she had looked at the township's budget every year and the township spends more than they take in each year. She said this is the first year she has seen the board propose a balanced budget.

Linda Thomson shared information about the grader expenses.

Matt Gebhart talked about the township having a buffer in the case of a disaster like the snowstorm. He said Partridge Township has a \$300,000 reserve for such unplanned occurrences.

Linda Thomson outlined some of the costs for use of Cross Church for annual meetings, public accuracy testing, primaries and voting. They charge \$100 for each use.

Morris Carlson said one of the worst moves the board made was selling the old grader. Those were costs that could have been stopped.

Skip Thomson asked how you stop two supervisors from doing that.

Morris Carlson asked why the board didn't follow through on the \$20,000 they recommended for this year.

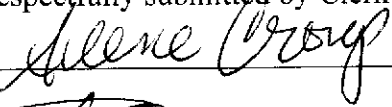
Ailene Croup said the vote was 9-3 in favor of raising the levy \$75,000 for 2023.

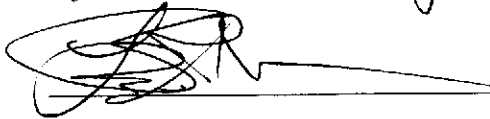
Keith Carlson made a motion to delay setting the 2024 levy until September 2023. Maury Peterson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Gary Hirsch made a motion to set the Annual Meeting for next year on March 12, 2024, at 8:15 p.m. Bernie Marx seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bernie Marx made a motion, at 9:30 p.m., to recess the 2023 Annual Meeting, and reconvene Sept. 7, 2023, at 7 p.m., at North Pine Government Center. Don Eaton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup, on March 16, 2023.





Moderator

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting/Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinance

April 6, 2023

Supervisor Linda Thomson opened the meeting with the pledge at 7 p.m.

Present were the supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau, Gary Hinsch, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Maurena Griffin, Tim McFuller Jr., Joy Vork, Katie Kester, Forrest and Sandy Yaste, Matt Gebhart, Rita Brune, Debrah Goff, Sarah Sill, Jeremy Bernly, Lindsey Pappas.

After the pledge, Thomson asked if most of those in the audience were here to speak about their roads. A majority of the people answered yes, and Thomson said she would move public comment up on the agenda, so they could be heard first.

Comments were heard by Katie Kester, Maurena Griffin, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste, Joy Vork, Deborah Griffin, Rita Brune, and Jeremy Vernig. All comments involved Government Road. Main concerns were the large boulders, poor grading, delayed plowing, and concerns for the upcoming I35 bridge repairs which they believe will encourage more use of their road as a secondary route to Sandstone. Several were also concerned that there may need to be speed limit signs erected especially during this time as increased traffic will also include those who will travel at higher speeds.

Jon Dorau briefly addressed the comments by saying there will be a road review in May. Forrest Yaste asked if he could make one more comment. He said that he would like the supervisors to see the road now so they can see where the worst of it is while it is as bad as it is. Yaste agreed to map it out and give it to Dorau.

Thomson ended public comment at 7:30 p.m. and moved on to Public Hearing on New Zoning Ordinance.

Once Thomson finished, Jon Dorau commented that the board has been working for two years on the zoning ordinance to get typos corrected, clarifying language and changes such as setbacks.

Thomson read the Findings and summary in the resolution.

Jon Dorau read each Section beginning with Section 5. After reading Section 7, Zone 2.5, Dorau explained what the building permit costs - \$75 and Conditional Use Permits (CUP) as \$500.

In Section 8, Dorau reiterated that if lot does not conform to the 10 acres or 5 acres then one must apply for CUP.

Section 8.D, manufactured homes must had HUD sticker and must apply with manufacturers code. Cannot be more than 10 years old. Somewhere else in the Ordinance.

Section 8, F.6 speaks of CUPs needed for Bed and Breakfast. Forrest Yaste asked what if Bed and Breakfast would include Air BNB's. That is separate from bed and breakfasts. Dorau said

we do want Air BnB's to register with us. We want them registered with us and discuss what is going on.

Section 8.J., concerning Manufactured Homes, Thomson said that the reason for this is to ensure that dilapidated mobile homes and trailers will not be moved into the Township.

Section 8.K., concerning wolf dogs, discussion was had from Joy Vork about the Minnesota Connections and it was suggested that they had permit through the state or DNR. Also, Dorau said that this would apply specifically to people raising and selling these dogs.

Section 9.1., concerning Solar Fields, Forest Yaste asked what would be the dimensions of a Solar Filed – On top of the house, next to the house or a field and what size? Would a single dwelling home's solar panels fall under the same interim use?

Section 10, concerning Subdivision Ordinance, Thomson says that this came into our ordinance because of the property behind Quality Home did not meet our acreage minimum, and the current ordinance says if you want to make a subdivision with 15 small lots that do not meet our requirements

Concerning fines, Matt Gebhart said that fines should be stiff enough to deter those who would do first and ask forgiveness later. Dorau said that it is a \$1000/day for those who have begun to build without a permit.

Section 11, Joy Vork asked who is the Zoning Officer. Gary Hinsch.

Section 13, concerning Planning Commission, Jon Dorau told the audience that anyone that lives in the Township can be a part of the Zoning Commission and also they can run for Supervisors' positions as well.

Section 14.C. concerning Enforcement, Penalties and Violations, Dorau said that the only time we have really only had to put money on people's taxes for fire issues in the past that he knew of.

At the end of reading of the Zoning Ordinance, it was agreed that there were a couple of items in the document that needed clarification of typos fixed and they would not be signing the ordinance at this meeting.

Thomson stated that once it is finished it will be approved by the board and hung up at the library and other official spots for the public to view. There will be another public meeting for this again,

Matt Gebhart asked to make a comment. He said thank you for taking the time to do these ordinances rather than taking the easy route and just adopting the Pine County ordinances because he feels they are way too strict for our township, so thank you for taking the time for this and think this is nice and simple and not overly complicated, and he heard that some wanted to opt to take the county's, and he was a little afraid of that, so he just want to say thank you.

Jon Dorau responded that as a team, we have fought to keep government as local as we can because the board feels if the board needs to keep fighting to keep the things local. We do have issues in our Township that we would like to see cleaned up but we have an ordinance like this to

make that happen. Like the dog thing, we fought and fought over this wolf thing, we know someone has 10 dogs and what about those who breed them.

Thomson said, and then we need to have someone to enforce of these things.

The Deputy Clerk, Theresa Dawson, said that the board needed to adjourn the Public Hearing. She asked if anyone had any other comments to make. She then asked for a motion to recess for Reorganizational Meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Gary Hinsch and was approved unanimously at 8:19pm

Reorganizational Meeting

8:20pm Reorganizational Meeting began.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn the reorganizational meeting and reopen the regular meeting. It was seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved at 8:40pm

Regular Meeting Reopened at 8:40pm

Minutes –

Minutes 3.2.32 regular meeting – Thomson made motion to approve minutes, Dorau seconded and unanimously approved.

Minutes from Board of Audit Meeting 3.2.23 – Thomson made motion to approve minutes, Hinsche seconded and unanimously approved.

Minutes from 3.14.23 Board of Canvass – Thomson made motion to approved minutes, Dorau Seconded and unanimously approved

Treasurer's report – Dorau moved to approved Treasurer's Report, Thomson seconded and unanimously approved.

Pay Bills – Dorau motioned, Hinsche seconded and unanimously approved.

Clerk's report – Deputy Clerk, Dawson, shared upcoming public meetings. One a Public Workshop on zoning by the county the other put on at the Casino on Opioid problem in Pine county.

Thomson moved that all of the board attend the Public Workshop at the North Pine Government Center, 6-7:30 p.m., April 20, 2023. Hinsch seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

1. Roads

Gary Hinsch explained more detail about issues with Government Road. He said their priority is to get the rocks out.

Jon Dorau reported that he will be running numbers to see if they can replace the dump truck. He believes the truck will not be able to handle another winter like this one. He said that Gene thinks we can get \$20,000 for it. Gene will be retiring in 2 years. Thomson reminded Dorau that whoever drives the dump truck will need a DOT card. Linda said it is fine to run the numbers.

Deputy Clerk, Dawson, reminded Dorau that money has not been put away for future equipment. Dorau believes there is enough.

2. December Disaster Declaration/cleaning brush from ditches.

Deputy Clerk, Dawson, gave the Treasurer Hansen and Supervisor Dorau time sheets specific for the disaster.

3. Town Hall updates.

Deputy clerk, Dawson, relayed that Clerk Croup suggests that as soon as we get Monson's quote, that they should get him started.

Dorau reminded that they need to vote on first.

There was discussion about the location of the bathroom. Dawson told them that there will be a quote for a bathroom inside and outside.

4. Hiring an employee

Thomson suggested that if they hire a new employee that they be started at a lower wage at first.

Dorau asked if we could advertise before the next meeting. He reminded the board that brushing will need to be started within the month in order to get a machine. The other townships will be looking to do the same.

The board discussed the cost of renting equipment. Hinsch mentioned approx. \$3,800/week.

Dorau wanted to know how much there is for this job. Thomson mentioned approx. \$50,000. She believes it would be cheaper if we could do this work in-house.

Dorau said his son would like to do it. He says he knows he will need to abstain from the vote.

Thomson reminded Dorau that his son would need to be available.

Dorau mentioned that they had not determined overtime of the third person or assistant operator.

5. Employee performance reviews

Concerning advertisement for Assistant Operator, Thomson says she is working up a job description and she and the Clerk will work up an advertisement.

New Business

1. New Zoning ordinance not approved at this meeting due to necessary changes.
2. New member of Planning Committee. Thomson motions that Matt Gebhart new planning committee member, Hinsch seconded, unanimously approved.
3. Date for Road Review – April 20, 2023, 11:30 a.m., at Victory Station.
4. Zoning phone. It was decided that a separate phone be purchased for the zoning supervisor to ensure constituents can get a hold of supervisor.


Planning Committee

It was determined that the Planning Committee define Section 9.A.1. concerning Solar fields. Definition of residential and commercial use.

Supervisor Updates – none

Dorau motioned to adjourn the meeting, Hinsch seconded and passed unanimously at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, May 4, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township

Reorganizational Meeting

April 6, 2023

8:19 p.m. Reorganizational Meeting began.

Present were the supervisors Linda Thomson, Jon Dorau, Gary Hinsche, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Maurena Griffin, Tim McFuller Jr., JoyVork, Katie Kester, Forrest and Sandy Yaste, Matt Gebhart, Rita Brune, Debrah Goff, Sarah Sill, Jeremy Bernly, Lindsey Pappas.

Gary Hinsch nominated Linda Thomson for chair, Jon Dorau seconded, All voted in favor.

Linda Thomson appointed Jon Dorau as Vice Chair, Gary as Zoning Supervisor, Linda Thomson as Fire Supervisor, Jon Dorau as Noxious Weed Supervisor and Linda Thomson as Personnel Supervisor.

Jon Dorau made a motion to accept the appointments, seconded by Gary Hinsche and unanimously approved.

Pay as follows:

Chairman -\$90 regular meeting;

Supervisors - \$80 regular meeting;

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

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

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

Zoning Officer - \$10.59 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 \$10.59/hour;

Election Judge - \$12.50/hour plus mileage;

Head Election Judge - \$13.50/hour plus mileage;

Planning Committee pay - \$52.50/hour.

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

Operating patrol and truck, and maintenance work:

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

Traveling for parts – current state minimum wage plus mileage - \$10.59/hour. General Labor - \$10.59/hour.

Mileage – current federal rate - .655/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:

Grader - \$150/hour

Truck - \$125/hour

Motion by Jon Dorau to approved the charges, seconded by Gary Hinsch 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)

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

Site permits - \$80

Jon Dorau made amotion to approve the site permit fee, seconded by Linda Thomson and passed 2 to 0, Gary Hinsch did not vote.

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

Designations

1. Hold the Board's regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at North Pine Government Center (NPGC) or Town Hall if completed at 7 pm.
2. Planning Committee at North Pine Government Center or Town Hall second Thursday of the month at 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 Jon Dorau 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 planning commission. Land owners must purchase and install the minimum of a 15” x 30’ corrugated steel culvert, for their driveways at their own expense. However, if the township damages the culvert when it rebuilds the road, the township will repair and /or replace the culvert as appropriate.

3. Fire Call Policy – Will charge \$750 for each fire call and if not paid then will put it on the individual’s property taxes. Amendment: whereby the individual may come to the board within 30 days after notification from the board to establish a reasonable time period to repay the fire call bill.

4. Sandstone Township Equipment – Equipment will be kept at the town hall as weather permits. The storage site must be accessible by the supervisors and equipment operators. A temporary storage or parking area may also be used when necessary. When using a temporary parking area for four (4) or more days the supervisors are to be notified. The storage or parking location roadway to, turn around, and parking area is to be maintained as follows: The equipment operator shall use the township equipment to grade or snowplow these areas. When township equipment cannot do the type of maintenance needed then the township supervisor must be notified.
An equipment usage report is to be filed with the treasurer at the end of the month of all the hours and work locations. Also, an equipment usage report is to be filed with the treasurer for equipment usage on each service agreement/contract with billable hours.

5. Grader and truck use for other 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.

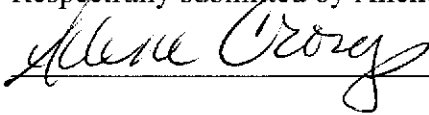
8. All utilities installed along Sandstone Township’s roads will be placed on the backside of the township’s ditches. Prior to installing new/replacement utilities, abandoned utilities must be removed.

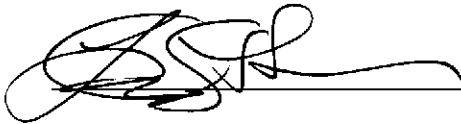
9. Beaver bounty. Request to remove must be made to supervisor and approved prior to trapping. \$50

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve policies 1-9, seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn the reorganizational meeting and reopen the regular meeting. It was seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on June 1, 2023





Chairman

Sandstone Township Minutes

Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting

April 11, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson and Jon Dorau. Supervisor Gary Hinsch came at 7:25 p.m. Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Cookie Hansen, Local Assessor Rich Koons, County Assessor Lorri Houtsma and residents Gary Thomson, Tonett Pardun, Bryon Jones, Wyatt Dorau and Scott Heller were present.

Houtsma explained there is a link for an application for property tax refund on the property tax statement.

She said the total property tax value is used to calculate the homeowner's share of the local property tax levy for the year. That levy is set by the county, school district and township according to what they have determined they need to fulfill their budgets.

Houtsma brought two properties that she had received requesting review:

30.0059.004 Countryside Campground. They had a trailer that did not have current tabs which was evaluated as property. It now has current tabs so she decreased the property value by \$15,400 from \$1,572,100 to \$1,556,700.

Jon Dorau made a motion to approve the decreased in taxes, seconded by Linda Thomson and approved 2-0.

30.0190.003 Richard Schoenwald. Low land and wetland were identified and decreased property value by \$11,300 from \$90,200 to \$78,900.

A motion was made by Jon Dorau to approve the decrease, seconded by Linda Thomson and approved 2-0.

30.0525002 Tonett Pardun. She said her property increased \$73,200 in two years.

Houtsma said it was because of sales of property on Dupuis Road. She said just because property values go up doesn't mean property taxes will go up.

30.0107002 Gary Thomson. He said tax evaluation went from \$311,000 to \$565,000 in one year.

Houtsma asked if he would like Rich Koons to come out and take a look at the property. No change was recommended and she said the valuation may not change. The recommendation would be made to the county board

Koons said the physically inspect every five years and the property could depreciate.

Hinsch made a motion for no change and the Koons should inspect the property, Jon Dorau seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0. Linda Thomson abstained because it is her property.

30.0107.004 Gary Thomson. He said the parcel was in a flood area and had high and low ground.

Houtsma said everything over 34.5 acres went up in value.

Hinsch made a motion for no change, seconded by Jon Dorau and approved 2-0. Linda Thomson abstained because it is her property.

30.0198.000, 20.0188.000, 30.0199.000, 30.0196.000 Bryon Jones. He said three of the parcels are 80 acres and one is 120 acres and all are rural vacant land. He said the increases have all jumped anywhere from 27 to 35 percent in one year.

Houtsma said he could look at having the land put into SFIA and receive incentive payments but he must have a DNR approved forestry plan.

There was a motion by Jon Dorau for no change and to have Rich Koons meet with Bryon Jones. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved, 3-0.

30.0483.001 Wyatt Dorau. He questioned the large increase in property tax.

Jon Dorau said the house does not have a finished basement and it could bring the value down. He said someone should go out and look at the house.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson for no change and to have Rich Koons review the property. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0. Jon Dorau abstained because he is related to the owner.

30.0442.000, 30.0418.002, 30.0435.000, 30.0418.003, 30.0436.000, 30.0446.000, 30.0447.000 Scott Heller questioned the high taxes on these properties.

Linda Thomson made a motion for no change and for Rich Koons to review the properties. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Houtsma said the tax information shows that the property is non-homestead. She said homestead must be filed this year by Dec. 31, to be applied for next year.

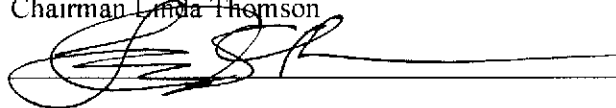
Jon Dorau questioned whether the well on property 30.0474.000 had been taken off the assessment.

Maureen Hansen had questions on several properties

Dorau made a motion to recess at 8:35 p.m. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on May 4, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson


Sandstone Township

2023 Road Review

April, 21, 2023 9:10am.

Call to order Meeting by Vice-Chair Jon Dorau

Present: Dorau, Gary Hinsch, Clerk Ailene Croup, grader operator Keith Carlson. Forrest Yaste joined at Government Road.

Johnson Drive – 2 loads of gravel in two places

Robin Street – Grade

United Country Court – 2 loads of gravel

Skunk Lake Rd. (West of Highway) – 4 loads of gravel

Skunk Lake Rd. (East of Highway) – 3 loads of gravel

Faulkner Rd. – nothing

Goebel Drive – Grade

Sverel Rd. – 2 loads gravel just off tar, 4 loads gravel rest of road

West Fork Rd. – Good

East end West Fork Rd. (min. maint. Rd.) – Brush and make turn around

Dupuis Rd. – 2 loads at beginning, 2 loads south of 51090, (5 loads 53412), Send letter to 51090 they have 4-inch pvc pipe rather than standard acceptable culvert.

White Oak Drive – (5 loads washed out)

Friesland Rd – 4 loads

Eitens Lane - ok

Airport Rd – Viewed (city maintains)

Old Military Rd.- (Reviewed as part of Government Road)

Nurses' Rd. – 2 loads at 25521

Kettlewell Lane – 1 load gravel around turn

Government Rd – 2 loads, (2 – 15 in.x30 ft culverts (washout) at Nurses Road plus 3 loads gravel), *new culvert (washout) over the road at Taylor* and (4-5 loads of gravel), 15 more loads end-to-end

Poplar Rd. – 1 load coming off Old Wagon Road

Old Wagon Rd. – 4 loads gravel, take corduroy out

Anderson Drive – 10 loads end-to-end in bad spots

Klejski Rd. – (washout) new larger culvert 36x32, water over road couldn't handle the flood, 2- loads gravel past culvert), 9 additional loads

Eaton Lane – Brush

J. Nelson Drive – None

Tenquist Rd. – Ditching west side and west on north/south and 5 loads gravel. *Bigger new culvert 30 in x 30 ft at driveway repeated flooding* with 3 loads of gravel. 3 loads gravel at the end.

Tenquist Trail – *Washed out needs new culvert, then west 18in x 32ft culvert to handle continuous flooding* and 3 loads of gravel.

Bear Lane – 4-5 loads of gravel beginning, (1 load at culvert washout then two loads north of culvert washout and 5-6 loads at washout south.) Brushing

Kukuk Drive – 1 load before creek between third and fourth power poles

Seivert Drive – ^End of road is just before gate to the west ¾ mile^ 2 loads coming up hill, 2 loads gravel before gate, then 3 loads at 40303

Double C Rd. – 2 loads gravel plus one culvert

Rocky C Rd. – good

Larson Rd. – (Already put 1 load pit run and 2 loads gravel at washout Apr. 14, needs two larger 16x32 culverts at that spot because they couldn't handle the flood and 4-5 loads gravel. Need 5-6 loads at flowing culvert lost in flood). 2 loads gravel. 2 loads gravel at Greg's and 2 loads past. Ditch east 1/3 mile in and west side ½ mile in.

Little Sand Creek Rd. – (Washout 2-30x32 culverts, 2 loads gravel. *fabric in stretch before road because of continuous flooding* 3 loads gravel at culverts farther south) from Cat Sanctuary south 10 loads gravel. (2 culverts at south end washout plus 3 loads at culverts)

Thomson Rd – (12 loads at dip behind Irene Thomson's washed out from flood), 4 more loads gravel farther north

Koland Rd – 3 loads gravel ½ mile past Thomson Rd. then 10-15 more loads - talk to Gus Roberts about gravel

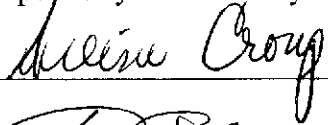
Wild Blueberry Lane - Brushing

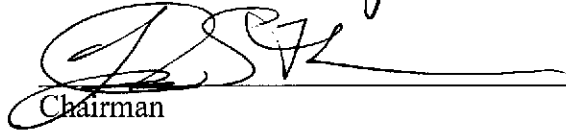
Eaton Lane East - Brushing

Inspect: (disaster) *mitigation*

Adjourn: At 2:17 Motion to adjourn by Dorau, second Hinsch approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup, on May 4, 2023.





Chairman

Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 4, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup and Treasurer Cookie Hansen, residents Josh Kester, Tim McKellar., Matt Gebhart, Richard Taylor, Deb Griffin, Katie Kester, Sarah Sill, John Koenig and Jeremy Verny, *Maureen Griffin, Joey Vane(?), Don Eaton.*

During public comment, several residents talked about the condition of their roads during the spring flooding.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2023 regular meeting, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes of the reorganizational meeting, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The April 11, 2023 Board of Appeal and equalization minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Dorau, seconded by Thomson.

The April 21, 2023 Road review minutes and report were unanimously approved on a motion from Dorau and seconded by Hinsch.

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

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

Richard Taylor presented minutes from 2015 where the board agreed to put a culvert at Taylor's driveway if it was not turned into a cartway. The road did not become a cartway and the board unanimously approved placing an 18' x 30' culvert at the entrance from Taylor's access road on Bear Lane. The motion was made by Thomson and seconded by Dorau.

Discussion about the oversized width of Government Road included comments from Thomson about reclaiming the gravel that has been pushed over the end from grading. Hinsch said one of the problems is the speed on the road which also pushes gravel to the ditch.

Thomson said the gravel road speed limit is 55 m.p.h.

Thomson said she would not approval graveling the road until the shoulders have been reclaimed.

Hinsch said he has a plan with Trent Rabe to remove the rocks at the south end. He also said he would be talking to the county engineer about culverts and Government and Nurses Roads, since the flooding problems at that point come from the county ditch.

Thomson stated the residents along the road will need to understand when they see the sod sitting on the road which is what happens when the gravel is taken out of the ditches. It will save the township gravel dollars if they put the gravel back on the road.

Dorau said Gus Roberts does reclaiming. Hinsch said he wanted to get a price from the county on reclaiming. Thomson said the board needed prices and timelines for use of the reclaiming equipment and having Roberts do the work.

Hinsch said trees are growing into the power lines on Dupuis Road. He contacted Minnesota Power to handle the removal.

Dorau had texted Gus Roberts and learned he charges \$120/hour.

Thomson made a motion to use up to \$5,000 for reclamation of gravel on Government Road, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup updated the board on the progress of the quote from Jason Monson on completion of the town hall. She said Monson called to confirm he was still working on getting all the pieces together. Croup said she was instructed by Thomson to remove the external bathroom addition from the quote. Monson expect to have the quote finalized within a month.

Clerk Croup did not attend the reorganizational meeting so her pay was not addressed.

Thomson said with the pay information available, Croup was grossly underpaid. She said the job Croup does is more like an administrator and made a motion to increase her pay to \$28/hour.

Hinsch commented that she is a trainer for other clerks in the state and seconded the motion.

Dorau commented that she would be the highest paid employee for the township and asked Croup if she thought she should be paid that much.

Croup answered, "Yes."

Thomson said Croup has a lot more responsibility than the other positions and is the link to the community. The motion was approved unanimously.

Croup stated the ARPA report to the federal government was complete for 2023.

Dorau made a motion to send the solar energy changes on to attorney Tiede for revisions, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

The board discussed culverts and what Hinsch had in stock at his place. They also discussed oval culverts.

Dorau made a motion to approve work on Thomson's roads, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The board unanimously approved work on Hinsch's roads on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Dorau.

Croup was instructed to send notice to the resident at 51090 Dupuis Road that their culvert is out of compliance, which was noted during road review.

A motion was made by Thomson to complete work noted on road review for Dorau's roads. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Thomson said she had completed interviews for the maintenance worker's part time position. She recommended Scott Trenholm. She also recommended the starting pay be \$20/hour as requested with a review in six months.

Thomson made a motion to hire Trenholm. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0-1. Dorau abstained because he was related to one of the applicants.

Thomson said a time would be set up with Keith Carlson to train Trenholm on operation of the grader. She also stated that all communication on what needs Trenholm does should go through her.

Croup was instructed to communicate with residents on removal of trees due to the snow disaster.

On Croup's request, Dorau made a motion to open an account at Victor Lundeen for office supplies, including minute books and notary stamps. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Theresa Dawson presented the 1st quarter 2023 budget review. She reminded the board they have put money on paper into the equipment fund but they have never dedicated additional funding. The equipment fund is used to pay for the grader payments. It will be two-and-a-half more years before it's paid for.

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

The board discussed payroll and the requirement through the Wage Theft Law that employees are paid monthly. Employees will be required to turn in their hours by the last day of the month and will be notified their checks are ready. They can ask to have them sent or make arrangements to pick them up or arrange for direct deposit.

The board asked Croup to request a meeting with Danforth Town Board on the cost of upkeep on Little Sand Creek Road. Maintenance had become a financial burden on the township.

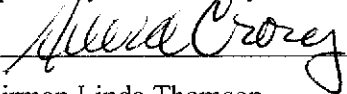
Dorau said he would like to discuss rotating responsibility for all the roads which are divided between the three supervisors. *He also talked about having ONE SUPERVISOR to manage Roads.*

There was also discussion about a purchasing a new dump truck.

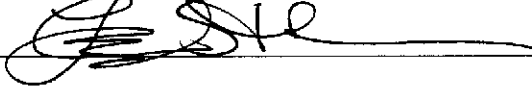
Thomson said the township cannot afford another truck.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m., It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on Jun 1, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Regular Meeting

June 1, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, residents: Rita Schumacher, Joe Jacobsen, Don Eaton, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste, Matt Gebhart and Keith Carlson, and visitors: Richard Taylor, George Taylor, Klint Wylie, Tristan Taylor and Scott Tremholm.

Public forum was held with comments from Forrest Yaste and Sandy Yaste about sodium chloride to control dust on Government Road. Don Eaton said a load of gravel was needed on Bear Road.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections, of May 4, 2023. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Hansen had no treasurer's report.

Thomson asked if the township orders cutting edges for the grader from Ziegler. Dorau said the only thing that is ordered from Ziegler is what the township needs to maintain the warranty.

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

The new maintenance worker, Scott Trenholm was introduced to the board.

Thomson asked Hinsch to take over her roads for right now because of her heavy workload and Hinsch agreed to manage them until she had more time.

The board gave updates on the road with Hinsch reviewing the work done on Government Road. He said he and Trent Rabe spent more than two hours marking and removing large rocks on the road. Hinsch also said complaints at the location of Government and Nurses Road need to go to the county since it's the county's ditch they caused the flooding over those roads this spring.

Thomson added that the ditch must not have been draining during the flooding.

County Engineer Mark LeBrun was willing to meet with someone along with a hydrologist to look at the problem, Dorau said.

Dorau said the reclaiming was completed by Gus Roberts in four days. He said he had acquired a rented brusher from Ziegler. Dorau said one week's rental was 40 hours and it would be rented by the week.

The gravel was washed off Bear Lane, Dorau said.

Dorau asked Hinsch if he had looked into flat-bottomed culverts.

Hinsch said they were costly and the current budget would have to be considered to use them.

Klejeski Road needs a bigger culvert at the washout, Hinsch said.

Croup said she had spoken with FEMA and HSEM about the spring flood disaster. They said replacement of culverts would have to be the same size that was damaged by the flood.

Dorau wondered if they could order the culvert and put in next to the existing damaged culvert.

Hinsch said the old culvert will have to be removed now.

The board reviewed the latest zoning ordinance revisions. Thomson said the township should set the public hearing for the zoning ordinance approval at the next meeting. Hinsch agreed.

Hinsch made a motion to approve resolution 2023-02 Declaring the Township's Intent to Remove Trees damaged by the December 2022 storm. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

The notice to residents of tree removal was unanimously approved on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Hinsch.

Thomson created a personnel policy and performance evaluation documents for individual employee positions. They are required due to the 2019 Wage Theft Law instituted by the state. Thomson said she had been working hard to develop job descriptions and reviewing employee policies.

As supervisor in charge of personnel, she said the employees should be getting their direction from one not all three supervisors which can be confusing. She added that no employee had been put in charge of work duties or managing other employees.

Dorau said Gene Kroschel does more than maintenance.

The only thing Kroschel has done in 2.5 year, Thomson said, is maintenance. She added that his primary job is equipment and has been since she had been on the board.

Thomson said she was assigning Keith Carlson to train Scott Trenholm to grade the roads.

Equipment belonging to the township should be at the town hall, Thomson said. She said it was their job to spend the township resident's money wisely. Charging items at places other than those approved must come before the board. There needs to be a detailed list of the township's property located at supervisors' or employees' homes.

Additional ditching beyond what was done last year in front of Matt Gebhart's property was discussed. Gebhart said he would donate the ditching.

Dorau asked if the ditch was going to have engineering done. He said the board could pass it without his vote.

Thomson said if one ditch should be engineered then they should have every ditch engineered.

Gebhart brought a contractor, Klint Wylie, to the meeting. He would be doing the job and provided liability insurance.

Croup told the board they could accept a monetary donation from Gebhart to cover the cost of the work according to information received from the MAT attorneys.

Hinsch said he was sure Wylie would do a good job and made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-01 Accepting Matt Gebhart's Donation for ditching work in front of his property on Poplar Road. Thomson seconded the motion and it was approved 2-1 with Dorau voting no.

Thomson made a motion to contract with Wolf Creek Elk Ranch to complete the ditching/culvert work in front of Gebhart's residence. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Because of the cost (\$10 per parcel) of assessing and the board's dissatisfaction with local assessor Rich Koons, Hinsch made a motion to accept the assessment agreement with the Pine County Assessor's office. The 2023 assessments will be \$8 per parcel and be lowered by a dollar per year. Thomson seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0-1. Dorau abstained.

Sandstone Township has been discussing revising the Little Sand Creek Road agreement from 2011. The contract is with Danforth Township with review to be done in 2016. It was never done.

A letter was sent by Croup to the Danforth Supervisors and clerk to meet and discuss maintenance of the road. There was no response.

Dorau said he would talk to Danforth Twp. Supervisor Jeff Shute.

A letter was sent to Betty McCorry about the insufficient culvert at her driveway and Dupuis Road.

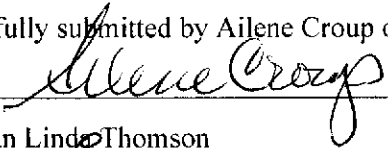
Jason Monson reported on process to complete the town hall. He said a 6-inch, 60 foot well would be about \$10,000 and the holding tank would be about \$6,000. Plumbing would run \$8,000 - \$10,000, heating and air conditioning would be about \$12,000 - \$15,000, construction would be about \$25,000 - \$30,000.

Monson also said if Kent well drillers have to go past 60 feet, the cost be \$50-\$90 per foot additional.


Thomson made a motion to get all the plumbing, holding tank, well and bathroom completed. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on July 6, 2023.



Chairman Linda Thomson



Sandstone Township Minutes

Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinance Changes

And Regular Meeting

July 6, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Matt Gebhart and Don Eaton.

Chair Thomson recessed the meeting and opened the public hearing on the changes in the zoning ordinance and called for public comment.

There were no comments on the revised zoning ordinance and Thomson adjourned the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04 Resolution Amending Sandstone Township Zoning Ordinance, it was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Public forum

Don Eaton said a couple spots, where gravel was needed, were missed on Bear Lane.

Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes of 6.1.23, it was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Croup said she and Maureen Hansen learned if they take their PERA in a lump sum, the amount contributed by the township will not be added to their distribution. After talking to PERA about this, Croup learned that if they were to stop PERA, as soon as the employee makes \$425 in one month, the PERA deductions must begin again. So there is no reason to stop the deduction.

The board discussed Scott Trenholm's timesheet and they would like to see a report similar to the road report from the grader operators with the road he is working on.

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

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

Road reports

Dorau said graveling on his roads is just about complete. He talked to Carissa at the DNR about Old Wagon Road and she said they have additional gravel for the road. Dorau said they are considering a new gate at the entrance to the climbing area. Gus Roberts did some gravel hauling. Dorau talked about getting gravel on Poplar Road.

Dorau said he would like to know the amount of money spent on gravel so he can determine if there is anything left to do some late gravel hauling.

Dorau left due to a family emergency.

Hinsch said he was pleased with his roads and the fact that he was able to get the gravel from Rabe's for his and Thomson's roads for \$180/12-yard load. He said Little Sand Creek Road had 21 loads of gravel.

Croup said the publishing, documenting and recording work would have to be completed on the amended zoning ordinance and she would need a check for \$92 for the County Recorder.

Thomson made a motion to pay Pine County Recorder \$92 to record the amended zoning ordinance. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 2-0.

Croup informed the board she had spoken with MAT attorneys to learn the next steps in returning Danforth Township's portion of Little Sand Creek Road to that township. Thomson made a motion to ask the county to re-divide Little Sand Creek Road. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 2-0.

A Beaver Bounty agreement was drawn up. Thomson made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 2-0.

Supervisor's reports

Hinsch gave a report on the latest site permit requests.

Croup gave an update on the progress of the town hall. Jason Monson had said the cost of the well would be determined by depth.

Resident Matt Gebhart who lives near the town hall said wells in that area run about 135 feet.

There was a brief discussion about tree cutting because of the snow disaster.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the liquor license for Countryside Campground with the township's fee being \$390. Thomson seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0.

The board continued to discuss tree-cutting and what is required including protective gear.

Resident Matt ^{GEBHART}~~Ludwig~~ said he could get the chainsaw and gear at a 20 percent discount for the township.

Thomson made a motion to spend up to \$1,000 at Ace Hardware with the 20 percent discount for the chainsaw and protective gear. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-03 Establishing Sandstone Township's Organizational Date as January 1, 1896. I was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

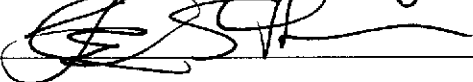
Following an update from Croup on the cost of the township's hotspot, Thomson made a motion to drop the separate hotspot and update the clerk's phone with additional hotspot gigs to save money. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 3, 2023.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Josh Kester, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste and Don Eaton.

Public Forum

There were comments about Government Road. Chair Thomson said the board would talk about the road during the road reports.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the July 6, 2023 Regular Meeting and Zoning Ordinance Hearing minutes. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report contingent on approval of Kent Well Drilling digging the town hall well. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve all the bills contingent on approval of the Kent Well Drilling contract. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Roads

Hinsch talked about the reclaiming of gravel that was done on Government and other roads in the township in July. He described how he believes the gravel reclaiming should be done.

Thomson reminded residents the board would conduct business without disruption during the regular part of the meeting.

There was discussion of Nurses Road. Hinsch said a culvert was put in the Nurses Road at Government Road five years before.

The county's Friesland Ditch was discussed and its role in the spring flooding on Nurses and Government Roads.

One resident insisted the ditch ended on the west side of the freeway.

Dorau wanted to know if the board had a plan to fix Government Road.

Croup was instructed by Dorau to set up a meeting with County Engineer Mark LeBrun and a hydrologist. The meeting would be set up and posted. Croup said she would add the date, time and place to the website.

Dorau reported on his roads saying reclaim was difficult because of garbage in the ditches. He said some of the roads looked good. Dorau added that he had instructed grader operator Keith Carlson to keep the roads narrow.

Graveling was complete on most of Dorau's roads and garbage was removed from ditches on Little Sand Creek Road, he reported.

Thomson suggested the grader operators let the board know where gravel is needed.

There was further discussion of Government Road.

Dorau made a motion to call Trent Rabe and find out how much it would cost to have him ditch Government Road. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A new agreement needs to be drawn up for snow removal and grading on Little Sand Creek Road.

Croup said she had sent a letter in May to all Danforth Supervisors and Clerk to discuss the Little Sand Creek Road maintenance agreement. She said there had been no response except a call from the clerk saying the Danforth Board was not interested in a meeting about the agreement.

The board instructed Croup to send a letter to Danforth Twp. Informing them that Sandstone Township would be cancelling the Little Sand Creek Road maintenance agreement from 2011.

Theresa Dawson presented the budget receipts and expenditures for the second quarter of 2023. She reminded the board of the need to put away \$10,000 each year in a separate equipment fund for the purchase of equipment. She said the board concludes the need for this each year but never commits money to a separate account.

Hinsch said he had issued a new site permit for the Wildcat Sanctuary.

Town Hall

There was a motion by Thomson to accept the formal proposal from Jason Monson Construction, Inc. for finishing the town hall septic. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was approved 2-0-1 with Dorau abstaining.

A motion was made by Thomson to approve a contract with Kent Well Drilling to drill the town hall well. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Unanimous approval of a \$5,000 down payment on the well came from a motion by Thomson, seconded by Hinsch.

There was a motion from Thomson to pay Monson Construction, Inc., \$5,000 for materials to begin work on completion of the town hall. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A payment of \$3,500 for septic tank materials was approved on a motion from Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Sept. 7, 2023.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Special Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 3:35 p.m., at the corner of Nurses and Government Roads.

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Josh Kester, Forrest Yaste, Sandy Yaste, Matt Ludwig, Matt Gebhart, Joe Jacobson, Maureen Griffin, Tim McKellar and Mark Lebrun.

The board reviewed the culverts and their locations at this point and heard comments from residents along the road.

It was noted that 25 loads of gravel had already been applied to the road, rocks had been removed from the road, brushing was done and ditching had also been completed. The board still had not completed replacing culverts due to a shortage of culverts.

Hinsch said the water event in the spring flooding was due to the heavy winter snow and that the Friesland Ditch at Nurses Road caused much of the backup in the culverts flowing east along Nurses Road and under Government Road at that point.

Matt Ludwig said the ditch did not come as far as Nurses Road.

Chair Thomson recessed the meeting at 4:18 p.m., explaining that the meeting would reconvene at North Pine Government Center at 4:30 p.m.

Thomson reconvened the meeting at 4:30 p.m., letting those in attendance know that the county engineer Mark LeBrun would be joining the meet.

LeBrun arrived at 4:50 p.m. He told the board a hydraulic analysis would determine if the culverts were sufficient for the volume of water. The cost to the township for hiring could be \$3,000 to \$4,000. If it is determined the culverts are sufficient, the township would be paying for the hydrological engineer.

LeBrun explained the township could petition to use the county's town bridge program at a cost of \$20,000. The program would include the cost of the hydrological engineer and the culvert replacement. The culvert may end up being a 4 ft. tall by 10 ft. wide cement box culvert. All would be included in the town bridge totals. The township would be given sufficient time to repay the county.

Discussion about the Friesland Ditch and its affect on the high volume of water brought a response from LeBrun who said the Friesland ditch did come as far as Nurses Road. He said they would look at where the ditch goes under Nurses Road.

No work could begin this year, LeBrun said, if and when the board makes its decision on whether to go with the county program.

The township could be a part of the county's bid for the purchase of culverts.

Croup reported on the Road and Bridge fund and noted that through the first seven months of 2023, the township had used more than \$69,000 of the \$100,400 budgeted for the road and bridge fund for the year.

Thomson said she had talked too grader operator Keith Carlson about which roads need more grave. He said Seivert, Larson, Thomson and Bear needed more.

Dorau said he was planning for any money left from the town hall be spent on gravel.

Croup said she had sent the letter to Danforth Twp. Supervisors and Clerk stating that the road maintenance agreement would end Sept. 1, 2023.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-0. Dorau had left earlier.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Sept. 7, 2023.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Second Half Annual Meeting Minutes

Sept. 7, 2023

Clerk Ailene Croup opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. She turned the meeting over to Skip Thomson who had been voted moderator of the first half of the Annual Meeting.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Terry Zerwas, Matt Ludwig, Deb Ludwig, Matt Gebhart, Jon Dorau, Forrest Yaste, Sandra Yaste, Skip Thomson, Josh Nelson, Gary Thomson, Donald Eaton, Ruth Carlson, Anna Carlson, Chris Nathan, Rod Lawin, Keith Carlson, M.R. Carlson, Darlene Carlson, Bernard Marx and non-residents Terry Croup and Scott Trenholm.

Skip Thomson said the last item on the Annual Meeting agenda was setting the levy and he asked for discussion.

Clerk Croup explained the additional expenses the township had this year which included the spring flooding disaster and hiring a part time employee to handle the tree marking and cutting work caused by the disaster.

Linda Thomson said the township should be saving money for equipment needs and that should be considered when setting the levy.

Terry Zerwas said he looked at the budget and expenses numbers and they were very low, saying he didn't know how the township was doing this. He said nothing had been done on his road, Johnson Road. He said if the levy was reduced it would catch up with the township. He , "We are all in this together."

Keith Carlson said there was enough money for roads in the budget. He questioned finishing the town hall. He said the original reason for the building was to put the equipment in there out of the weather.

Linda Thomson said when the board needed information, it isn't in a place where they can get to it. The township pays to rent Cross Church to hold elections and the annual meeting. She said the clerk needs a place to work.

Terry Zerwas asked how much it would take to finish the town hall. He was told it is in the process of being finished with the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Matt Ludwig said the township is a business and businesses keep all their records in one building. He said prices have gone up 10 percent this year and the levy needs to go up at least \$20,000.

Sandy Yaste said the interest increased 3 – 4 percent in 2022 and the township residents raised the levy 58 percent in 2023. She said multiple locations for documents worked for the huge corporations she worked for so it didn't all burn.

Terry Zerwas said the township has to get back to where it isn't losing money.

Chris Nathan said looking at this (budget/cash control statement) there is plenty of money.

Bernie Marx said prices went up 18-20 percent.

Jon Dorau said whatever is left of ARPA funds after completing the town hall can be put into roads.

Matt Ludwig said he couldn't tell what was being kept in reserves and that people spend a lot of money on roads.

Terry Zerwas said the township needs reserves.

Matt Ludwig said the township needs to make cost of living adjustments.

Linda Thomson said the board's hope last year was with the \$75,000 they would be able to fix some roads and put some in reserves but things come up and we just keep going backward. For future planning we need to put away \$25,000. If the township needs a new grader she would rather not see the township have to take a bond out for it. The current grader was bonded and the township pays a lot of money for it. The plow truck needs new tires.

Morris Carlson said "we" learned years ago to live within our means. There are places we could cut the budget.

Josh Nelson asked, how many peoples' wages went up as much as inflation.

Terry Zerwas said he understands the town board will get to his road but they can't do it with this levy.

Bernie Marx said there are a lot of trees to cut down from last winter's storm disaster.

After there was no additional discussion, Skip Thomson call for a motion to set the levy.

Morris Carlson made a motion to keep the levy at \$204,000, seconded by Chris Nathan.

10 yes – 12 no. Motion fails.

Terry Zerwas made a motion to increase the levy to \$264,000, seconded by Matt Gebhart.

2 yes, 20 no. Motion fails.

Linda Thomson made a motion to increase levy to \$250,000, seconded by Terry Zerwas.

9 yes, 11 no. Motion fails.

Matt Ludwig made a motion to increase the levy to \$230,000, seconded by Linda Thomson.

8 yes, 13 no. Motion fails.

Matt Gebhart made a motion to increase the levy to \$240,000, seconded by Gary Thosmon.

10 yes, 11 no. Motion fails.

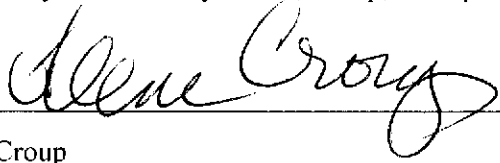
Matt Gebhart made a motion to increase the levy to \$235,000, seconded by Rod Lawin.

12 yes, 9 no. Motion approved.

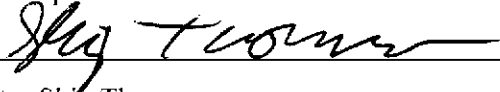
Sandy Yaste made a motion to spend the additional increase on the roads, seconded by Don Eaton and unanimously approved.

Forrest Yaste made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. It was seconded by Terry Zerwas and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Sept. 28, 2023.



Ailene Croup



Moderator Skip Thomson

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

Sept. 7, 2023

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Terry Zerwas, Matt Ludwig, Deb Ludwig, Matt Gebhart, Jon Dorau, Forrest Yaste, Sandra Yaste, Skip Thomson, Josh Nelson, Gary Thomson, Donald Eaton, Ruth Carlson, Anna Carlson, Chris Nathan, Rod Lawin, Keith Carlson, M.R. Carlson, Darlene Carlson, Bernard Marx and non-residents Terry Croup and Scott Trenholm.

Linda Thomson recessed the meeting at 7:04 p.m. for the second half of the annual meeting.

Linda Thomson reconvened the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Dorau to approve the minutes of 8.3.23 Regular Meeting, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve the 8.16.23 Special Meeting minutes, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Discussion about dedicating equipment funds for future equipment purchases brought a motion from Linda Thomson to move \$10,000 from the equipment fund to a dedicated equipment purchase fund. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

There was a motion from Dorau to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

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

In the clerk's report, Ailene Croup reminded the board there would be training for clerks and treasurers on the CTAS accounting program and there would be an upcoming legal seminar in Sturgeon Lake.

Dorau stated that there were roads that still needed some gravel including Little Sand Creek, Bear Lane, Seivert, Larson, Double C and an 18 inch x 32 foot culvert still needed to be installed.

A motion was made by Dorau to have grader operator Keith Carlson work with contractor Craig Summerland to install the culvert. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup said there was no money left in the budget for additional gravel on the roads. Linda Thomson reviewed the available funds and confirmed there would be no money for extra gravel this year.

The board discussed the location of utilities and mailboxes on Government Road. Dorau said contractor Trent Rabe could do ditching work on the road to narrow it but it would be costly. Residents would need to be notified to move their mailboxes toward the road and away from the ditch.

A letter from Danforth Twp concerning the road maintenance agreement for Little Sand Creek Road was discussed. The letter invited the board to the Danforth regular meeting on 9.15.23.

Gary Hinsch made a motion for Linda Thomson to negotiate an agreement with Danforth. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved. Thomson will bring it back to the board if there are significant changes.

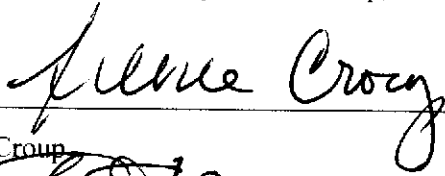
Hinsch outlined the latest site permits and informed the board there was a landowner who submitted his third request. He said the first two should have been residence and outbuilding. It is some sort of residence with septic and water. It violates the zoning ordinance. Hinsch was instructed to bring the permits to the October meeting.

The board discussed renewal of the 5-year joint powers agreement with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to maintain the ability for the township to collect road fees and fines if the county decides to share it.

Dorau made a motion to renew the Joint Powers ORI Resolution 2023-05 with the BCA. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Sept. 7, 2023.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township/FEMA

Special Meeting Minutes

Sept. 8, 2023

Vice Chair Jon Dorau opened the meeting, at the Sandstone Town Hall, at 3:30 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Gary Hinsch and Jon Dorau, Clerk Ailene Croup, grader operator Keith Carlson, FEMA Program Delivery Manager John Menendez. Chair Linda Thomson attended for a short time.

Menendez reviewed the documents sent initially by Croup to FEMA with the emergency work completed and the estimate on cost for the permanent work. Also included were pictures, culvert vendor estimates and contractor claims for work performed during the emergency and the permanent work after.

Dorau and Carlson gave GPS coordinates to Menendez for the stretches of road where permanent gravel work was done and culverts that needed replacing.

Menendez asked for the damages to the culverts and any pictures which were not provided. For those the supervisors believed needed upsizing, moved or added, Menendez said the reason for the change would have to be provided such repeated flooding where new or upsized culverts need to go.

Menendez also said they would need a letter from the county stating the town board had the authority to replace, upgrade or add culverts.

Menendez said he would send a list of tasks for FEMA and would look into administrative costs allowed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson

Meeting with Danforth Twp Supervisors

Danforth Township Community Hall, 8 a.m., Sept. 15, 2023

Cancellation of maintenance agreement from 2011 and discussion of future maintenance and division of road work on Little Sand Creek Road

Sandstone Township Supervisor Linda Thomson and Clerk Ailene Croup met with Danforth Supervisors Jeff Shute and Jason Palme, on Sept. 15, 2023.

Sandstone Twp had sent a letter to Danforth Twp in May 2023 letting them know the agreement from 2011 should have been reviewed in 2016 according to the language in the document. There was no response from Danforth Twp.

Another letter was sent to Danforth Twp., in August 2023, explaining that since there had been no contact from Danforth Twp concerning Little Sand Creek Road, Sandstone township would be cancelling the agreement, on September 1, 2023, and would only be claiming two miles of the 4-mile long Little Sand Creek Road on their road certification to the county for gas tax.

The burden of the work on the 4-mile road had been discussed at Sandstone Twp meetings and the board believed it needed to split the responsibility between the townships.

Discussion about how the graveling, plowing, grading, brush cutting and ditch work was reviewed at the joint meeting.

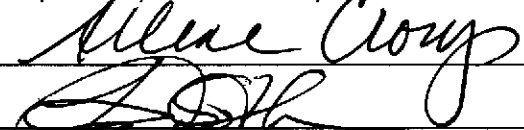

Thomson said the division of the road prior to the 2011 agreement had Sandstone Twp maintaining the first and third miles and Danforth doing the second and fourth. An every other year maintenance agreement could be a solution, with one township doing the odd year maintenance and the other doing the even years, with work other than grading and plowing requiring approval of both boards.

Supervisor Shute offered his solution of Sandstone Twp doing all maintenance and billing Danforth Twp for half the work.

Major work, such as culverts, brushing, ditching and reconstruction will require approval of both boards. The agreement will take effect as of Jan. 1, 2024 since Sandstone Twp had already collected gas tax from the road for 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 9 a.m. with a mutual understanding of the terms. Thomson instructed Croup to write the agreement with monthly billing/payment requirements.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup, on Oct. 5, 2023.

Linda Thomson, Chair Sandstone Township

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

North Pine Government Center

Oct. 5, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Linda Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Tom Schram, Matt Gebhart, Skip Thomson, Rod L. and Matt Ludwig.

There was no public comment and Chair Thomson proceeded with motions to approve minutes.

Hinsch made a motion to approve the minutes of Sept. 7, 2023, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve the Special FEMA Meeting minutes of Sept. 8, 2023, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to approve the minutes of the meeting with Danforth Twp. On Sept., 15, 2023, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

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

The board unanimously approved paying the claims on a motion from Linda Thomson that was seconded by Hinsch.

Following discussion about the replacement culvert on Klejeski Rd., the board agreed unanimously to have it installed after the FEMA site inspection on Oct. 17, 2023. Motion by Hinsch, seconded by Linda Thomson.

Dorau reported on nine culverts that were damaged by the April floods.

Chair Thomson said the meeting went well with Danforth Township and they are in agreement about Sandstone Township maintaining the road and billing Danforth Township for half the cost of plowing, grading and graveling. Major work such as disaster work and rebuilding would not be the responsibility of Sandstone Township. Payment would be required monthly from Danforth Township.

Thomson said she invited the Danforth Town Board to come along on the spring road review.

A motion was made by Hinsch to approve the Danforth Road maintenance agreement, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

The board reviewed the road list from the county highway department and unanimously agreed to certify the list on a motion from Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Tom Schram, who owns property at 3041 Old Military Road, came to the meeting to discuss his building violation of the Sandstone Township Zoning Ordinance.

Schram's buildings do not comply with the zoning ordinance because he has more than on living quarters on his Old Military Road property.

Hinsch, who had received a site permit for another structure on the property, saw what had been built which were supposed to be Ag structures, said the existing structures are non-compliant. He said he did not intend to approve another structure until the board had a chance to review its enforcement options and

ensure compliance on any future building. Hinsch said each site permit applicant is given a copy of the zoning ordinance they must follow when building and the ordinance does not allow two living structures.

Schram told the board he thought he had done everything right. He said he had tried to submit architectural plans.

Skip Thomson, chairman of the planning committee, addressed the board saying his dilemma with the Old Military Road property is that it is non-compliant and he did not want to set a precedent with the decision about how to handle the enforcement of the violation.

Designating the property as a non-conforming property, was Skip Thomson's recommendation. This means the buildings that have been built cannot be changed to alter the footprint or add on. It cannot be considered two separate residences and if it is destroyed, it cannot be rebuilt as two living structures.

Linda Thomson commented that the building is done and the septic is in. The zoning ordinance enforcement can include removal of the structure.

Schram asked how making the property a non-conforming property would affect its value.

Linda Thomson said it does not allow Schram to rebuild that building if it is destroyed.

She asked if Schram if he would accept the board's decision to make his property non-conforming.

Schram said, "I'm fine with that."

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to assign Tom Schram's property at 3041 Old Military Road as non-conforming until such time as it is brought into compliance with zoning ordinance. The motion was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Ryan Hollihan has requested a second permit for his property on Bear Lane.

Hinsch has been holding the penalty check and site permit for Hollihan. He said Hollihan had started building a structure on his property three years ago without a permit and when Hinsch was finally able to catch the guy on the property and tell him he was building without a permit and that there would be a fine for building without a permit. He said Hollihan did not build the structure he indicated he would be building. And Hollihan was verbally combative and threatening with him. He wrote extortion on the check.

The most recent structure, that also began without a permit, Hinsch said Hollihan told him it would be a 30 ft X 40 ft. garage.

Hinsch said he viewed it the day before and there looks to be a sewage vent. And Hinsch took picture and said he has told Hollihan to cease building.

Hinsch said Hollihan told him he was going to put in septic and living quarters. Hinsch told him he would need a septic permit from the county. Hinsch has contacted the county about the septic and he is holding the permit, fee and fine which was sent Sept. 12, 2023.

Chair Thomson talked about the numerous zoning issues that have cropped up and the need to develop policies. She says this is an area she is familiar with.

Linda Thomson made a motion that she take over zoning and permitting from Hinsch.

Hinsch wished her luck if she wanted to take over zoning and said she would have to know what she was doing. He said each packet contains a copy of the township's zoning ordinance.

Dorau said there won't be a lot of permits in October. He wanted to wait for the reorganizational meeting to reassign the zoning.

The motion died for the lack of a second.

Croup said the state has created a fund for reimbursing the township for some of its voting expenses. The county keeps the largest portion of the approximate \$7,500. Sandstone Township would receive \$55. The board can choose to turn its portion over to the county or keep it by resolution. The county said if the township keeps it, they'll have to do the paperwork that comes with it. Croup said she would do the work.

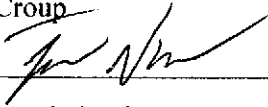
Dorau made a motion to approve the resolution with the township keeping its portion. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Nov. 2, 2023.



Ailene Croup



VICE Chair

Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township
Special Meeting Minutes
North Pine Government Center
Oct. 19, 2023

Chair Linda Thomson opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

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

Skip Thomson, chair of the planning committee, presented information to the board from their October meeting. Thomson wanted to see the site permit revamped because of recent permit problems. He said he had the permit reworked to make it extremely hard to get around the zoning requirements.

The board viewed the reworked zoning permit. There are two separate permits, one for a living structure and one for accessory buildings.

Hinsch discussed a recent permit issue he is having with the Hollihan property on Bear Lane. He said the owner built the cabin without a permit. Hollihan had it half built before Hinsch could talk to him and give him a permit application. He got the check for that building and the fine for starting work without a permit.

Hinsch said Hollihan has a second building that has no permit. Hollihan has not received a septic permit from the county. Hinsch has an unapproved permit, a check for the permit and a check for the fine that have not been deposited. The board instructed Croup to send a letter to Hollihan denying the permit because he has no septic permit from the county.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to accept the two building permits, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.


Skip Thomson said the planning committee discussed hiring a person to do all the permits and possibly share a zoning permit officer with another township. That person would be paid with money from the permit process.

He said the committee felt Linda Thomson has the resources to put together the cost of hiring a zoning officer and decide the charge for permits to pay so they would pay that person's wages. Skip Thomson said the committee would like to see Linda Thomson take over the zoning officer's duties until someone can be hired.

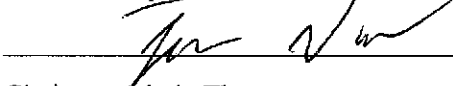
Dorau made a motion for Linda Thomson to take over the zoning supervisor's job until March. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Nov. 2, 2023.



Ailene Croup

 Vice Chair

Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

North Pine Government Center

Nov. 2, 2023

Chair ~~Linda Thomson~~ ^{Vice Chair Jon Dorau} opened the meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge.

Present were Supervisors Gary Hinsch, Vice Chair Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and residents Matt Gebhart, Skip Thomson and Don Eaton. Supervisor Linda Thomson was absent.

Gary Hinsch made a motion to approve the minutes of Oct. 5, 2023, it was seconded by Vice Chair Dorau and unanimously approved 2-0.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 19, special meeting, it was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved, 2-0.

Maureen Hansen presented the treasurer's report. A motion to approve was made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 2-0.

A motion to approve payment of claims, including an additional bill from Cybert's which arrived late, was made by Dorau, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 2-0.

Clerk Croup presented a utility permit she had put together that could be used for placement and management of abandoned infrastructure in the township's ditches, by communications and other companies.

Croup was still waiting to hear from the public utilities commission about the Century Link abandoned infrastructure on Poplar Road.

The board decided no action would be taken until they had more information.

Hinsch reported roads were rough after the rain, cold and surface frost but not bad for this time of year. He said Rabe Excavating would work on the culvert on Klejeski when he had time.

Dorau wondered if the dump truck was ready for plowing. Gravel had been removed from the truck in the spring. He said he would talk to Rabe about getting rock in the truck.

The tires on the dump truck need to be replaced, Hinsch said.

Croup informed the board there was no money for gravel or tire replacement at this time.

A report on the progress of the FEMA grant request for the spring flooding was given by Dorau and Croup who attended a Zoom meeting on mitigation.

Dorau said the township could request upsizing a culvert through mitigation and mentioned the culvert on Larson Road.

Croup informed Dorau at the end of the meeting that the last communication with the township's disaster manager stated the Dorau would need to complete the documentation online of the upsizing on the culverts and had until Monday of the following week to complete the request.

Meyers did not attend the board meeting though they had requested to be put on the agenda. They could not find a piece of land to suit their needs.

Croup reported that contractor Jason Monson would begin construction inside the town hall before the end of the year. The well and septic are both in the ground.

Scott Trenholm said he would need assistance when taking down trees from the December 2022 storm. He said it is not a one-man project.

Croup explained the new state legislation requiring employers to provide ESST (earned sick and safe time) for any employee working 80 hours in a year. The sick time would accumulate at one hour per 30 hours worked and would be in the state's accounting program update (CTAS) for 2024.

No meeting is planned in November for the planning committee.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at p.m. 8:30 p.m. It was seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Dec. 7, 2023.

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

Ailene Croup

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

Chairman Linda Thomson

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

North Pine Government Center

Dec. 7, 2023

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

Present were Supervisors Thomson, Gary Hinsch, Jon Dorau, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup, resident Matt Gebhart and DNR representative Clarissa Paine.

Paine said the DNR Trails and Parks Division was requesting a letter of support for expanding the boundaries of Banning State Park to include an additional 40 acres.

The expansion would include walking trails, and day passes would be available.

Dorau made a motion to send a letter of support to the DNR Trails and Parks Division. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The board discussed, with Paine, closing the west end of Old Wagon Road which accesses the climbing area above Kettle River. There has been a problem with visitors attempting to drive back into the climbing area beyond the road, getting stuck and having to be pulled or towed out in the winter.

The board instructed Croup to bring a resolution to the board closing Old Wagon Road west of the last residence for four months during the winter.

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

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

Roads are generally good, Hinsch reported.

Bear Lane property owner, Hollihan, has violated the township's zoning ordinance by building without a permit. This has happened twice, according to Hinsch, who said his septic was not approved by the county.

The board instructed Croup to send a copy of the zoning ordinance and permits to the Hollihans along with the checks for the site permits.

Thomson said she dropped off a zoning ordinance and copies of site permits at the Ed Vork residence where she noticed a trailer was sitting on the property. She had attempted to contact Vork with no success and will attempt it one more time. If there is no success a formal letter will be sent.

The Wild Cat Sanctuary is developing new structures on its property.

There was discussion about a fee schedule for appeals to the board.

The board discussed the new law concerning Earned Sick and Safe Time and the effect it will have on the levy and budget.

The board review resolution 2023-06 setting the township voting site for 2024 election. A motion was made by Thomson to approve the resolution, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved,

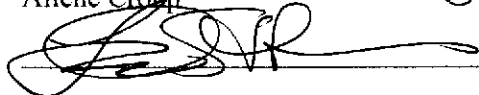
Resolution 2023-07 naming the treasurer as the EFT administrator was unanimously approved in a motion by Thomson, seconded by Hinsch.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at p.m. 9:05 p.m. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Jan. 4, 2024.



Ailene Croup



Chairman Linda Thomson