

**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting  
North Pine Government Center  
Sept. 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Dorau at 7:02 p.m., by Chairman Jon Dorau.

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

The board reviewed the most recent fire contract offer from the city of Sandstone. The board was informed they would like an answer as soon as possible because of the impending preliminary levy date of Sept. 30, 2021.

Dorau said they had not considered the township's proposal of \$15,000 for the next three years. He said the town board did not receive the city's most recent offer until the day of the August meeting and was just now getting a chance to discuss the offer.

He said the city's offer remained at \$20,044.42 which was what it was in June after a news story said Dell Grove was leaving the Sandstone fire district for the Finlayson fire district.

Croup said she was informed by Kroschel Township that they had accepted Hinckley's offer for fire protection.

Linda Thomson said Sandstone Township now has the highest market value of the remaining townships of Sandstone, Danforth and Finlayson. She said market value is one of the determining factors in the city's calculation for their fire formula. The township could end up with a much higher fire formula number with fewer members in the fire district.

Croup, also on the fire committee, said the city's current contract requires a written cancellation and it would also require a 4-month notification. She reviewed the two independent meetings she and supervisors Keith Carlson and Linda Thomson had with the city in January and May.

Croup said she had asked the MAT attorneys if the city was required to cover the fire calls if the township was not a paid member of their fire district. MAT said the city was under no obligation to respond to the fire call.

Over the past five years, Croup said the township had seven fire calls in a year as its highest number. She suggested offering \$2,500 per fire call to the city which would equal \$17,500 for seven calls.

Linda Thomson said the township had two fires last year, seven in 2016 and two in 2018. She said the township's \$31,000 fire formula pay for 2021 was a lot.

Dorau asked how much money was assigned to the fire fund in the levy.

Croup said the 2021 fire fund was set at \$13,000. That fund is subsidized by other distributions from the county such as local government aid, PILT payments and tax forfeited payments which are divided into the four funds, general, fire, roads and equipment, by their percentage of the levy.

She said the board could make a choice to recommend raising that amount and increasing the levy, keeping the same amount or getting rid of the fire formula.

Dorau asked about setting a budget to recommend to the residents when they set the levy.

Resident Keith Carlson recommended the board leave the \$13,000 that was set for 2021 as a base for the 2022 fire fund in the levy.

Dorau made a motion to approve the city's 2022 fire formula request of \$20,044.42 if they will lock in that amount for three years with no increases during the three years. The motion was seconded by Gary Hinsch and approved 2-1 with Linda Thomson voting no. Thomson said they attempted to negotiate a reasonable fire rate but the city didn't even consider it until the other townships threaten and did pull out of the fire district.

Dorau recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. to continue with the second half of the annual meeting and would reconvene once the annual meeting was complete.

Dorau reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021 regular meeting, seconded Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Don Eaton spoke during the public comment and noted a culvert on Bear Lane was half plugged.

The treasurer's report showed a total fund balance of \$151,000 which includes the \$42,000 on ARPA funds.

Croup updated the board on the ARPA standing saying the township was eligible to use the funds for communications and also for completing the town hall building.

Dorau said the building could take as much as \$85,000 to \$90,000 to complete.

Resident Keith Carlson asked why they would even complete the building when they could meet at the county building for free.

Croup said there was a comment from the county administrator that the township should be paying for use of the building.

Linda Thomson said it would be used for more than just meetings including storing records that would be accessible to the supervisors and for holding elections.

Croup said the township was told at an ARPA public meeting that those funds could be used to complete the building because the county closed the building due to COVID and told the township they would have to hold their BAE meeting outside because it had already been determined as the site for the meeting and sent out on the tax statements. She said the board can ask for ARPA funds from the county to complete the project but should also provide detailed plans and matching funds for the building project.

She said at this time, the township did not qualify for ARPA funds under the loss revenue calculation because they had not shown a steady growth in levy for the three years previous to 2020. Under the calculator, the township can use the percentage of growth to calculate what the loss of revenue would be with normal growth. The loss revenue calculator averages all receipts in each of three years. The township showed a loss in the two of those years, Croup explained.

Linda Thomson told the board ARPA can't be used for normal spending. It can be used for the building completion and for things like high-speed internet and other COVID related expenses.

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

Linda Thomson made a motion to accept an affidavit for Gary Hinsch for \$165 for personal equipment use, seconded Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Hinsch abstained because the affidavit was for payment to him.

Linda Thomson made a motion to accept an affidavit for Gary Hinsch for \$210 for personal equipment use, seconded Dorau and approved 2-0-1. Hinsch abstained because the affidavit was for payment to him.

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

Hinsch looked into getting quotes on completing the town hall from Sherman Buildings.

Croup said the quotes should consider everything that it would take to complete the building so they can be submitted to the county with a total cost for completion.

The board talked about the well, sewer, electric, heating the shop and office sides and making a public access that would be ADA compliant.

Dorau made a motion to approve the levy recommendation at \$129,000.

<b>Taxes payable</b>	<b>Taxes payable in 2020</b>	<b>Taxes payable in 2021</b>	<b>Recommended for 2022</b>
General Revenue fund	\$38,000	\$44,000	\$48,000
Road and Bridge fund	\$46,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Fire fund	\$8,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Equipment fund	\$18,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
<hr/>			
Total	\$110,000	\$125,000	\$129,000

#### **Vincent Variance request**

The Planning Committee approved the Vincent request for a variance with these changes.

- a. If there is 2.5 contiguous acres buildable on the 3 acres and still have setbacks for buildings according to the zoning ordinance regulations.
- b. If 2 areas for septic system locations were approved by the county.
- c. Doesn't need to meet the minimum 330 foot frontage on any public road, cartway, or private easement.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to approve the planning committee's recommendation and conditions for the Vincent variance request. It was seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

#### Roads

Linda Thomson said Craig Summerland will be sending a bill for gravel and an estimate for fixing Little Sand Creek Road. Graveling her roads are complete.

West Fork and Dupuis Road are the only two roads Hinsch has left to be graveled.

Dorau said he needs more gravel on Bear Lane. Poplar Road is waiting to be ditched but can 't be completed until Century Link relocates lines. Dorau asked Linda Thomson to communicate with Century Link. A culvert also needs to be placed.

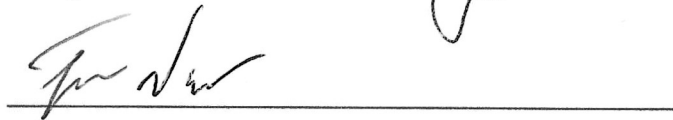
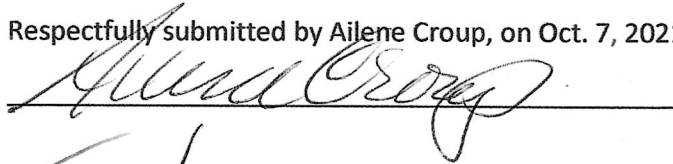
Croup updated the board on communication from the History Museum and Couri and Ruppe webinar training.

#### Planning Committee

Dorau made a motion to appoint Barry Burch as an alternate on the planning committee. It was seconded by Gary Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Oct. 7, 2021.



Chairman

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Dorau at 7:04 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup, residents Don Eaton, Catherine Colsrud, John Colsrud, Toni Groe and Dan Groe and  
*GARY THOMSON*  
Public Forum

Eaton said the beaver were working again in the culvert on Bear Lane.

Catherine Colsrud asked if the town board was aware of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Croup explained that the board had already applied and received the 2021 installment of just over \$42,961.71. She said the board had already formed a committee to review and make recommendations on the use of the funds. They had also contacted an internet service provider, Genesis, to give a presentation on how they could help the township get internet connections in the hard to serve areas.

Croup said use of the ARPA funds must be related to COVID. She said there was an option with the ARPA funds to go back to 2017 and compare the townships total receipts each year to capture the funds, and use them at will, with an application called the loss revenue calculator. The township has not made a steady growth in their receipts so it did not qualify this year but may next year. She said the funds must be used by De. 31, 2024.

The county also has received ARPA funds which Thomson said the township would attempt to get a portion of, if possible, help complete the town hall.

Dan Groe said he had heard the township intended to abandon Goebel Road. He said, if that happened, he wouldn't be able to get his farm machinery into their land.

Dorau assured him the town board had no intention of closing Goebel Road.

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

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

Croup informed the board that she had sent the fire contract to the city accepting the last city offer of \$20,044.42 per year for three years and using the revised language Supervisor Thomson had put together for the township's previous offer. The city has not responded with a signed contract.

The Public Utilities Commission was contacted by Croup when the supervisors and Croup were unable to get an answer on relocating the phone lines in the Poplar Road ditch. Lee Hessenius has been unable to complete the ditching and graveling has been delayed because the phone lines are too close to the road. A Century Link rep contacted Croup the next day and another rep met Croup and Hessenius at the road to determine how to proceed.

The Caterpillar grader warranty will expire on Nov. 6, 2021. The 5-year extended, \$14,200 warranty will cover powertrain and hydraulics. There is a zero deductible on warrantable repairs. Parts and labor are

covered and travel to repair is extra. The board will hold off, until November, on making a decision whether to accept the extended warranty. Dorau instructed Croup to inform Ziegler they could do the required inspection necessary to extend the warranty.

Thomson said all her roads are in need of grading again.

Croup told supervisors they could do another 20 loads of gravel each and still stay within the gravel budget for 2021.

Hinsch said he had tried to get in touch with operator Tom Colsrud to get red rock spread on Dupuis and West Fork Road.

Don Eaton informed the board that East Central Energy was putting flags too close to Bear Lane.

Croup said she'd received a letter from Attorney Tiede about a new law requiring townships to notify owners of a private road, by certified mail, of work or repairs to be done on that road, if the road has not been properly recorded and maintained regularly for six years. She said Eaton Lane East was added to the list of roads by Roger Volk in 2016 and falls into this category.

The roads must be certified to the county by November 15 and she asked what they wanted to do about Eaton Lane East. Dorau said he would get more information on how to proceed.

The township has been notified of the county's intent to form an economic development authority and are looking for members for a study committee. Croup said she had given the county administrator Linda Thomson's name for the committee because they needed a supervisor member to be recommended before the town board meeting.

Dorau said he'd like to be on the board and instructed Croup to send his name and background to the county.

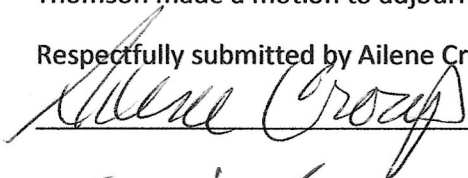
The board approved a letter of support for the city to obtain funding for the Phase building which will be remodeled into the city's new library.

The board discussed Poplar Road and the upgrades MnDOT has in progress. Dorau said the resident across from the town hall unlawfully filled in the west Poplar Road ditch to make a driveway onto Poplar Road.

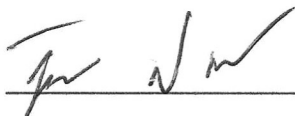
Hinsch gave updates on quotes he was pursuing for completion of the town hall.

Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 9:54 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Nov. 4, 2021.



---



---

Chairman

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Dorau at 7 p.m.

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

**Public Forum**

Eaton asked if the township was going to get the culvert in on Bear Lane. Dorau said he would talk to Lee Hessenius.

Linda Thomson made a motion to accept the minutes of the Oct. 7, 2021 regular meeting, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to transfer \$7,500 from the general fund to the fire fund to pay the second half of 2021 fire protection bill, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

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

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

The board by approved by consensus to cancel the internet service for the iPads.

A new fire contract was received from the city of Sandstone. They rejected the township's proposal of a 3-year contract and amended language. The board discussed the city's demand for a one-year contract, \$20,044.42 and language that was deemed unacceptable by the fire contract committee.

Hinsch said Dell Grove Township is still onboard with the City. He also said he was done with the city of Sandstone.

They talked about reviewing other options including a per fire payment to the responding departments and contracts with other cities. Dorau asked what the board would like to do.

Linda Thomson said the city of Sandstone refused to negotiate. She said she struggled with them not revising the contract since they have different contracts with other cities.

Dorau prompted the board to look at the contract on the table.

The contract modification they've made are unacceptable and the township needs to tell Sandstone they are unacceptable, fire committee member Linda Thomson said.

The board voted to reject the latest fire contract by the city of Sandstone because the language, length of contract and yearly cost was unacceptable. The motion was made Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

**Town Hall**

Clerk Croup talked about her conversation with USDA concerning a grant to complete the town hall. She said they would be eligible for 35 percent of the cost. USDA representative advised the township have a conversation with their banker/lender about whether the township would qualify for a loan/bond for completion since the USDA grant was competitive. They also advised having an architect and general contractor for the project. Hinsch said he would contract Northview Bank where the township has a checking account and a bond.

The board decided not to have a preventative maintenance contract. They voted to approve a 5-year, \$14,200 extended warranty, covering drivetrain and hydraulics, with Caterpillar, on the grader. The motion was made by Hinsch, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dorau to certify 33.72 miles of Sandstone Township roads, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Croup explained a letter from Attorney Peter Tiede which alerted the township to a change to the MN statute concerning the dedication of roads. It was a bill authored by Senator Jason Rarick according to MAT Attorney Peter Fenske.

The law requires notification by certified mail if the township intends to upgrade or maintain an unrecorded road in the township. The board discussed what should be done on Eaton Lane East which was added to the certified road list in 2016 and would likely be affected by the new law. Croup said Fenske said it should be fine.

#### Roads

The board decided to increase their class 5 gravel application by 20 loads at the September meeting. Dorau said his gravel was complete. Linda Thomson said she wasn't sure if it had been completed by Summerland. Hinsch said he hadn't applied any of the extra 20 loads.

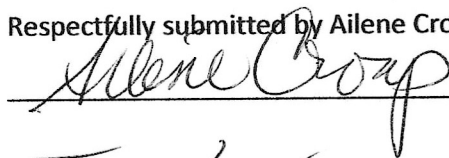
Theresa Dawson reviewed the third quarter budget with the board. She said they were very close to what had been expended by this time last year. Croup noted that most of the gravel bills had not come in and she estimated \$20,000 in outstanding gravel claims. She said it would put the third quarter budget at approximately \$10,000 over what had been spent in 2020's third quarter.

Dorau made a motion to have a special meeting with the Planning Committee on Nov. 11, 2021, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The board chose not to change the location and approved holding the Board of Appeal and Equalization at North Pine Government Center, in 2022.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Dec. 2, 2021.



---



---

Chairman



**Sandstone Township Special Meeting  
Of Town Board and Planning Committee  
North Pine Government Center  
Nov. 11, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jon Dorau at 6:04 p.m.

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, Planning Committee Members: Don Eaton, Skip Thomson, Chris Nathan, Maury Peterson, John Pitts and alternate Barry Burch.

The planning committee approved the agenda. The joint meeting was called so the two bodies could work together to update the current zoning ordinance.

Discussion began with trailer house requirements and what parts are regulated by the state. The age of a trailer being moved into the township was debated.

In the nonconforming lot section, expansion was defined as anything that permanently increases the footprint of the structure.

Peterson said they need to define what is a permitted use; what needs a permit.

Dorau agreed.

Skip Thomson suggested anything that raises the tax on a property.

Dorau warned the committee not to make a requirement they could not regulate.

"I'm pretty sure if we ask our constituents, they won't want more regulations," Linda Thomson added.

Use of the land in the setback was discussed and Skip Thomson said any time people congregate close to the property line, there will be issues.

Peterson wanted the date of the adoption of the changes to be noted on the changed line in the ordinance.

Croup said the ordinance would be dated. The dated ordinance would refer to the whole ordinance which would cover revisions and the existing ordinance.

Under Interpretation section, they decided to eliminate 4a which refers to gender.

In Section 7B Permitted Uses, Zone 2, where it references commercial uses, it was agreed that commercial should be allowed in both Zone 1 and Zone 2. That line would be removed and "a" would follow the line above beginning with "residential uses."

Under Section 7C Permits, the word Township will be changed to County.

The term "manufactured homes" should be added to Section 8 Specifications under letter B.

All mobile home references should be changed to manufacture homes.

Discussion continued on the age of mobile homes in the township.

Pitts talked about whether banks would finance homes prior to 1976. He said loan backers such as Fannie Mae and HUD will not cover the loans before 1976 because construction was not regulated before that year.

Skip Thomson said the older the mobile home is the less likely it is to be kept up.

Linda Thomson said they should not go over the 10-year age.

A foundation makes a difference under a mobile home, Chris Nathan commented.

The planning committee had previously recommended a 10-year limit on the age of a mobile home. A permanent foundation was suggested at this meeting.

The addition of a section in the ordinance addressing temporary structures and what would constitute such a structure was discussed.

A temporary structure would not fall under the mobile home age requirement, Skip Thomson said. He mentioned a garage with living quarters. He also said it would cover anything that isn't spelled out in the caring for "sick parent's home" section.

Linda Thomson talked about having a permit for the temporary structure.

Dorau agreed that something should be spelled out that states it is approval of a temporary structure and that temporary housing should be removed within a year.

No temporary or permanent intrusion should be allowed in setbacks, was voiced by the group.

Permitting utilities in ditches need regulation because abandoned lines and cables are filling the ditches, Hinsch and Croup told the boards.

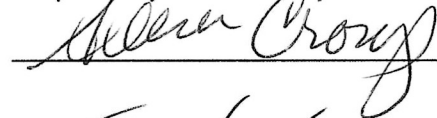
John Pitts said some regulations were designed in 2013 and 2016. They are not spelled out in the ordinance, Croup stated. They need to be in writing and accessible.

The last foot of the right-of-way is for placement of utilities, Dorau explained, that would be 32 feet from the centerline of the road.

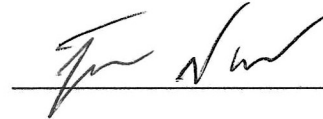
Dorau asked Croup to contact Hinckley City Planner to find out how they deal with contractors.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on Dec. 2, 2021.



---



---

Chairman

## **Sandstone Township Minutes**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Dec. 2, 2021**

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

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch, residents Don Eaton, Skip Thomson, Gary Thomson and Bernie Marks, Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, city of Sandstone Mayor Pete Spartz, Administrator Kathy George, Councilors Cassie Gaede, Valerie Palmer, Randy Riley and Julena Rahier.

The board had arranged a meeting with the full city of Sandstone Council to negotiate a fire contract. Sandstone Township had attempted, at two prior meetings between the fire committee and the Sandstone mayor and administrator, to negotiate a fairer contract for the township when the city more than doubled the township's contract share from \$14,000 in 2019 to \$31,000 in 2021.

Mayor Spartz read a prepared statement when the meeting began saying he was embarrassed and appalled about a contract not being reached through the city's five special meetings with Sandstone Township. Spartz stated it was the township, not the city, who refused to negotiate. Spartz also mentioned the current offer from the city of \$20,044.42 (which had been reduced earlier in the year after Dell Grove Township began negotiating with the city of Finlayson for fire coverage.) He said the \$20,044.42 would only cost each resident of Sandstone Township \$25.

The township had counter offered the same \$20,044.42 but for three years with no increase. Spartz asked what other service or business would do that.

Chairman Dorau said the city's fire formula, which the contract is based on, was \$14,000 to \$15,000 for several years and then \$31,000. He said the city's formula has so many variables.

Supervisor Linda Thomson stated that if Dell Grove walked out of Sandstone's fire service group, it would increase each township's costs for fire service. She questioned where the city had devised such a contract since it was significantly different than the one the League of Minnesota Cities suggested.

Spartz said this is the city's offer and if the township didn't want to take it, that was their business.

Clerk Croup questioned why the townships should finance the city's capital assets through the fire formula - equipment and building - which are not jointly owned by the townships.

Spartz later said the city may be willing to look at some sort of percentage of increase.

Dorau asked if the city would be willing to do a couple years at \$20,044.42.

A question was posed as to how the city would cover the loss of a township in their fire budget.

Spartz said, "I'm trying so hard to stay out of your business, stay out of mine."

Linda Thomson wondered if the city would go for the \$20,000 with a percentage increase.

Spartz mentioned \$20,000 with a maximum 15% COLA.

Supervisor Hinsch stated, "I'm not in it for 2022."

Spartz said he was trying to figure out how many people live in the township and if they do or don't include inmates.

Spartz also talked about developing a fire district in the future.

Supervisor Thomson talked about the option of a "per fire" set payment to the city. She said the township overpaid this year. The exorbitant increase this year has made it hard to get our constituents onboard, Thomson added.

"Say, if we as a township, agree to pay so much per fire and anything over that the resident pays," Thomson said.

Spartz answered, "You are building a safety net. You are getting the best of both worlds."

Croup asked why that would be.

"Because you're capping your loss at \$20,000, and only if you get to it," Spartz answered.

Resident Skip Thomson said the board would not get the contract negotiated and to just walk away.

"If there's no fires, then everybody's happy," Skip Thomson said.

Spartz said if there's a fire in Sandstone Township, the city of Sandstone's fire department would use any and all means to put out the fire whether or not there is an agreement between the city and township.

In regard to the unchanging 3-year offer by the township, Spartz asked if the township got a 3-year flat rate when they ordered gravel.

Hinsch responded they did not. He said they get halfway through the year and there's no more money for gravel because of the fire formula increase.

Dorau stated that the townships paid for a bad fire year for five years. It was a variable in the fire contract. He also said the city would have township fire funds that were never spent and the city rolls it over. Could it be used to reduce the township's contribution the next year.

"We never get to realize that reduction," Linda Thomson said.

If the city got a grant from the federal government, would that reduce the fire formula, Dorau asked.

Spartz said, "...fire money is fire money."

Linda Thomson questioned the city charging for the purchase of fire equipment and its depreciation and \$5,000 that was put directly into an equipment fund balance. She said she had a problem with the city putting that money in a fund balance.

Croup talked about the city's purchase of a ladder truck with no notice to the townships who were paying for it. She stated that the township had no multistory buildings that would require a ladder truck.

In response, Councilor Gaede said the best way to fight a fire was from above. She talked about a good education would show a ladder truck benefits every fire.

Resident Skip Thomson said, "We're not getting anywhere. I fully support the board in their walking away from the fire contract. As a taxpayer of Sandstone Township, it's too much."

Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson reviewed the townships fire charges for 2021 and said the \$31,000 was one fourth of the levy.

Hinsch said it was hard for the board to set a levy with the changing fire formula.

Linda Thomson agreed that the exorbitant increase is hard for the board to deal with.

“Let’s try to negotiate, if we can,” Dorau said. “I’m still on board with \$20,000 for three years.”

“What if I say we need new trucks,” Spartz said.

Linda Thomson offered \$2,500 per fire and the homeowner pays the rest.

Hinsch said he wasn’t interested.

Resident Gary Thomson asked why the Sandstone’s fire formula was so much different than the formula from the League of Minnesota Cities.

Dorau said the city probably needed an answer and he didn’t want to be left out in the cold with no fire protection.

Spartz said he thought the council was willing to build in a percentage, adding, “The 2023 is walking up on us now. I would like to think intelligent people can walk this through.”

Dorau asked the board if they wanted a year or two at \$20,044.42.

Hinsch said he did not want to approve it.

Linda Thomson said she had constituents calling her and telling her not to approve it.

Dorau repeated one, two or three years.

Hinsch said no.

“I think we can look at other options,” Linda Thomson said.

Dorau said he was just hoping the guarantee of \$20,044.42 each year would appeal to the city because they depend on a budget, too.

“Anyone interested in three years at \$20,000?” Dorau asked.

“I would be with possible increases of up to 3 percent,” Linda Thomson said.

Sandstone Council showed no interest.

Dorau said, “That’s where we end the meeting tonight. “

Spartz said maybe the city should go to the League of MN Cities formula which, according to Administrator Kathy George, would cost the township approximately \$28,000, based on the market value, population and number of fires. He also mentioned the residents’ insurance premiums. He wondered if they would be affected if there was no township fire protection.

Clerk Croup asked how much Sandstone Township would be affected by Kroschel Township leaving Sandstone’s fire coverage and going to Hinckley.

“Once we have so much in the budget reserve fund, can’t some of that come rolling back,” Dorau asked.

The city's council, administrator and mayor left at about 8:25 p.m.

The supervisors agreed they should call a meeting for Dec. 16, 2021, at 6 p.m., at North Pine Government Center to further discuss the fire formula and the township's options

Dorau said the Pine County Courier reporter contacted him and asked what the township would do if there was a fire. He said he wondered if the city responded to the fire was it about the money. Dorau said the board should discuss who will report to a fire, the increase in the formula and review of the ladder truck.

"How will we deal with fires in the township. Do we make a contract pre-fire with the fire departments in the area before it happens, and first one there gets the money? We still bill the homeowner \$750 then give it back. Each department could bill the homeowner. Do we wait until the end of the year and then give a percentage of the cost?

He said the time should be spent advantageously trying to find out the township's options.

Dorau said the board should call a meeting of township residents and have the township's attorney present so all could hear his advice.

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

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

A motion was made by Dorau to pay Gene Kroschel's maintenance bill and the temporary help for the truck repair and Lee Hessenius' gravel bill if they are submitted before Dec. 31, 2021, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

A motion to pay Ziegler after Hinsch talks to them and gets a corrected bill was made by Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

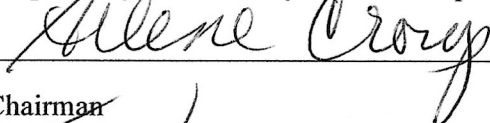
Dorau made a motion to pay for the renewed website and domain charges, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Roads

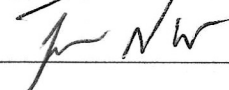
Hinsch reported Dupuis Road needs a bigger culvert and the shoulder is caving in at that spot.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 9:38 p.m., seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Sandstone Township Minutes**

### **Special Meeting**

**Dec. 16, 2021**

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

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

Thomson said it would be a good idea to have a special meeting with the residents to talk about the fire formula.

The Pine County Courier reporter asked Dorau what the township would do if there was a fire. Dorau responded the township was looking into its options.

The board reviewed the response from Sandstone Mayor Pete Spartz who said the city would respond to any fire in the township even if they had no fire contract agreement.

Dorau mentioned ways to deal with fire contracts/protection in the township. Making a contract pre-fire before it happens or the first one to respond is the department that is paid. If the township still bills the homeowner, would that money be given back. Each department could bill the homeowner. The township could wait until the end of the year and give a percentage.

He said the board should take this time to their advantage to find out what they can do.

The board discussed a public meeting with township resident and the township's attorney at the meeting to get his advice. The board continued with the agenda and moved the rest of the discussion to the end of the meeting.

Thomson made a motion to pay the bills including Gene Kroschel's as soon as he turns it in to close out the year, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Clerk Croup updated the board on the county's recent EDA meeting. Dorau had been appointed to the meeting but never received an invitation giving the time and date of the meeting.

Croup also said the county auditor intends to purchase new voting machines for all district and has a list of voting machines that include the suspect Dominion machines which continue to be scrutinized for their ability to be hacked.

#### **Roads**

Hinsch said he had contacted True North to get new culvert prices. There is a 4-foot by 38-foot culvert that needs to be replaced on Dupuis Road. The shoulders need to be brought back on the road, too.

Linda Thomson said she was waiting for a quote from Craig Summerland about putting fabric down on Little Sand Creek Road to stabilize it.

The iPad internet cancellation has been a problem for Croup. Straight Talk said it was up to Northview Bank. Northview Bank said it was up to their checking group, Shazam, to cancel it. Shazam said it was up to the bank. Croup will be canceling the card after the website payment on Dec. 28 and applying for a new card.

The board tentatively set Jan. 20, 2022 for the 2022 budget review. April 23, 2022 is the tentative date for the road review which will be re-evaluated at the April regular meeting to ensure the road are ready.

Fire formula discussion continued. Dorau suggested getting planning committee involvement.

Linda Thomson said the city's fee schedule says fires will be charged at \$500 for the first hour and \$250 for each hour after and capping the city payment at \$2,500 per fire and bill the homeowner.

Linda Thomson was concerned over how they would know who to pay if they could work out a deal where the first city to respond would be paid.

Dorau suggested fire departments report to the township when they are on site.

Ziegler equipment contacted Cookie Hansen and said they made a mistake on their bill, though Hansen didn't know which bill they were referencing.

Hinsch said he'd gone through the bill with John Nolte at Ziegler.

Linda Thomson made a motion to void the inspection payment to Ziegler and issue a new check with the corrected amount when Hansen receives the bill. Seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Zoning ordinance changes were discussed.

Dorau had asked Croup to contact the city of Hinckley zoning department and find out what requires a permit in the city.

Croup brought a list of permitted zoning actions.

Linda Thomson brought up the age of a mobile home that has just been moved into the township. She said the language in the ordinance should say – they shall comply with current manufacturers' requirements whether they're temporary or permanent.

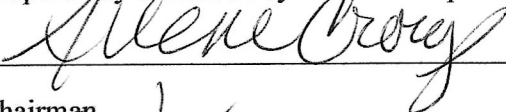
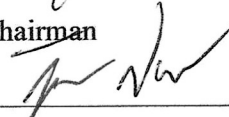
Hinsch and Linda Thomson talked about the need for 330 feet of frontage required. Dorau said the 330 feet keeps lots more regular and is the difference between minor and major subdivisions.

The board will have direction for the committee at the next planning meeting.

The board decided on no fire contract for 2022 and will tell residents they want a fire contract the township can afford.

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

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
  
\_\_\_\_\_