

**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting
North Pine Government Center
May 6, 2021**

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

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch. Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, residents Don Eaton, Skip Thomson, Sara and William Hamre and Sandstone business owner John Sack.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2021, seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021 reconvened meeting, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to approve the minutes of the April 13, Board of Appeal and Equalization, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The chairman called for speakers from the floor. Don Eaton said beavers are working at the culvert on Bear Lane. He asked that the township install a screen at the end of the culvert.

Linda Thomson asked that board priorities be added to the agenda.

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

An affidavit for claims of work done for the township was submitted by Hinsch. Dorau made a motion to approve the claim, seconded by Linda Thomson, approved 2-0-1. Hinsch abstained because he had submitted the claim.

Payment of bills was approved on a motion by Linda Thomson, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Residents Sara and William Hamre brought a complaint of loud karaoke music coming from Countryside Campground on Beaver Tail Road. Their property touches the campgrounds. They said they have complained to someone in charge at the campground and were told the campground had a variance to do karaoke music.

The Hamres complained of loud music on Friday and Saturday nights. They said they could hear it inside their house and played a recording of what they were hearing. They also complained that the language in the music was offensive, noting there are children staying at that campground. The karaoke can go until 11:30 p.m. and the first day this year was May 1, 2021, Sara Hamre said. She said she had tried to watch TV in her home but could only hear karaoke coming from the campground. The Hamres also had complaints about the noise from the four wheelers.

Sara Hamre also brought a list of complaints of excessive noise from music and four-wheelers that she printed from Facebook posts. She said she had called the sheriff about the noise but they would not help. And, her complaints to someone at the campground were met with the response that the campground has a conditional use permit (CUP) for the karaoke.

Supervisor Thomson said she would speak to campground manager, Joy Holt or the owner, Jason Bambenek when she can.

Croup was instructed to look for a CUP which would allow the karaoke. The issue will be turned over to the planning committee.

Clerk Croup reported on the most recent county board meeting. The county board will be holding a special meeting to address the Second Amendment resolution they had passed, extending the transit sales tax and broadband.

Roads

Hinsch said the roads look good. Government road needs some attention. He said he'd talked to a resident about using calcium chloride ^{keys} on the road to keep the dust down.

Linda Thomson said she wouldn't want it on roads because it's hard on vehicles.

Fire Formula

Linda Thomson reported on the meeting she and Croup had had with Sandstone Mayor Pete Spartz and City Administrator Kathy George. She said not one township has agreed to the city's 2022 fire contract. Thomson used the contract and formula from the League of Minnesota Cities and the Minnesota Association of Township's (MAT) websites and she said she couldn't find where the city came up with the total formula. Thomson's numbers were much lower. Sandstone Township's portion was about \$18,000 where the contract said \$28,000.

Dorau said he would like to see what the city has made off the townships over the last 8-10 years.

Linda Thomson said she talked to someone at the Duxbury Fire Department and he will be talking to the fire chief about whether they would take on Sandstone Township for fire support. She also said she'd like to get all the townships together to talk about the formula.

Dorau asked if Linda Thomson was will^{ing} to keep fighting on the fire formula and pursuing this fire contract. She was willing and would like to get the townships together to discuss options.

Hinsch reported on the grader breakdown. He said it broke down on April 16. It ran for a mile and broke down again. It wasn't repaired and back in use until the morning of May 5. They were not able to move the grader for about a week. Then it was taken to the town hall garage and the repairman worked on it there. Hinsch said there had to be several thousand dollars in electrical harness repairs and lights. He asked that Ziegler leave the replacement grader until the operators were sure the township grader wouldn't break down again.

The board talked about extending the five-year warranty on the grader when it expires this year.

Croup asked if the board was going to move ahead on broadband and get a propagation survey completed, which was quoted at \$1,400, as was discussed during the meeting with Genesis wireless. Dorau made a motion to move ahead with the survey, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Clerk Croup handed out signature cards for Northview Bank to the supervisors, Treasurer Hansen and Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson. The board also went through requirements for the account including changing to single signer checks, approved at the previous meeting, to comply with the new Wage Theft

Law. Monthly board meetings are sometimes more than 31 days apart, Croup explained. Payroll checks are not available until after meetings and this does not comply with state law. Treasurer Hansen can issue checks prior to meetings and the disbursements will be presented at the board meeting.

John Sacks came before the board to talk about detachment. His business, Quality Homes, was annexed into the city of Sandstone, from the township, about 20 years ago. He told the board he does not have sewer and water, yet pays city taxes.

Dorau asked Croup to explore the liability of the township if the board gave a resolution of support for detachment to Sacks. Croup will be contacting the attorneys. Dorau made a motion for Croup to contact the township's attorney if advised to do so by the MAT attorney. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Road review was discussed. Gene Kroschel will be attending and everyone will meet at the town hall at 8 a.m. Dorau said he would not be able to attend and added that they need to do ditching on the west side of Tenquist Road. He also said some roads have had no work done for two years. And, the township needs to get on the list for the brush mower. He said they would need to use it for 40 hours between August 15 and September 15.

Dorau said Summerland charges \$165/load of Class 5 and his gravel can be used on the east side of the township. Rabe charges \$159/load of Class 5 and he will haul on the west side.

Theresa Dawson prepared and distributed the first quarter budget. She highlighted the fact that the expenses and receipts look good and were nearly identical to 2020's first quarter.

Croup will send a link to the board and staff to the American Rescue Plan Act information seminar.

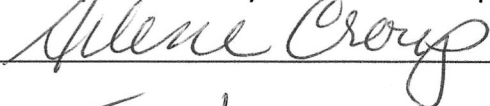
Linda Thomson asked about the board's priorities. She mentioned broadband and roads. Dorau said he believed the biggest priorities are roads, then water, ditching and brushing slopes.

Linda Thomson also mentioned the needs of township residents being fed and clothed. A township cleanup day was discussed and having Anderson disposal take the tires and trash.

Hinsch made a motion to increase the per hour payment for use of supervisors' equipment from \$50 to \$60, it was seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to recess at 9:15 p.m. and reconvene at 8 a.m., May 8, 2021, at the town hall for road review. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup, on June 3, 2021,





Chairman

Sandstone Township 2021 Review

Johnson Drive – 2 loads of gravel at the rise

Robin Street – 1 load of gravel at #S316, 1 load at the end of the road

United Country Court – 2 loads on United Country Court

Skunk Lake Rd. (West of Highway) – none

Skunk Lake Rd. (East of Highway) – Brushing, 1 load at east end

Faulkner Rd. – none

Goebel Drive – none

Svercl Rd. – 1 load plus 2 loads at the end of the west leg

West Fork Rd. – none

East end West Fork Rd. (min. maint. Rd.) – 2 loads red rock beyond #50843

Dupuis Rd. – 2 loads red rock plus 1 load red rock over exposed rocks, 2 loads gravel at Groe's plus 2 loads class five before culvert

White Oak Drive – 4 loads

Friesland Rd – none

Eitens Lane - none

Airport Rd – N/A

Old Military Rd.- 2 loads north of Ludwig's, 4 loads south of Ludwig's, 4 loads south of #2777

Nurses' Rd. – 3 loads quarter mile in before tower

Kettlewell Lane – ditching at curve, no gravel

Government Rd – Ask Rybergs about cost of red rock – 30 loads

Poplar Rd. – 3 loads

Old Wagon Rd. – none

Anderson Drive – 6 loads

Klejski Rd. – none

Eaton Lane – none

J. Nelson Drive – none

Tenquist Rd. – ditching west side, pull out 1 culvert, put in 2 culverts

Tenquist Trail – 9 loads

Bear Lane – 5 loads at side road, culvert replaced

Kukuk Drive – 2 loads gravel

Seivert Drive – none unless there are complaints

Double C Rd. – 20-12 loads

Rocky C Rd. – 5 loads from hill to corner

Larson Rd. – 1 load at top of hill end at minimum maintenance. Take out tree at the end, put 2 loads pit run at turn around. 2 loads south of #53889, east side ditching

Little Sand Creek Rd. – none, just grading

Thomson Rd – 4 loads at north end, 3 loads at Irene T. driveway, 2 before Skip T. driveway

Koland Rd – 6 loads

Wild Blueberry Lane – min. maint

Call to order Meeting - Vice Chair Gary Hinsch reconvened the meeting at 8:20 a.m., on May 8, 2021

Present: Supervisor Gary Hinsch, Gene Kroschel, Supervisor Linda Thomson, Gary Thomson, Ailene Croup. Absent: Chairman Jon Dorau.

Inspect: Gene Kroschel said the total cost of red rock over Government Road for 30 loads would be about \$10,000. Added to the approximate class 5 total would bring gravel to \$25,000.

Adjourn: Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn at 1:47 p.m. It was unanimously approved 2-0.

Ailene Croup, Clerk
Jon Dorau Chair

**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting
North Pine Government Center
June 3, 2021**

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

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch. Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson, residents Don Eaton, Gary Thomson, Sara Hamre and William Hamre, Joy Holt, Mike Heide and Jennifer Heide, Sandstone city Mayor Pete Spartz and City Administrator Kathy George and business owner Jason Bambenek.

The city of Sandstone had sent a revised 2022 fire contract to the township and the previous month, the fire committee of Supervisor Linda Thomson and Clerk Ailene Croup had met with the city about the proposed contract.

Kathy George had worked the contract without using manhours as part of the formula. The 2022 contract, at just over \$28,000 was \$3,000 less than the 2021 formula of just over \$31,000.

Linda Thomson said she was still concerned about residents of the township paying for the city's equipment.

Dorau commented that the township is not required to provide fire service to its residents.

Hinsch said with the news that Dell Grove Township was negotiating fire service with the city of Finlayson, concerned him that the city of Sandstone would rework the formula and spread the loss of Dell Grove's portion among the remaining four townships. He said the township did not have that kind of revenue.

Mayor Spartz said the city was still in negotiations with Dell Grove Township. He told the board they used the state formula to come to the new fire contract.

Linda Thomson said statutorily the township is not obligated to provide fire service and noted her homeowners' insurance would pay up to \$1,500 for a fire. She also stated the township's fire service has double in cost in three years. Thomson asked why the township is paying more than the city.

Dorau said he liked the numbers better now.

Kathy George said she took out the manhours and the city's 30 percent reduction which was put on the townships and went to a 50 percent reduction for the townships in 2022.

Dorau said he intended to send the item to the planning committee.

Don Eaton spoke during public comment and said beavers are working in the culvert on Bear Lane.

Countryside Campground - Clerk Ailene Croup said she had contacted the sheriff's office requesting complaints beginning in January 2020. She produced the records which showed seven complaints. They began in August of 2020. Five were for noise, one for a physical altercation and one for ATV noise.

Campground owner Jason Bambenek said he didn't know about all those except a couple recent noise complaints. He said the campground rules state quiet time starts at 11 p.m.

Supervisor Thomson said she had spoken to the campground's manager who said the board could come any time to check the place out.

Joy Holt, who manages the campground, said when someone complains they're on it immediately. They try hard to keep the noise down and also do when the sheriff shows up.

Sara Hamre, a neighboring property of the campground, said she can hear the karaoke through her walls. She said there were nights when the karaoke had gone way past 11 p.m.

She had played a recording of the karaoke at the previous meeting and Hinsch said the language in the song was "absolutely disgusting."

Holt said she would go to the neighbors the next time and see what it sounds like.

Mike Heide said his complaint was pickup trucks and cars making noise driving in and out.

Dorau asked if people were coming to the campground to purchase off sale liquor.

Bambenek said yes, a few times.

Dorau said the board really didn't want to go to the next steps. They do not want to shut down business.

William Hamre said he didn't want to hear the music and the Harleys driving right in front of his house. He said ever since he complained, the outcome is worse. Karaoke is the problem.

Bambenek said they would address the kind of music and the language.

Hinsch said the zoning ordinance says to promote the health, safety and morals and the board needs to do that.

Linda Thomson said she did not think it would be fair to the campground to say no music at all. She said she was supportive of finding ways to tone it down. She stated that she wants all the residents in the township to be happy.

Sara Hamre said they only called the police four times in the last year.

Joy Holt said they're going to work on it. She said they were not going to turn off the karaoke but will turn it down. She said if it gets to be 11 p.m. and is still going to call her.

Dorau ended the discussion at 8 p.m.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2021, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Dorau made a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2021, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

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

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

Roads - Hinsch said his roads are looking pretty good. He reported that True North Steel has had an increase in their culvert prices. They will send a list.

Linda Thomson said she had contacted Craig Summerland ^{and Oct Sanctuary is putting} to put \$4,000 worth of gravel on Little Sand Creek Road.

The board discussed the trade-in value on the grader. Caterpillar will be contacted. Dorau said he'd like the planning committee to take a look at the grader issue.

Dorau talked about Robin Street, the road review and the fact that it is the township's year to maintain Robin Street. He said the west side of Tenquist Road needs ditching and there are two culverts plugged on Bear Lane.

Each supervisor has been advised by Dorau to get in touch with the gravel hauler for their roads. Each supervisor should have 40-50 loads put on their roads to start. He also added that Lee Hessenius is going to ditch Tenquist and Poplar Road.

Hinsch said he wasn't comfortable putting any money into Government Road and then have the county take it away. He added that was the reason he did not spend money on speed signs for the road.

Croup reported that she had contacted Minnesota Association of Townships' attorney Steve Fenske. Fenske said the township would have to pay court costs if the board gave a letter of support to Quality Homes to detach from the city and the issue went to court. They will have to remain neutral.

Dorau recommended next year's road review come earlier than the first Saturday after May's regular meeting. He said they could either reconvene the April meeting later in that month or call a special meeting for the road review.

Hinsch noted that Outback Road, which isn't a township road, has water flowing over it.

The board had a consensus that Cookie Hansen, Linda Thomson and Ailene Croup should comprise a committee to determine uses of American Rescue Plan funds.

Linda Thomson made a motion to get a township cell phone for the clerk with an AT&T data plan combined with the township's hotspot plan if possible. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

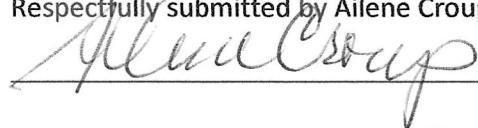
Thomson also made a motion to let the clerk find someone to do some of the clerk work up to five hours a month, if necessary, because of additional ARPA work and reporting. It was seconded Dorau and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Hinsch to have Brad Rootke mow the ditches, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

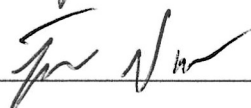
Hinsch made a motion to reappoint Skip Thomson to the planning committee for three years, seconded by Linda Thomson and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Dorau to recess at 9:40 p.m. and reconvene at 7 p.m., June 10, 2021, at Pine County Government Center. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on July 1, 2021.



Chairman Jon Dorau



**Sandstone Township Regular Meeting
North Pine Government Center
June 10, 2021 - Reconvened**

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

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

Croup had contacted the township's attorney Peter Tiede as approved by Chairman Dorau for a legal opinion on Countryside Campground's liquor license. She told the board conditions could not be put on the license. The board had the power to deny or approve the license.

Linda Thomson reported on the conversation she had with the owner and operator of Countryside Campground. She visited the campground unannounced. She did not see anyone come in to purchase off-sale alcohol when she was there. There was no noise. There were no ramps in the ditches and she said it appeared to be well-managed.

Thomson suggested sound barriers such as loaded hayracks to buffer the karaoke music.

A neighbor across the street complained of ATV noise, Hinsch said. He also commented that Joy Holt has a good business sense.

Linda Thomson said she had no complaints from her visit.

Clerk Croup was instructed by Chairman Dorau to send a letter to the Hamre's and Jason Bambenek and Joy Holt suggesting they find a compromise on the karaoke music and noise level, putting up barriers and being more tolerant of the noise from the activity of the campground.

The board spent more time discussing the fire formula and contract.

Fire supervisor Linda Thomson said the city has revenue for the fire department coming from state aid. They get subsidies for training and the DNR takes care of the grass fires. She said the city isn't technically paying \$37,000 per the formula.

Thomson also said she would like to see the township recoup the \$13,000 increase they were charged for 2021.

Hinsch said he wasn't sure how comfortable he'd be with a 3-year contract.

Linda Thomson said she thought a \$15,000 per year contract for three years would help recoup the \$13,000 increase this year. Dorau agreed that a 3-year, \$15,000 contract sounded reasonable.

Linda Thomson will tweak the contract and send it to the other townships and the city of Sandstone.

Dorau talked about the Caterpillar grader, contacting them about a cash price and trade-in which also involves considering a John Deere grader.

Linda Thomson said she talked to gravel hauler Craig Summerland about fixing Little Sand Creek Road permanently. He told her he could dig out the soft spots and put down fabric. He had done it before in a couple places.

Dorau talked about the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and using them for rebuilding roads.

Croup said there was a Pine County meeting on June 15, 5 p.m., at NPGC, to discuss ARPA funds and possible uses.

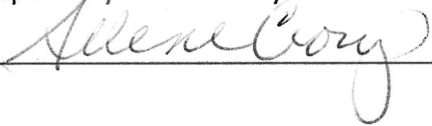
There was discussion of red rock on roads to which Hinsch said he was in favor.

Dorau said Wildlife Road has been bad in the spring since the county put red rock on it.

There was a road complaint on Tenquist Trail.

Dorau made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup, on July 1, 2021.



Chairman Jon Dorau 

Sandstone Township Regular Meeting

North Pine Government Center

July 1, 2021

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

Present were Supervisors Dorau, Linda Thomson and Gary Hinsch. Clerk Ailene Croup, Treasurer Maureen Hansen, Susan VanGorden, Skip Thomson, Linda Vincent, Donald Eaton, Tami Neubauer, Cory Trygve (sp) and John Pitts.

Realtor Susan VanGorden told the board she had sold a property in Sandstone Township and the buyer was informed it was not buildable because of the 5-acre minimum lot size required by the township's zoning ordinance.

She said the property had been approved for division by the county. VanGorden said she had never seen this before and had been a realtor in Pine County for many years. The road frontage was established when it was divided. Soil borings have been done and she said they didn't see a reason for anything else and they would like to move forward with the board's blessing.

VanGorden wanted to know when the lot size requirement changed.

Dorau asked what the current status was of the property in question.

VanGorden said they owners have a buyer for the property.

Dorau said he'd like to send the request to the planning committee.

Planning Committee Chairman Skip Thomson said when the property was divided there were road requirements. A lot of things have changed over the years in the process, he added.

The zoning administrator, Gary Hinsch, said he agreed with sending the request to the planning committee. He asked if the township could get along without a variance.

Skip Thomson said he would not want to consider the property for building without a variance.

Linda Thomson said she would be pretty angry if she had a lot that had been split long ago. It could go back to the county for taxes. Part of me says no harm no foul.

Hinsch said he would do anything he could to help the seller/buyer but he had to abide by the township's zoning ordinance.

VanGorden said she didn't want to debate and that the highway department had given its okay for a driveway onto Groningen Road.

Dorau said the cost for a variance application would be \$500. The application would go to the planning committee for their recommendation. He said one of the biggest qualifications was whether the property owner making the request had created the problem.

Skip Thomson said it will go to the planning committee and they will work something out. He was concerned about the lack of 330 ft road frontage as required by the ordinance because there are many smaller lots on both sides of the road where the property is located.

Dorau directed the request be sent to the planning committee and the township attorney be contacted to guide the process.

VanGorden said she would also like to know where it says in the ordinance that it applies to existing properties.

Don Eaton spoke during public comment and said the beavers are working in the culvert on Eaton Lane.

Linda Thomson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2021 meeting, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Linda Thomson to approve the June 10, 2021 minutes. It was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

The treasurer's report was read with a motion by Dorau to approve, seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

An affidavit, was presented by Hinsch for approval of 3.5 hours work removing a culvert on Tenquist Road. Dorau made the motion to approve, seconded by Linda Thomson and approved, 2-0-1. Hinsch abstained since he presented the affidavit.

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

Croup updated the board on the response from Genesis and said the propagation survey was complete.

Roads

Dell Grove Township wants to put sodium chloride on Eiten Lane. Hinsch told the board residents on the road should be contacted.

Linda Thomson reported that her roads are in good shape and that she had contacted Craig Summerland about hauling gravel.

Rydberg had not returned Hinsch's call about gravel on Government Road. He received a quote of \$53,000 for from Hessenius for the 2.4 miles on Government Road.

Dorau said he thought they should still get a quote from Ryberg.

The board discussed purchase of a John Deere grader after Hinsch said he had contacted McCoy. Warranties, leases, the current bond and preventative maintenance were discussed.

Croup updated the board on the status of ARPA funds saying she had made application.

The planning committee will be asking Chris Nathan if he wants to serve as a member rather than an alternate to fill the current vacancies, John Pitts told the board. Hansen said they should fine out if Matt Gebhart is interested in serving.

Dorau thought the grader issue could be handled by the planning committee.

Because there are quite a few parcels in the township under 5 acres, the board talked about what should be done to address those owners who want to build on non-conforming size lots.

Pitts said there are many hoops to jump through before issuing a variance.

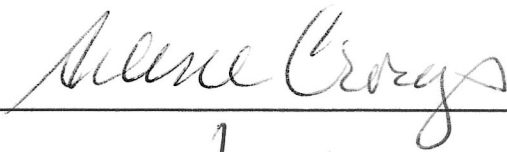
Amending the zoning ordinance to address those parcels which were split into less than 5 acres prior to the township adopting the zoning ordinance were the topic of the change.

The planning committee's recommendations several months ago to address orderly annexation were also discussed.

The board made a motion for Croup to contact attorney Peter Tiede to get his advice on a variance for the Vincent property and to get his interpretation of township's zoning ordinance and if it applies to those parcels divided before the township adopted its ordinance.

Thomson made a motion at 9:18 p.m. to adjourn. Dorau seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 5, 2021.





Chairman Jon Dorau

Sandstone Township Special Meeting

North Pine Government Center

July 21, 2021

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

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

Croup said the Vincents had sent a request for a variance and the \$500 fee for their property on Groningen Road.

Planning committee Chairman Skip Thomson explained the variance request process to the town board. He said there would be five criteria that would have to be met. He said they could accept three of the five and also the county septic permit would have to be approved.

Dorau said he would be okay with what the planning committee decides.

Skip Thomson said there will be some parcels that don't meet septic codes. He went on to explain the planning committee process for the findings of fact during the public hearing for the variance.

Croup read the notice that will be placed in the paper for the public hearing. Dorau made a motion to approve the notice, Hinsch seconded and it was unanimously approved.

The board talked about possible changes to the zoning ordinance in respect to pre-existing, non-conforming lots. Subdivision is handled by the county and there are possibly two minor subdivisions in the township. Skip Thomson was interested in whether township wanted to take over subdividing property.

Linda Thomson said she did not think subdividing property in the township should be less than 5 acres.

There should be a list of things that can be done on non-conforming size lots, Skip Thomson said, including not allowing a well or septic.

Linda Thomson said one of the problems is creating an ordinance addressing junk.

Hinsch agreed that junk vehicles become a problem.

ARPA

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was discussed and Dorau asked if those funds could be used to pay off the grader.

Croup said that could only be done if it can be related to COVID, or, she said, if they can capture funds through a process in the ARPA program called loss revenue calculator and she is working

LINDA Thomson talked about finishing townhall
with ARPA funds

on completing that form. It required some additional work and correction of numbers on one of the previous year's budget calculation. She said County Auditor Kelly Schroeder had also gone through the form with her.

Hinsch said he had talked to the John Deere franchise in Duluth and they had given him a quote of \$146,000 as a purchase price on the township's grader after they inspected it. He had gotten lease prices and prices of new graders.

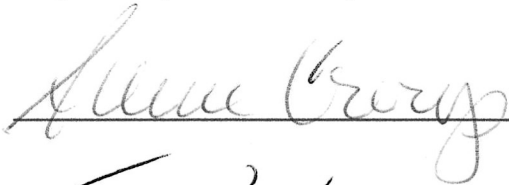
Dorau said he would want to have some options and asked if Hinsch had spoken to anyone at the county about graders. Hinsch said the county had some old Volvos.

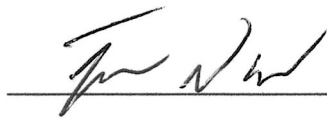
Hinsch said he would ask the John Deere representative about attending the next meeting.

The board reviewed the tower placement from Genesis. They will be coming to the next meeting,

Linda Thomson made a motion at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn. Hinsch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Ailene Croup on August 5, 2021.





Chairman Jon Dorau

Sandstone Township

Regular Meeting

August 5, 2021

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

Attending were Supervisors Dorau, Gary Hinsch and Linda Thomson, Treasurer Cookie Hansen, Clerk Ailene Croup and Deputy Clerk Theresa Dawson. Also present was planning committee member John Pitts, Richard Prenovost and Tim Johnson.

A motion was made by Dorau to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2021 regular meeting. It was seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Hinsch made a motion to accept the minutes, with changes, of the July 21, 2021 special meeting, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

Hansen presented the treasurer's report and notified the board that the township had received the first half of the ARPA funds and payment from MnDOT for the taking of easement for reconstruction of State Hwy 123 at the town hall site. Thomson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Hinsch and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Hinsch to approve payment of the bills. Thomson seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Tim Johnson representing broadband installers - PCS Technology – explained the propagation map he delivered to the township, relating to where and how many Genesis towers would be needed to serve the township. He identified 6-8 tower sites on the map.

Dorau asked what height the towers would have to be.

Johnson said because towers direct signals via line-of-sight, they would have to be 120-foot towers.

Dorau asked why 120-foot would be necessary.

Johnson replied it would be necessary because of the lay of the land to get the signal above the trees. Residences should be within 3 miles of the tower site.

Several additional questions were asked by Dorau – Can you raise the existing antenna on the water tower in Sandstone? Can you use existing towers and are there lease charges on those towers?

Johnson said they could not raise the water tower antenna much and that they could use existing towers. He said the average lease cost for existing towers was \$55 per month.

Roads

Thomson said she had talked to grader operator Keith Carlson and said Bear Lane and Thomson Road need more gravel. Also, Little Sand Creek Road past the Cat Sanctuary and Double C Road at the top of the corner. She said it would be about eight loads total. She added they had already put 32 loads of gravel on her assigned roads.

Hinsch said they had hauled 26 loads on his roads and they need three loads of red rock on Dupuis Road and two loads on West Fork Road.

Dorau said he had about 30 loads put on his roads. He had talked to gravel hauler Trent Rabe who wanted to attend the meeting. Rabe was wondering if he was done with Hinsch's roads because Hinsch had shut him off and he had another 14 loads to go.

Hinsch said he would give Rabe a call.

Dell Grove Township shares Eiten Lane with Sandstone Township and they are considering putting sodium chloride on the road to keep the dust down. They talked about sharing the cost. Hinsch said there is only one residence on the road and that resident had been taking care of the road.

The clerk had been instructed to get information on the cost of a John Deere grader from retailer McCoy, in Duluth. With the trade-in of the Caterpillar, and payoff of the existing \$100,000 bond, the township would have \$46,000. Applying that to a new grader would leave a cost of \$52,000 per year for five years plus bond closing costs.

Fire Formula

In June, the township board sent a revised fire formula contract to the city of Sandstone. The township had received an adjusted fire formula contract from the city for 2022, which the township rejected. The board's counter offer was \$15,000 per year for three years.

The city rejected the counter offer saying they were staying with their adjusted formula and the township would owe \$20,044.42.

Fire formula supervisor Thomson said she would not vote to approve the city's contract because it was too much money. She cited the cost of the 2020 contract being \$18,000 plus and the 2021 contract being over \$31,000. She said the city has that jump in cost to work off.

The board's consensus was to bring the fire formula back to the September meeting for discussion.

Countryside Campground's liquor license was discussed. Thomson said there had been no additional noise complaints and she had visited the campground.

Thomson made a motion to approve Countryside Campground's liquor license, it was seconded by Hinsch and approved 2-1. Dorau voted no because he does not approve of liquor sales in the township.

ARPA funds

Thomson talked about the recent ARPA meeting held by the county with Minnesota Association of Township's (MAT) district commissioner Mike Miller answering questions. Thomson relayed Miller's message that the township would be able to complete the town hall with the ARPA funds. Dorau said he'd contacted a contractor about completing the building but they had not gotten back to him yet.

Hinsch commented that the building is out of kilter.

It would be a shame to let it fall down, Thomson said. She asked if it was possible for the town hall to have a holding tank.

Croup said she had run the numbers through the loss revenue calculator provided by MAT and the township cannot capture any funds to be used as the township needed so they would have to follow the federal guidelines on the use of the funds.

The board voted to move Chris Nathan from an alternate to a regular planning committee member and to add Maury Peterson. They will take over the positions of Jamie Pugh and Dave Moore. A motion was made to appoint Nathan and Peterson as regular members by Hinsch, seconded by Thomson and unanimously approved.

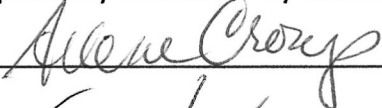
John Pitts asked if there was an orderly annexation format available. MAT attorney Steve Fenske may have one.

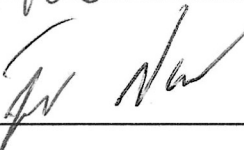
Dorau asked about provisions for grandfathering in existing non-compliant properties.

They also discussed issuing variances.

Hinsch made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Dorau and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Ailene Croup on Sept. 2, 2021.





Chairman