June 8, 2023

**Shafer Township**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

The Board of Shafer Township met at the Shafer Town Hall on Thursday, June 8, 2023. Board members present included Chairman Mark Stovern, Supervisor John Schmalz, Supervisor John Hoffman, Treasurer, Dominique Haller, and Clerk, Faith Lichtscheidl.

Residents present include Joe Mattson, Becky Strand, Tommy Waldemar, Ned & Connie Souder, Lisa Kovorick, Brad Johnson and Mike Prammann.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Supervisor Schmalz, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman; all in favor, motion carried.

Supervisor Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 regularly scheduled board meeting, Supervisor Schmalz 2nd motion, all in favor, motion carried with noted changes.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Haller presented the May, 2023 Treasurer’s report. The disbursement register shows a balance of $19,760.47. The receipts register shows a balance of $272.08 and the cash control statement shows a balance of $275,658.84.

Outstanding checks show a total balance of $1,466.04.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer’s report by Supervisor Schmalz, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman; all in favor, motion carried.

The claims were reviewed, motion made by Supervisor Schmalz to approve the claims, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman; all in favor, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Connie and Ned Souder**

A motion was made by Supervisor Hoffman to approve the short-term application for the Souders Air BNB, 2nd by Supervisor Schmalz; all in favor, motion carried.

The Souder’s own an Air BNB in Shafer Township that was incepted in 2018. The Chisago County Environmental Zoning Department requires a short-term license that needs to be approved by the Township.

**Lisa Kavorik / Drainage**

Lisa Kvorik presented some concerns around drainage in her neighborhood. This past spring, they have had water leaking into their basement and some driveways around her residence getting washed out. It is reported that the water enters the property from a field owned by Mike Boyer that is currently rented out for crop farming.

The township does not have any jurisdiction unless the issues are a concern in the right of way. Our board members will go look at the issue and see if there is anything we can do but referred the resident to the Water and Soil district in North Branch to see if they can take any action on the concerns.

There was also some concern about Unity Avenue. The same resident inquired if this road would ever be chlorided without the residents having to pay for it to which the answer was no.

There was an inquiry to have a sign placed cautioning of children in the area. There has been local traffic reportedly driving recklessly on this road and the resident felt that a sign is warranted.

**Benefit / Shafer Fire and the Almelund Lions**

The Almelund Lions and Shafer Fire Department are working together to host a Benefit for Kenny Lundgren at the Shafer Town Hall. A motion was made to allow these two groups to have the benefit and give the Township a deposit check for $250 by Supervisor Schmalz, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman. There will be no charge for the rental and the deposit will be returned after the benefit, provided there is no damage to the hall after. All in favor, motion carried.

**Seal Coating/painting Parking Lot**

A bid was received from Preferred Seal Coating to seal coat and paint the parking lot. The seal coating fee is $4,120 and the paint is $1,500 for a total of $5,620. A motion was made to accept this bid by Supervisor Schmalz, Supervisor Hoffman 2nd; all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Stovern will reach out and get the seal coating/painting scheduled.

**Public comment**

Joe Mattson reported that he received a mailed receipt from MidWest One Bank and was wondering why they continued to send him banking information. Treasurer Domonique Haller reported that she went to the bank and discussed the concern. The bank had two addresses on file, one being the Mattson residence so they sent the receipt there. Treasurer Haller gave updated information to the bank and apologized to Mr. Mattson for the mistake, the concern has been rectified.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Culvert and gravel hauling**

A motion was made to have Big Wolf Site Works replace culverts on Teal Avenue by Chairman Stovern, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman (Supervisor Schmalz obstained from voting); all in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Chairman Stovern to buy culverts through county public works, Supervisor Hoffman 2nd, all in favor, motion carried.

**Gravel Hauling**

Unity, 325, Teal Ave, Shady and 37, 305th and Quinlan.

Limerock

Quinton

Upland

**Upland Road**

A quote has been received for the price of gravel (recycled concrete). There was discussion on doing a test strip on this road to see how the recycled concrete holds up. It was decided not to chloride this road. The board members agreed they would like to try this to help determine any future long-term solutions to the concerns on this road.

Gravel hauling will be tabled until next month once it is decided what we are going to do with Upland Road.

**Dry Creek Gultch**

Driveways have been inspected and there are many concerns that need to be fixed which include the following:

1. The radius’ are not filled in properly according to specifications.
2. The slopes on the driveway are not as called for, they are steeper than a 4:1 in-slope.
3. The driveways are sloped towards the road, not away from the road. The low points should be at the culvert.
4. Aprons need to be re-set as they are not level, they have backfall and the lip on the culvert is not installed properly.
5. The culverts are not the correct length because the driving surface is not wide enough at the culvert location.
6. There is not enough topsoil on some of the culverts.

There is one drive way that has already been blacktopped and there are corrections that need to be made.

Supervisor Schmalz and Clerk Lichtscheidl will get a letter sent to the builder with the concerns.

**Bridgitte Konrad Letter**

A letter was received regarding PID 08.00357.00. This is tax forfeited property and the board created a motion to approve the sale of this property to public auction, auction to adjacent landowners by Supervisor Schmalz, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman, all in favor, motion carried.

**Mowing Season**

There was some discussion about this mowing season and the grass being so dry. We do need a Certificate of Insurance from the mowing company and Supervisor Hoffman agreed to get that for the township.

**Taylors Falls Fire Contract**

The contract is correct and is ready to be signed by our board. Once completed, it can be sent back to the City of Taylors Falls for their records.

**Teal Avenue Update**

There were 2 residents that requested that the road in front of their homes have chloride applied. Ron Kimmlinger did put 400 feet in front of the ball park. Moving forward, Shafer Township will not be part of any resolution between residents and the ball park dust.

**Lodging Tax**

There is discussion on the Lodging Tax contract and a motion was made by Supervisor Schmalz to terminate the contract, 2nd by Supervisor Hoffman; all in favor, motion carried.

**Addition/Cold Storage Update**

If the building is 20 feet wide by 24 feet, it will give us enough room to be away from the septic system. Supervisor Hoffman will reach out to Kurt Peterson and give/get an update.

**Maintenance Update**

Frontier is parked in our lot and we will ask them to park elsewhere due to a gathering at the hall this weekend.

There was discussion on purchasing the ditch mower from the City of Shafer. They discussed continue to use what we have and then Chairman Stovern asked the supervisors to go and look at the mower to determine if the township wants to purchase it. The price of the mower will depend on what kind of shape it is in. It was suggested that if the City gives it to the Township, we could offer free ditch mowing for life. A motion was made to authorize up to $3,000 to purchase this by Supervisor Hoffman, 2nd by Supervisor Schmalz; all in favor, motion carried.

Installation on the grader: The window still needs to be replaced. Indianhead will come out and install the door with 2 employees at no charge, but we have to pay $125 for the first employee that came out to attempt to install it. We will have them come out and do it.

**Miscellaneous**

The tentative start date for Redwing Avenue is June 19th. All parties involved in this project will be meeting on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am at the Shafer Townhall parking lot and our board members are welcomed to attend. This group will be invited to use our building if necessary.

Supervisor Schmalz talked to someone about working on the road on Dry Creek Gultch and will gather more information on it.

Someone got back to Supervisor Schmalz about replacing culverts and the cost was high, not making it cost effective for Shafer Township. The Township has decided to purchase culverts from the county because it is less expensive. Supervisor Schmalz will be getting a contact from the county about park construction.

Supervisor Hoffman reports that he reached out to Peterson Companies to discuss information on the park. We will keep working on that.

**Public Comment**

A resident has some concern about water build up on his property and is not sure if it is a beaver dam problem or something else. This resident was recommended to go and talk to Jeff Frietig at Chisago County.

Motion made by Supervisor Hoffman to adjourn at 8:51pm, Supervisor Schmalz 2nd; all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Faith Lichtscheidl, Township Clerk

Mark Stovern, Chairman