

Hobart Township Monthly Meeting  
July 10, 2012

Chairman Hockett called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All Board Members were present.

R Sonnenberg made a motion to add Wymer/Graham Lake Road to the agenda. D Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

R Sonnenberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2012 meeting. D Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

At this time, Jeff Stabnow gave an update on costs for retarring a portion of East Lake Seven Road. Depending on the length of the project and the width of the project, the project could cost anywhere from \$48,000 to \$107,000. Stabnow explained that a certificate of indemnity could be obtained through a local bank for financing the project and that Central Specialties would be in this area later this season.

Glawe gave the Treasurer's report. D Sonnenberg made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. R Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

D Sonnenberg made a motion to approve the disbursements as read. R Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rich McCrady presented the CDH-Vergas Fire Department and Rescue Squad with a plaque of appreciation along with a donation from the Long Lake Vergas Lake Association and a donation from Rich and Mary McCrady. McCrady stated that the members of this association are unselfish and place themselves at risk for their community. Accepting the plaque and donations on behalf of CDH-Vergas Fire Department and Rescue Squad were Torey Sonnenberg and Craig Glawe. T Sonnenberg thanked the LLVLA and McCrady for the donations and stated that without donations the Department could not operate the way that they do. The Department relies on donations and fund raisers because they know that the Township budgets are stressed and the Department does not want to see taxes raised to sustain.

Paul Bruhn spoke on behalf of Sybil/Loon Lakes. It has been one year since they began working with the township on the culvert project. Bruhn stated that he would like to see a motion to go ahead with the project as outlined in the DNR permit. Bruhn stated that Stabnow would be the independent person to operate the gate valve as needed.

McCrady stated that he, like Bruhn, was just a messenger. McCrady stated that is in favor of finding a solution as long as Loon/Sybil do not pass the problem on to Long Lake. McCrady stated that he has a petition containing 50 signatures of residents on Long Lake opposing the project. McCrady stated that there has not been any comment period for the residents of Long Lake.

Hockett stated that he is tired of people presenting large documents at the meeting, not allowing the Board to have time to review them. Hockett stated that he hears one thing at the meeting, but when he gets home to get a chance to read the material, the material presented is not the same as presented at the meeting and felt that no action should be taken until the material can be reviewed.

Doug Schultz, Long Lake resident, stated that he is a chemist by trade and not a hydrologist but from his knowledge of water movement, by decreasing Sybil/Loon by 0.8 ft, Long Lake would rise 0.44 ft and felt more information was needed on the flow down stream.

Nate Welte, Attorney for the Township, stated that he was there to provide legal council for the Township and what liability was involved in the project. Welte stated that in the correspondence he received, the DNR shared concern about down stream problems and there was not enough of a study done on down stream effects. Welte felt that more information was needed on affects on down stream, budgeting for the project, funding for the project and spending money on a project that may not even be used.

Kit Nelson questioned what liability the Township has because there was no engineering study done at the time the original culvert was put in. Welte stated that due to the age of the culvert and past performance of the culvert, there would be little or no liability to the Township. Scott Lovaason question now that it has been made aware that the Sybil Lake culvert is too small., what liability does the township have to replace the culvert. Welte stated that the short answer would be no liability because there is not enough information to make a decision.

Joy Thomas stated that Wymer and Graham Lakes drain into the Otter Tail River and both lakes are currently over the high water mark. Geography and topography have no respects to political boundaries and that all agencies/associations need to work cooperatively.

D Sonnenberg stated that he would hate to see the money spent on a project that may never get used or barely be used. Welte further stated that the Board needs to represent the entire township, not just a certain group of people and that the original study and DNR's letter both state that further study needs to be done.

Bruhn suggested that the Board do a further study. R Sonnenberg questioned how the study would be funded. Nelson stated that if the Township is concerned about liability then the Township should pay for the study.

Welte further stated that there are comments and instructions in the permit that have not been followed or completed. One is that the Freedom Flyer Road culvert needs to be installed first. This has not yet been done, it may have been approved to be done, but has not yet been installed. Another instruction was that there is to be an operating plan agreed upon by Sybil and Long Lake Lake Associations, Hobart Town Board and approved by the DNR, which has not yet been done.

Further discussion was held regarding a further study, cost of the project, how to fund the project, changing the size of the culvert in Freedom Flyer Road.. D Sonnenberg stated that the replacement of the Freedom Flyer Road culvert would allow the water to run at full capacity and help alleviate some of the water problems.

R Sonnenberg made a motion to go ahead with the project as stated in the DNR permit with replacing the Sybil Lake Road culvert after the Freedom Flyer Road culvert has been replaced. There was no second to the motion. Motion died due to lack of second. D Sonnenberg stated that he would not second the motion because he felt that a further study was needed.

Further discussion was held regarding obtaining a further study, what the study should look at, who was to pay for the study. Welte stated that since the Township would be liable for any damage done by the project, it completed, there should be some type of joint proposal to cost share the installation, maintenance, etc of the culvert and control gate. Discussion was also held regarding the size of the culvert on the Happel property and that should be also looked at because you cannot increase water increase upstream if the water is restricted downstream.

One resident from Sybil Lake stated that they did not want their water problem to become someone else's water problem, so that is why they did the study and that there probably will not be any winners in this project. He further stated that the Board has a tough job but felt that the Board should allow the residents of Sybil/Loon to install the culvert at their expense and if the culvert is never opened up, then it is the loss of the Sybil/Loon residents.

R Sonnenberg made a motion to obtain an estimate for a flow analysis from the East outlet of Long Lake, along the Otter Tail River channel through the Happel property to State Highway 228. The study should contain flow volumes, list obstructions and restrictions and what the recommended procedure to correct the problem should be. D Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Andrew Goodman addressed the Board as to what was required to install an approach into his property. The Board explained the procedure and gave Goodman an approach permit application to complete and return to the clerk.

Ken Schwartzrock addressed the Board regarding a fence that has been constructed along East Rose Lake Road at the Larry Madsen property. Madsen presented a letter from the Hobart Town Board from 2007 stating that he could encroach into the road right of way. There was discussion on the size of the fence and how the fence would/could interfere with snow removal. The size of the fence would need to be handled by Land Shore Management.

Joy Thomas addressed the Board regarding riprapping the west shore of Wymer Lake, near the culvert between Wymer and Graham Lakes. Thomas stated that the Graham

Lake side has been done, but the Wymer Lake side is eroding also. R Sonnenberg made a motion to approve riprap for the west side of Wymer Lake along the culvert area of the road between Wymer and Graham lakes. D Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

D Sonnenberg made a motion to approve a resolution appointing elections judges. R Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Moltzan reminded the Board that the Primary Election will be on the regular meeting night in August, so the monthly meeting will be held on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m at the Town Hall.

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Hockett adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Moltzan,  
Hobart Town Clerk