

Hobart Township Monthly Meeting

February 19, 2015

Present: Board Members Terry Hockett, Ray Sonnenberg, DuWayne Sonnenberg, Kathy Glawe and Debi Moltzan. Also present: Torey Sonnenberg, Julie Lammers, Luke Jordan, Phillip Poppenhagen, Patty Poppenhagen, Rik Bjorkland, Rod Boyer, David Kelhhuus, Regi Ueke, Paul Thon, Brikker Ware, Heather Ware Nelson and Hank Luedke.

Chairman Hockett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda was considered, with no additions made to the agenda.

D Sonnenberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2015 meeting. R Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

D Sonnenberg made a motion to approve the disbursements as presented with the exception of the DM Propane bill, which was a duplicate from last month (tank rent). R Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Julie Lammers, Clerk for the City of Vergas, presented the idea of connecting Frazee and Vergas with a walking/biking trail. The trail would not be a paved trail. The City of Vergas and the City of Frazee are working on the trail together and are looking for suggestions from the Township, since the majority of the trail would be going through the township. The ideal situation would be to use as much of the township road right of ways as possible. They would like to keep as much of the trail off of Co Rd 4 and St Hwy 228 as possible due to volume of traffic.

Discussion included costs to the Township, width of the path, and talking to landowners for easements. Lammers stated that the present plan is to create a 4 - 6 ft nonmotorized trail for biking/walking/skiing which would be constructed by volunteers and kept on public road right of way as much as possible. Once the exact route is known, then more finalized plans can be made. Consensus of the Board is that the trail could be placed in the right of way, where possible.

R Sonnenberg made a motion to support the new trail system with the trail being located in the township road right of ways where possible. D Sonnenberg second. All in favor. Motion carried.

R Sonnenberg suggested that the Township's road engineer could also look at the plan and give suggestions as to how the route should be planned.

Paul Thon, Brikker Ware and Regie Ueke were present from the Frazee Fire Department with concerns of Hobart Township withdrawing from the Frazee Fire Departments fire protection. The Board explained that they have not been informed about the decisions, budget and spending of the fire department. As part of the contract, the fire department was to have two meetings a year to keep the townships informed and involved. Ware stated that he was not aware of this and Thon stated that it has been a couple of years since this has happened.

Several people expressed their concern to stay with the Frazee Fire Department due to response time. It was explained that there is mutual aid and Frazee and Vergas departments are mutual aid for each other. The Board further explained that the first responders were concerned about switching coverage due to the fact that both departments are short handed during the day due to several people working out of town, so first responder coverage would stay the same.

Boyer stated that since coverage was paid up until the first of July, then coverage should stay with the Frazee department until then. Luedke, Mayor of Frazee, stated that he did not know anything about this until the day before the meeting, not knowing there was a problem between the City and Hobart. At this time, he did not have any answers but wanted the City and Hobart to get together to discuss what needs to be done to resolve the issue.

R Sonnenberg stated that the Board could look into the situation further. Further discussion was held. R Sonnenberg stated that he got a rude phone call from the Frazee City Clerk telling him that Hobart did not have fire coverage due to no contract and that is when the Board really starting thinking this over. Moltzan stated that in reality, Hobart has not had a signed contract with Frazee since 2011, which at that time the Township would not sign the contract due to unanswered questions and to date, those questions have not been answered. R Sonnenberg stated that he was under the impression after the last meeting that Frazee did have that a joint powers agreement was going to be made, giving the townships associated with the Frazee fire department a voice in decisions (not ownership) of the fire department and nothing became of that.

A question was asked as to what type of contract Hobart had with the City of Vergas for fire coverage. The Board explained that Hobart owned one fourth of the CDHV department and was involved in all the decisions.

R Sonnenberg made a motion to further look into the coverage issue and leave current coverage with Frazee until further information has been gathered and a final final decision is made . D Sonnenberg second. Motion carried.

At this time, Hank Luedke apologized for being late, but just got back into town and further explained the proposed trail. They are looking at combining two trails into one for simplicity. In many areas there are two separate trails for walking and biking.

The following upcoming meetings are scheduled:

Budget and Audit Meeting - Tuesday, February 24, 2015

March Monthly Meeting- Monday, March 9, 2015

Annual Election - Tuesday, March 10, 2015 4 - 8 p.m.

Annual Meeting - Tuesday, March 10, 2015 - 8:15 p.m.

East Otter Tail County Township Annual Meeting - 1:30 p.m. at Thumper Pond, Ottertail

Spring Short Course - Monday March 30, 2015 at Mahnommen

Board of Equalization - Thursday, April 30, 2015 - 9:30 am until 10:30 am

Since there was no further business to come before the Board, Hockett adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Moltzan, Clerk

