

**Town of Cherry
Regular Board Meeting
5/2/2018**

Minutes from the 4-4-18 Regular Board Meeting:

The regular board meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Leslie. Those in attendance were Chairman David Leslie, Supervisors Loy Adkins and Ron Pittman, Treasurer Diane Jacobson, Clerk Sheri Fleetwood, Fire Chief-Phil Fleetwood.

Visitors: Kip Borbiconi, Cheryl Borbiconi, Rodelle LaFraniere, Shannon Cairns, Jeff Skaudis

A motion was made by Dave Leslie and supported by Loy Adkins to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Diane Jacobson presented the treasurer's report for approval. She reported the following balances:

**Town of Cherry
Monthly Fund Balances
04/01/2018**

Fund:	Beginning Balance:	Deposits:	Disbursements:	Ending Balance:
General:	\$202,668.73	\$ 6,785.47	\$ 5,266.01	\$204,188.19
Fire:	44,531.15	5,041.62	790.49	48,782.28
Recreation:	24,671.04	701.95	0	25,372.99
H/S/W:	36,848.93	701.95	1,245.32	36,305.56
Capital Improvements:	97,369.71	2,339.83	0	99,709.54
Totals:	\$406,089.56	\$15,570.82	\$ 7,301.82	\$414,358.56

Account	Beginning Balance:	Deposits:	Disbursements:	Ending Balance:
Checking:	\$406,089.56	\$ 15,570.82	\$ 7,301.82	\$414,358.56
Contingency:	7,768.09	0	0	7,768.09
Cert. of Deposit:	8,892.28	0	0	8,892.28
	\$422,749.93	\$ 15,570.82	7,301.82	\$431,018.93

Cash on Hand: \$ 113,957.09

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Dave Leslie. Supported by Loy Adkins. Motion carried.

Claims were presented by Sheri Fleetwood for approval and payment. A motion was made by Dave Leslie to approve and pay all claims. Loy Adkins supported. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

Lake Country Power Newslite

St. Louis County Association of Townships Newsletter

Range Association of Municipalities and Schools Newsletter

St. Louis County Hazardous Waste Calendar

Email – Office of State Auditor – Pension Division Newsletter link to online version

Northern Business Products Catalog

Visitors:

Jeff Skaudis:

Presented on the 35th annual National Night Out celebration and asked if Cherry would like to partner with Clinton Township on August 7th 2018. It was headed up by Brock Kick last year in Cotton and 250 people attended. They are looking for help and for financial support to provide food. Also emergency vehicles and personnel to be on demonstration (parked near arena end in case of call.)

Brock has registered the event and our number is #31966. Jeff informed the board anyone can register and host an event that night – its hard to plan for numbers. Loy advised we keep food simple due to unknowns and seek donations.

The schedule is to start at 4:30pm with BBQ, presentations from emergency services, 7:15 pm raffle and Lifelink demonstration.

Ron asked board if we were all in favor of a partnership – all agreed.

Kip recommended we get a committee together, perhaps the Rec. committee to work on this.

Loy suggested we play it by ear and remain in communication as the event gets closer.

St. Louis County:

Rodelle and Shannon Cairns, County Assessors responsible for assessing Cherry Township homes attended to give us a heads up on what to expect at the Local Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting.

They provided sales books before hand with last 2 years worth of sales. The Estimated Market Value of homes in the township have been increased by 18% across the board as the difference is 82% between what residents are selling at and what they are assessed. The state statute is 90% - 105%.

Rodelle -Basically the reason why things increased is people are getting a lot of money when they sell a home in the township.

Ron – what a poor basis.

Rodelle – this is a mathematical basis. Homes sold in 2016 and 2017 are selling for much more than what we had them appraised for. This is based on the state’s database over the past 3 years. Our values need to match what things are selling for. If it wasn’t such a high difference they would not come out to meet with us

Ron – asked why homestead credit changed

Rodelle – It was originally calculated by an old law through the state from \$76,000-\$432,000

It is not a line item credit anymore. It is a bell curve.

Rodelle - The way to stop this is every time a sale sign goes up, tell your neighbor to reduce by 20% - your neighbors are selling for more than county says they are.

Shannon Cairns is the appraiser – first step is to call her to sort out details over the phone

2nd step – have appraiser come walk through and you can appeal your value. We don't count family sales, foreclosures, businesses. The assessors can make mistakes like a garden will look like a building, well casing, deer stands but you can call your assessors and ask. At this point everything is hypothetical. County budgets are not set so we are unsure how much county will raise taxes. Once evaluation of county is done it is submitted into state.

Fire Department:

8 members present at meeting

4 medical calls for the month

Communications :

- Received a request from Dollars for Scholars to continue our advertisement. Motion made to pay the \$60 fee

- Several catalogs

We are applying for 50-50 DNR grant up to \$5000 for new boots, gear, truck equipment

Old business:

Member Heath Knapper-Smith has not been active since 2016 will receive a letter of termination at last fire date signed by supervisor, chief, supervisor

We have been given ok to purchase gas meters with remaining FEMA funds

New business:

We will bring equipment to Cherry School Pride/truck night May 8th from 5-7pm

April 17th training – hall cleanup and outfitting grass rigs

The Alex air check reimbursement situation was a timing issue. The grant funds could be pulled if FEMA knew we paid the invoice before receiving grant monies so Alex Air reimbursed the Township until we get FEMA monies.

First Responders:

No Report

Key Holder:

A payment was submitted of \$175.00

Lori has stated that she is not sure how long Alice will continue as keyholder

Maintenance:

Kip changed batteries in smoke alarms in town hall

A package of AA batteries needs to be purchased

Recreation Board:

Present: Dave Leslie, Connie, Kip Borbiconi

Kip reported the Twins grant was finished and sent in on April 13th. We were awarded it.

Vince submitted the dugout bid at \$13,300.00

3-16-18 was the central slc meeting

Kip found the basketball nets that were ordered 3 years ago

Lori was not there to discuss bingo or Ron to talk about the person working on ball field lights

Lights:

Loy – is there a way to purchase additional lights?

Ron – we have an extra bar but not enough lights – not enough lights to set up on a second field

Dave – it could be up to \$25,000 to set up lights on a second field

Kip – could it be temporarily wired underground to hook up at a later date?

Loy – this is good deal on installation so can it be wired to a station at this time

Jr. High Baseball:

Ron – was called by Brian Kemp. He wants to know if junior high baseball can play here. Clinton township said if spirit lake road wouldn't be the dividing line the jr. high can't play here. We would need to lengthen field or raise fence for jr high to play. Field is currently 220' and dimensions need to be around 260'. It was previously 300'. The old fencing is laying in the back of fields. However, now the score boards are in the way.

Kip – Could we table this until the Rec. board mtg as it may be possible for another twins grant to move fence and boards?

Loy – the back field at Clinton is the same size as ours, why can't they play here?

Ron - They can but the kids pound it over. They have 90' bases and 6'6" pitchers mounds which we don't have. I'm in favor of jr high playing here but will need changes made. They can play here for a while.

However infield would have to be cut out on both fields. Currently at 230' and 250' but could put a higher fence, lengthen bases, add portable pitchers mound and widen field to accommodate.

Ron – They have been after him for new field for vfw to play here for a while.

Kip – does VFW have monies to add to this?

Ron – the kids could just walk from the school as they own the land between campus and fields now. We would need county conservation permissions to add a new field.

Old Business:

Ron stated there is no update on the Hwy 37/5 lights. The state is holding this up and he will call again this month.

RAMS- Ron will be attending this month. Steve Giorgi sent a letter to Ron inviting Cherry to join Range association of municipalities and schools: www.ramsmn.org

\$300 annual dues – Ron will submit the invoice and form to the town clerk.

Dave made a motion to pay the 2018 dues. Seconded by Loy.

Electrical:

Loy – is there any update on the electrical repairs that need to be done?

Ron – is still waiting to hear from Ben Krieze and has to get together with him. His attempts to contact him have been unsuccessful. Ron is getting concerned about time line.

Dave mentioned we should give him the business if he is donating his services and time to set up field lights. Lori said Mr. Krieze has everything lined up through the college in Duluth but we have until the end of May to get them out of his rental building.

Sign:

Eric Reinerson said he needs a photo of our logo for the construction of the stone.

Kip will send a digital image to him. He will attend the next meeting as this one was very busy.

National night out:

See notes under visitors – Jeff SKaudis

CD savings:

Diane – both are going into capital improvements checking accounts.

Short course meeting:

Ron and Dave will attend and there was a check made for the fees of \$100.00. Angie and Diane are unable to attend.

Cherry-Clinton Cemetery:

Ron – motion made to pay apportionment of \$1500.00 to Cherry-Clinton Cemetery. Seconded by Dave. Check was issued to Cherry-Clinton Cemetery.

New Business:

Twins grant:

Motion made from Dave to accept Twins grant contract, seconded by Loy. Paperwork will come either to Kip or Townhall address and Kip will get contract signed when it arrives. Kip will need to meet with Rec. Board at that time. Cherry township will pay 50% of the grant.

Kip – we can apply for more grants through Twins foundation

St. Louis County Baseball:

Ron – will wait for a check for SLC baseball funding because he doesn't know how much or how many teams.

St. Louis County Association of Townships:

Annual meeting is May 23rd 5:30pm at Wilbert Café is \$20 per person for dinner. Ron may attend. RSVP by May 16th to Kathy or Sandy Nelson. You can pay in person or bill the township.

Internet –broadband:

Kip - no meetings this month but have got a few emails

Kip presented an article detailing how Delta dental has expanded to open a center in Bemidji and the key factor was the area's broadband speed as an asset. This demonstrates how important quality broadband can be to an area.

The leader of the group was contacted by CTC who are willing to work with any community who can get financial grants or backing of a loan.

RS Fiber met with a group of municipalities and communities similar to our situation to communicate the urgency of accessible broadband. At some point our township may need a board member to attend such a meeting and make some decisions as input and costs.

As of this day, they are looking to schedule another meeting but it hasn't been set. The group is grassroots and they needed to hire someone who is on the issue full time and that's what they are working toward.

Dave – How much did we pay for the study?

Kip -We paid \$2500 for feasibility study. He feels it was money well spent to get quality broadband in northern MN

Keyholder:

Dave – will try to talk to lori at Recreation board meeting for an update on keyholder situation to see if Alice wants to stay on.

Ron – needs to schedule a bunch of nights for baseball with her.

LBAE:

Someone needs to be here early to open the hall. Clerk Sheri Fleetwood will be there to open.

Dave made a motion to adjourn at 9:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Fleetwood, Clerk
Town of Cherry
