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# 3/2/2021 Brandon Township Annual Meeting Minutes

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## Call Meeting To Order

A meeting of Brandon Township was held on March 2, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Brandon Township Hall located at 25993 482nd Ave, Corson, SD 57005.

## Roll Call

Scott Tripp, Thomas Brown, Dean Herll, Elizabeth Aaker, John Brandsma

## Public Present

Jodi Metzger, Lowel Devitt, Laura Ask, LeRoy Ask, Bradyn Ames, Sandy Johnson, John Burkman, Tami Broekemeier, Di Olson, Troy Olson, Sandy Elofson, Dave Elofson, Camie Memy, Jeff Memy, Dean Peterson, Deb Weir, Travis Dressen, Luinea Caldwell, Matt Garwarecki, Julie Pick, David Sorenson, Jason Metzger, Owen Vincelli, Gavin Jansma, Amy Mueller, Matthew Mueller, Brian Mohr, Beck Mohr, Joel Ingle, Renee Ingle, Jeremy Hartung, Flint Hartung, Justin Horn, Nicole Haug, John Weir, Suzy Weir, Pat Pancekt, Quentin Johnson, Ed Beal, Chelsea Nelson, Jess Elofson, Jessica Farley, Bruce Heggen, Jessica Hunsaid, Matt Mohr Caitlin Mohr, Matt Jahraus, Beth Warden, Ryan Hunsaid

Guest includes Robert Dykstra, Brandon Fire Department; Tami Jansma, City of Brandon; Travis Dressen, SDDOT; Jay Masur, MedStar Ambulance

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Select Election Judges and 1 Moderator

- Dave Sorenson was selected as moderator and Jeff Memy and John Weir were selected as judges.

- Dave Sorenson read the agenda and asked for additions. No Additions were added. John Berkman made motion to approve agenda, Matt Garwarecki 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried.

## Presentation By Guests

### - **Brandon Fire Department Funding Request**

- o Robert Dykstra of Brandon Fire Department presenting current financial figures, call amount for Brandon Township and cost for fire protection for Township. Fire department will replace Tender 2 at the end of the month. Most costs have remained the same except for increase to SCUBA and PPE. Asking for \$500 increase from last year per 5-year contract with township (2019 \$12,500; 2020 \$14,500; 2021 \$15,000, 2022 \$15,500)
- o Dykstra spoke of large fire that was in township last year. Thanked the township for the support of the community during the fire. Asked if anyone interested in being on the fire department list to please contact them.

### - **Medstar Ambulance Funding Request**

- o Jay Masur from Medstar Ambulance asked for \$100/section of township with equates to \$3600 of funding. Stated they do not receive any funding from Minnehaha County. Tripp proposed we put Medstar on the same contract timeline as Brandon Fire Department to allow township to negotiate at same time each year.

### - **SDDOT Area Engineer Travis Dressen**

- o Railroad Crossing 259<sup>th</sup> Street: Dressen spoke about crossing determined to be a top 10 safety concern for the state of South Dakota. There is a federal fund that will cover 90% of

new signage and crossing arm cost but township would need to pay the remaining 10%, Dressen gave two options for the township to think about:

- Improve Crossing: \$350,000-400,000 estimated cost which Brandon Township would need to pay 10%
- Vacate Road. DOT would give the township \$7,500 to do this and BNSF Railroad would contribute \$50,000
- Dave Sorenson inquired if Knife River had anything to do with the sudden determination of an unsafe crossing from the DOT. Dressen said they had nothing to do with the determination. There are 27 vehicles a day and serious accidents in 2009 (with fatality), 2013 and 2015
- Quinten Johnson asked about just installing solar lighted sign. Dressen said many drivers ignore lights after sign has been in place for a while.
- Tripp states that we are setting a bad precedence to just close roads around the township, we do not need more dead end roads that do not go through.
- Brown stated that there is not any signage on road even indicating that there is a railroad crossing ahead. Proper signage might resolve some of the issues.
- Dressen stated a large issue is it is a skewed crossing and suggested Brandon Township talk to contractors & Knife River.
- **City of Brandon-** Tami Jansma spoke with the township about two new projects the city would be started on that would affect the township:
  - Redwood/Chestnut water tower project: Starts this spring. City is working on drawing up contract with Brandon Township to take over the grading of the roads during this process
  - Redwood/Chestnut annexation study: City of Brandon is starting a study on the area for annexation into city limits. The study is not expected to be completed until this fall. City is considering annexation because 80 acres of land east to adjoining roads will be developed with houses soon and new school will be put in. The two roads have become a safety concern for all residents in the area. City does plan on sending update letters to each of the residents on the affected areas every 2-3 months.
  - Dave Sorenson inquired about West Redwood Blvd and Brandon City limits. Jansma said the city does not have any development plans that direction yet. However, they will need an alternative sewer line route at some point in the future.

## Approval of Minutes

- Beth Aaker read meeting minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting. Bruce Hagen set motion to approve meeting minutes. Quentin Johnson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

## Treasurer Report

- Dean Herll went over expenses and income of the previous year. He also had a comparison report with income and expenses from past five years and a breakdown of grader expense. He stated that 2020 expenses were about equal to what was brought in, however numbers are higher from FEMA disbursement funds. In addition, Herll stated we the new building finished and would like to have a open house once the pandemic has subsided. This building is completely paid off. The township does have a note on the new grader purchased. Herll reiterated having our own blade has lowered the cost of road maintenance for the township.
- John Weir set motion to approve treasurer report. Dean Peterson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

## Treasurer Budget/Opt Out for Additional Funds

- Dean Herll reviewed cash on hand of \$340,972.83 and he would like to stay at that amount. Ideally, he would like to stay around this balance in case of flooding like in 2019. This year we brought in about as much as is needed to run township with full opt out and revenues for the township. We are currently saving each year money anticipating we will need a new grader at some point in the future. Herll encouraged everyone to look at property tax statement and see how much funds were actually going to township for opt out.
- Dave Sorenson pointed out it looks like most of the money brought in has gone towards grader and building to store grader
- All township supervisors were asked by public on their thoughts on opting out:
  - Tom Brown would like to do full opt out to keep cash balance high in case of emergency
  - Tripp in favor of opt out to keep funds for future, said the dollar per hour on the blade has been going down each year.
  - Sandy Johnson inquired about putting more money into a higher investment for savings for the township since we do not make a huge rate on the CD we currently have. Julie Pick responded that she is in the financial industry and the higher the rate of the return comes with more risk for the township.
  - Tamme Brockmeyer asked about the annexation area and what the loss of revenue will be to the township. Dean said we will find out the exact impact but pointed out that currently the two roads cost the township \$11,300 to maintain. Herll added that roughly 75% of our township roads cost \$1,350 per mile to maintain for comparison to these two roads.
- Joel Engle set motion to have Brandon Township opt out for maximum amount of \$41,000. Jeremy Hartung 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

## Supervisor Report on Road Maintenance

- **Pushing snow across road and obstructions:** It is against the law
- **Culvert inspects, please contact the board:** none reported
- **Quote on Redwood & Chestnut chloride treatment:** No bid yet, Tami Jansma from City of Brandon said they will take care of the treatment
  - Brayden Ames asked not to use same company as last year, treatment was poor.
  - Tripp said if other residents want roads treated to go together with neighbors to do it.
- **Overview of road maintenance and other issues-**
  - Tripp commented with new grader we are able to keep more gravel on the roads and not have it wash away in the ditches.
  - Asked to call a supervisor if roads are bad and not to call Mike Gross

## Weed Control & Tree Removal

- Weeds and brush in the right of way were discussed. The township will get bid from Ditch Weed LLC for the spraying the ditches in 2021.
- Dave Sorenson made motion to have township pay for spraying. John Berkman 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

## Dumping of materials, cargo, snow, other obstructions in ditches

- Discussed illegal dumping in ditches, write down license plates and report it.

## FEMA Compensation Policy

- FEMA requiring a set compensation policy for board members going beyond normal duties during natural disaster. Aaker stated FEMA recommending \$16, Tripp suggested \$16 per hour with no per diem. Bruce Hagen made motion to set FEMA Compensation for \$16 per hour, no per diem. Quinten Johnson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

## Set Salaries of Township Board

- Current annual salary \$1000 per year and any training meetings, not including normal meeting, to be compensated to board members at \$25 per hour. Dean Peterson set motion to keep all wages for board members the same. Suzy Weir 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

## Full Maintenance, Minimum, or no Maintenance Roads

- No changes in road maintenance other than West Redwood Blvd which is now a minimum maintenance road

## New Business From The Floor

- **Brandon Fire Department Funding & MedStar Funding**  
John Berkman made motion to approve fire department funding for \$15,500, Medstar funding for \$3,600 and also put Medstar on same contract time frame as Brandon Fire Department, Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried.
- Quinten Johnson asked if he could have a hidden driveway sign. Johnson stated he would install the sign himself. Aaker will check into the process to get him a sign for driveway.

## Nomination of Township Officers

- Clerk & Tresurer
  - o Dave Sorenson made motion for Aaker and Herll to be reelected in position of clerk & treasurer. Burkman 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried
- 3-year term Supervisor
  - o Matthew Gawarecki and Jason Metzger both turned in nominating petition for township supervisor.
  - o Quinten Johnson made motion to elect Matthew Gawarecki. Sandy Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.
  - o John Burkman made motion to elect Jason Metzger, LeRoy Ask 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.
  - o Call to Vote: Gawarecki 9 votes, Metzger 14 votes, Metzger wins vote.

## Announcements/Public Comments

- The Equalization meeting will be on the 15th of March. Appointments must be made by the March 11th, please contact Aaker.
- Meeting minutes, agenda & announcements on website at [brandontownshipsd.com](http://brandontownshipsd.com)

## Adjournment

- Bruce Hagen made motion to adjourn at 8:27pm. Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

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Elizabeth Aaker, Brandon Township Clerk