

GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2023

6:30 PM

Chair Bassing calls meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

This meeting is being recorded for transcription and archival purposes.

ROLL CALL: Chair Bassing, Vice Chair Drobac, Supervisor Lofquist, Supervisor Skubic, Supervisor Stoehr, Treasurer Maus, Clerk JoAnn Bassing

Any changes to the agenda? MOTION: Bassing/Skubic- to add resolution to accept donation to Old Business # 5. No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS

MOTION: Stoehr/Lofquist- to approve Agenda as amended. No dis. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

MOTION: Lofquist/Stoehr- to approve the minutes of 2/14/23 Board of Sup. No dis. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist-to approve Board of Audit Minutes 2/14/23 No dis. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

MOTION: Lofquist/Drobac-to approve Board of Sup. Minutes 3/14/23 No dis. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist- to approve minutes of Board of Canvass 3/14/23 No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.

MOTION: Lofquist/Drobac-to approve Re-org minutes of 3/14/23 No dis. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Checking-162,949.32, Savings- 490,768.87, total 653,718.19

CLAIMS: Claim 21671 Lofquist/Skubic- to approve, Bassing notes out of order VOTE 4/1 Drobac NO PASS. Claim for popcorn popper MOTION: Stoehr/Drobac-to lay on the table VOTE 5/0 PASS. Drobac Claims 21697,21685 require tax adjustment. MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist- to approve all remaining claims with adjustment to 21679, 21685 VOTE 5/0 PASS.

PAYROLL: MOTION: Lofquist/Stoehr-to approve payroll No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lee Peterson would like the Board to move public comment to just after Roll Call on the Agenda. The packets should contain the financials to be complete. Mark Drobac wants the township to put up a sign on Birch Point Extension that says "Minimally maintained road, travel at your own risk" Jim Galonski comments on the firing of FD officers, how could the Board hire a new officer without department members approval?

OLD BUSINESS:

1. McGrath: Drobac thinks we may need the committee to review. Bassing states that soliciting a private company was not pursued, no regionalization sought, and basically ignored the fact that we knew we would pay more. Lee Peterson read his written assessment of the report as did Bassing. Bassing referred to a statement made by McGrath on page 27-which found no deficiencies of TAAS. This is counter to why we sought this study in the first place. We wanted shorter response times, a higher level of service and not to run an ambulance service. 8 members of the McGrath committee were in attendance and stated their opinions. They ranged from not paying to partial payment but consensus was to not have McGrath come to make a presentation and try to negotiate a reduced payment. Lee Peterson's written comments are

attached as an addendum to the minutes. MOTION: Bassing/Stoehr- to have the Chair contact McGrath and inform them that we do not want a presentation and we wish to lessen our financial obligation. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

2. BOX ALARM: Chief Maus informs the Board that Cook FD declines to join BOX ALARM.
3. BROADBAND: Chair Bassing received an email from Joe Buttweiler at CTC giving update on project delays. Joe thinks the earliest start would be late summer. We have a meeting set up with CTC, Randy Long of Bois Forte, Whitney Ridlon of the IRRRB, SLC, RAMS, and 2 Greenwood Township Board members. Other sources of funding could be the Mn Line Extension program or "Border to Border".
4. LAWN TRACTOR: MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist-to lay on the table until next month. VOTE 5/0 PASS.
5. RESOLUTION FOR DONATION: MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist to approve resolution to accept donation of \$280.00 from the quilters No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. VOLUNTEER SERVICE AGREEMENT: MOTION: Bassing/Drobac- to approve agreement. No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.
2. ATTORNEY CONTACT: Bassing contacted Township attorney who recommended trespass notice as did SLC Deputy. Attorney confirmed Voluntary quit.
3. LIQUOR LICENSES: MOTION: Lofquist/Stoehr-to approve Shamrock, Grubens, VC, Timbuktu No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.
4. LAWN SERVICE AD: MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist- to place ad for lawn service. No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.
5. FIRE SIGNS:Stoehr informs Board that Mesabi sign could make signs for \$35, Drobac recommends keep doing them until we run out of materials.
6. GPS FOR FIRE BOATS:Chief Maus reports current GPS units cant keep up with boat speed and would like to replace. MOTION: Lofquist/Skubic-to replace with Helix 12 SI+ Gen 4 not to exceed \$5,400.00 for both. VOTE 4/0 PASS Stoehr abstains due to conflict.
7. TOWER NEWS: MOTION :Drobac/Lofquist- to subscribe to No dis VOTE 5/0 PASS.
8. WEBSITE: recommendation from electors at annual meeting. MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist- to have Clerk forward material to Tech Bytes for uploading to website. VOTE 5/0 PASS.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Drobac: MOTION: Drobac/Lofquist-to send a letter to voluntary quit firefighters informing them that they are no longer employees. Dis. Stoehr- they voluntarily quit by the letter they submitted And the fact they dumped their gear at the meeting. They also violated state statute 179A.19, illegal strike. Bassing states the motion,2/14/23, accepting voluntary quit. Skubic-we need these and it seems the board has an ax to grind. This is a good department. VOTE 4/1 PASS Skubic NO. Drobac- we need to update signatories at bank. Drobac questions if Chief Maus can be Treasurer at the same time. Bassing reports that he posed that question to MAT attorney at training and it was not clear. Only if the Treasurer were a supervisor would there be a conflict of interest. An adjoining township has the Chief as Treasurer now and one had previously.

Lofquist: Clerk Bassing Pay, Chair Bassing passes gavel to Vice Chair Drobac and leaves the Room. MOTION: Lofquist/Stoehr- to restore pay rate of Clerk Drobac at 27,799.00 hrs will be set 10-2 Tues,Wed.,Thurs. VOTE 4/0 PASS Bassing absent. Chair Bassing returns and takes the gavel

Lofquist/Stoehr- to send a letter to SLC PZ recommending a moratorium on RV Parks in Greenwood. VOTE 3/2 PASS Drobac,Skubic NO. MOTION: Lofquist/Drobac- to get rid of gas stove in kitchen. VOTE 3/2 PASS Skubic,Bassing NO. MOTION: Bassing/Skubic- to rescind the previous motion. VOTE 4/1 PASS Drobac NO. MOTION: Lofquist/Drobac-to let all supervisors have keys to the Clerk/Treasurer's office dis. Bassing not for security reasons. VOTE 3/2 FAIL Bassing.Stoehr,Skubic NO.

Skubic-nothing

Stoehr-Fire Hall has been straightened up and in good order.

Bassing-We need to look over the TAC ad hoc report and discuss next meeting. Lofquist leaves Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you from TS historical, Heim, Cook Timberdays

CLERK'S REPORT: Phones not working no ring. Frontier unable to figure out. Culligan will come 4x per year to change pre filter.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 1 fire call, 8 EMS. Chief seeks approval of Med clearance form. MOTION: Drobac/Bassing-to approve new med form. VOTE 5/0 PASS. Boat one will get fuel problem fixed soon. Fortune Bay had fire consideration meeting with area FDs. Evac plan needed in the event of a bleve.

MOTION: Stoehr/Bassing to adjourn VOTE 4/0 PASS Lofquist absent 8:31PM


DR. JOHN J. BASSING, CHAIR


DR. JOANN BASSING, CLERK

4-11-23

Greenwood Town Board,

McGrath ***Regional Opportunities for EMS Review of Service Providers for Greenwood Township*** (final)

Bits and pieces from Lee Peterson:

Consolidation probably would've been a better term to use from the beginning of this study, as in the consolidation of the schools that has happened out of necessity in our region. Our region has accepted the consolidation concept for the schools. It needs to be applied to ambulance services.

The McGrath study didn't take demographics and population shifts into consideration and didn't make any suggestions about ambulance station locations. No recommendations were made about changing the Primary Service Area map.

Regionalization. The McGrath study limited its possible region to the TAAS and the CAAS Primary Service Areas. This is too small. A broader area, including Virginia as the regional nucleus needed to be considered. A number of the local ambulance services need to be consolidated into one Primary Service Area which would include satellite ambulance stations. The new Primary Service Area will administer everything that is involved in providing Advanced Life Support ambulance service. In my opinion, Hibbing and Grand Rapids would be similar nucleuses for two other new Primary Service Areas.

Page 21, ***How Regionalization Could Become a Future Option*** is troubling to me. One thing, it keeps repeating "volunteers". In reality, ambulance personnel are no longer just volunteers. They get paid. They need to be paid more, and along with that, they need to get more training in order to provide modern ambulance service. This will cost more, no doubt about it. Obviously, even the status quo is costing much more. Also on page 21, McGrath continues to repeat the false dogma that ambulance personnel here are underappreciated and are "publicly criticized". That is untrue.

Pages 23, 24 and 25 deal with the ***State of Minnesota Regionalization Process*** This is a very informative and important section of the McGrath Report. It lays out the steps required by the State (EMSRB) to make changes to or create a new Primary Service Area by going through a seven step process. The important thing here is that it is possible under State law to do a consolidation of existing Primary Service Areas. It is my opinion that sooner or later, this will occur in our region due to financial necessity and the need to provide modern, sustainable ambulance service. Again, our school consolidations show an inevitable preview of it.

Page 26 begins with the header ***Increase Emergency Response or Inter-facility Transports*** The only way an ambulance service can increase its lucrative inter-facility transports (transfers) is to take them away from a neighboring ambulance service. This isn't a good or decent long term strategy, I'm surprised that McGrath proposed it.

The second header on page 26 is ***Hospital Based Ambulance Services*** Interestingly, the McGrath report uses several paragraphs to throw cold water on this concept. Here, I strongly disagree with the McGrath reasoning. Minnesota currently has a number of hospital based ambulance services that provide very modern ambulance service. A good example is the Duluth-Superior and surrounding townships area that is served by the Mayo Ambulance Service which offers paramedic ALS service. I have heard of no area in

the Mayo PSA that wants to un consolidate and form their own small service. Mayo and the other hospital based ambulance services have purchasing power, administrative capabilities, recruiting and training scholarships, pay scales and benefit plans and in house personnel support capabilities that are very difficult to match. Personally, I lean toward this option because I think it is best for the patient and the ambulance staff. I believe that it needs to be looked into by the Township.

Lee Peterson
Greenwood Township resident