

MINUTES
SQUAW CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Date: 02/28/2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 10804 G-76 Highway, New Virginia, Iowa

CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Steven Lawyer motioned to open and call to order the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Second by Jandik. Ayes: All. Motion approved.

TRUSTEE ROLL CALL Present for the Clerk's roll call were Trustees Sheri Jandik, Steven Lawyer, and Kimberly Smith. There were no public in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. January 31, 2024 meeting minutes – Motion by Jandik to approve the minutes. Second by Smith. Ayes: All present. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. January 2024 People's Bank checking and certificate of deposit reports - Motion by Smith to approve the financial reports. Second by Jandik. Ayes: All present. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tree Trimming – Smith reported there is a large cedar tree at Mt. Tabor Cemetery that is losing limbs and will need to be removed. Smith will assess the trees at Indian Valley Cemetery and work on replacing the crushed fence as weather and time allow.
2. Headstone Maintenance/Purchases – Jandik stated that she has made several attempts to contact Warren County Veteran's Affairs but has not received a call back to the messages left on voicemail. Jandik called Mark Blackford who had previously attended a township meeting representing Veteran's Affairs and he will provide a different number so that Jandik can pursue identifying veterans' graves at the 3 township cemeteries to ensure they are appropriately marked for the branch of services the deceased served. Jandik shared that the unknown headstone order totaling \$17,600 has been put on hold until the burial records comparisons take place. Then the trustees discussed placing a special marker for the alleged Indian burial at Smith Cemetery. Jandik will research to find facts and to create a historical description and pricing. Trustees also discussed creating a new fence entrance at Smith Cemetery.
3. Smith Cemetery Access – Jandik reported that there still has not been any response from the Engineer's office other than a previous conversation with Tim Hill regarding the width of the access road. Jandik priced rock for the access road. Depending on width and variations of base and top layers for the whole road, the cost ranges from \$35,000 – \$47,000. Clerk will check on possible grants to defray the overall cost.

4. Mt. Tabor Deed Update – Deed from Lawyer's attorney is ready to be signed, however we are required to hold a public meeting and publish notice of the public meeting 10-20 days in advance in a weekly distributed paper for the township. Motion by Jandik for the Trustees to execute a resolution proposing the giving of the easement to Lawyer in exchange for the quit claim deed, with a public hearing on the resolution to occur at the next township meeting (March 27, 1:15pm at the Medora Church). Smith seconded. Ayes Jandik and Smith. Lawyer Abstained. Motion approved. Lawyer will contact Ahlers and Cooney to have them create the public notice and all resolutions. Clerk will sign the public notice and send to the Indianola Record Herald. Jandik will post on the website and facebook pages.
5. Lawyer cemetery plot – Lawyer was to bring signed copies of the interment rights for himself and John Nordin as well as a check for recording the interment rights. He will bring to the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mowing Bid Contracts – Clerk presented the Turner Lawn Care LLC 1 year extension for the mowing contract signed by Jeff Turner. Trustees signed the previously approved extension.
2. FY2025 Budget and timeline – Trustee discussed at length upcoming projects and regular annual costs for the township noting that there will upcoming maintenance expenditures for all cemeteries of mowing, tree removal, fence repair, and headstone maintenance. Larger projects include Smith Cemetery access road and parking and headstone placement for unknown graves, in total estimating at \$70,000. Trustees then reviewed the examples of levy rate, valuations and taxation provided by the Clerk. Discussion followed. Then Lawyer motioned to approve a cemetery levy rate of .350. Second by Smith. Ayes: All present. Motion approved. Clerk was directed to make the changes to the FY2025 budget and to continue the .6075 levy for Fire/EMS services. Next, motion by Lawyer to set the public hearing for March 27, 2024 at 1:15 p.m. at 10804 G-76 Highway, New Virginia, Iowa. Second by Jandik. Ayes: All. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – no public comments.

PROPOSITIONS AND REMARKS FROM TRUSTEES AND CLERK – Jandik reported that the Warren County Board of Supervisors were asked by another township to consider a pay increase for township elected. The current rate of pay for township clerk and trustees is \$7.25 per hour.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING – March 27, 2024 at 1:15 p.m. at Medora Church, 10804 G-76 Highway, New Virginia, Iowa.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Jandik to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Second by Lawyer. Ayes: All present. Motion approved.

APPROVAL DATE: _____

Sheri Jandik, Trustee

Steven Lawyer, Trustee

Kimberly Smith, Trustee

ATTEST:

Misti Kosman, Clerk