

**MINUTES
SQUAW CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**

Date: 9/28/2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: 7129 G-76 Highway, New Virginia, Iowa

CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Sheri Jandik motioned to open and call to order the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Second by Steven Lawyer. Ayes: all. Motion approved.

TRUSTEE ROLL CALL Present for the Clerk's roll call were Trustees Sheri Jandik and Steven Lawyer. Public present: Deb Schiel-Larson, 21735 Hwy 69, Indianola, Iowa. Trustee Kimberly Smith arrived at 1:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. August 24, 2022 meeting minutes – Motion by Jandik to approve the August 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Second by Lawyer. Ayes: all. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. August 2022 checking reconciliation – Motion by Jandik to approve the reconciliation report for the People's Bank August 2022 checking account. Second by Lawyer. Ayes: all. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tree Trimming – Smith reported that only one bid had been received for trimming/removing trees at Smith Cemetery. J&K Tree Service of Ackworth submitted a bid for trimming/removing trees from Smith Cemetery. After Trustees reviewed the bid, motion by Smith to approve J&K Tree Service, Ackworth, Iowa to remove and completely clean up the designated trees for \$3,500. They will provide proof of insurance to the Clerk. Smith will notify Beau Carpenter of the date the work will begin. Second by Jandik. Ayes: all. Motion approved. Smith shared that there are a few broken headstones in Smith Cemetery, a 17-day old baby and 2 other headstones are leaning against a tree. Jandik will determine where they belong and add them to her ongoing list of repairs.
2. Headstone Maintenance - Jandik shared that she had contacted Marty at Indianola Memorial Works and ordered the approved headstones for the 4 that do not have headstones. Jandik also contacted Kelly Penman Jr. regarding the cleaning and repair of existing headstones and is awaiting a response.
3. Smith Cemetery access – Lawyer confirmed that he had been unable to connect with Attorney Elcock but would email him with concerns of moving this item forward as soon as possible.
4. William "Bill" Willis II memorial marker – Lawyer stated that the granite has been ordered for Bills's memorial marker and the metal plaque for the flag pole at Smith cemetery to commemorate the Eagle Scout project is ordered.

5. Annual Financial Report adjustment – Clerk explained that there was an even increase to the receipts/disbursements and no ending values changed. This adjustment was necessary to ensure all monies were accounted for. This occurred because the Warren County tax disbursement statement was delivered late by Warren County. Motion by Jandik to approve by resolution the fy2022 Annual Financial Report and the Clerk will make the necessary filings with the Warren County Auditor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

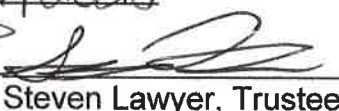
PUBLIC COMMENTS – Deb Schiel-Larson, a Squaw Creek Township resident, presented the Trustees with a letter outlining several concerns regarding the use of the word Squaw, including changing the name of Squaw Creek Township because it may be offensive. Discussion followed with Lawyer sharing Iowa Code Chapter 359.14 Changing name – petition – notice. Lawyer informed Schiel-Larson that the Warren County Board of Supervisors would have the authority to change Squaw Creek Township's name and that the majority of the eligible electors of Squaw Creek Township must petition the Warren County Board of Supervisors to change Squaw Creek Township's name.

PROPOSITIONS AND REMARKS FROM TRUSTEES AND CLERK – Jandik shared information from the EMS Advisory Board meeting that was held September 15, 2022 at the New Virginia Fire Department. The minutes from that meeting are included as an attachment to this document.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Smith to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. Second by Lawyer. Ayes: All. Motion approved.

APPROVAL DATE: 10/26/2022

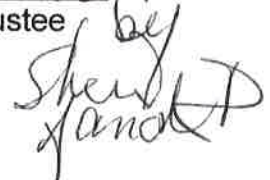

Sheri Jandik, Trustee


Steven Lawyer, Trustee


Kimberly Smith, Trustee

ATTEST:


Misti Kosman, Clerk


Sheri Jandik

Emergency Services Advisory Board meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2022, 7:00pm

In attendance:

Brent Baughman, New Virginia City Clerk

Cheryl Boles, Virginia Township Clerk

Jake Zuercher, New Virginia City Fire Chief

Julie Brownlee, Virginia Township Trustee

Misti Kosman, Clerk Squaw Creek Township

Randy Barnard, Trustee Fremont Township

Sheri Jandik, Trustee Squaw Creek Township

Brent went over the Annual EMS Reports for 2021 and the first part of 2022. Squaw Creek Township had 25 of the 113 EMS calls in 2021 and has had 15 of the 55 so far in 2022. The concerning part of this report is that in 2021 14 calls (in the whole service area) were not responded to due to lack of driver and/or medic. Same is true in 2022 with 14 calls (in the whole service area) so far that were not responded to due to lack of driver and/or medic.

The budget was then discussed. Since our last meeting in November 2020, they have purchased fire bunker gear, uniform coats and fire pants for medic personnel, handheld radio push to talk microphones to replace some the county provided that melted during a car fire, and a pickup truck for second out grass truck. They also have provided online fire and EMS training and some physicals/hearing tests for three of the volunteer staff. A large payment has also been made on the G.O. Bond for the new 769 grass truck.

The total for these expenditures is \$67,207.75. They have had issues with the billing system for EMS services, but to date have received a total of \$17,640.26 from Insurance and Private payments for the 2021/2022 FY and the first part of 2022/2023FY. They have also received the appropriate monies from the townships, although those numbers were not included.

Volunteers are just that, however Brent did estimate average hours per call and what the State of Iowa volunteer value per hour is. Average time per call was 1.68 hours, however this does not include clean-up of vehicles, restocking of ambulance, etc. It's only from time leaving the station to time of return. The State of Iowa volunteer value per hour in 2020 was \$25.16. Average number of people responding to a call was two. With these numbers, a total of \$9,552.75 was estimated for the volunteers. Again, this information was only for EMS/EMT calls, only accounted for an average of 2 people and did not include fire calls.

At this time, Sheri and Misti presented a check for \$13,812.56 to Brent Baughman. He and Jake were pleasantly surprised and mentioned this will help with the purchase of a light bar for the new to them grass truck, repairs to the ambulance to fix shocks, wheel bearings and a couple other items and replace a foam hose that blew apart. They are also seeking a DNR grant to pay for new pagers. The grant is a 50/50 up to \$2500. Misti offered assistance in writing grants.

Jake provided the number of fire calls for 2021 as being 39 and for 2022 we are already up to 55 total. He did not have a breakdown by township. He did mention that this year was a dry year and grass fires were plentiful. We were in a burn ban during much of the spring when people try to do controlled burns and just recently August 17 to Sept 9. During a burn ban, open burning is not allowed, unless you have a permit issued by the fire chief in the district of the controlled burn. If you burn without this permit, you should receive a citation, however our Fire Chief does not have the means (EDMS System)

to do so, the Sheriff won't issue one, but if a State Trooper is called out to the scene, they will write up a citation. Without the ability to provide a citation, a verbal warning is given. This is not a deterrent to many, but wears out our volunteers and utilizes our fire department without the ability to recuperate costs.

Warren County Fire Association is attempting to make EMS an essential service. So far only Board of Supervisor Crystal McIntyre is on board with this. Others want a central EMS service which then profits the Indianola Fire Department and of course may cause even more delays in service calls to smaller communities such as ours.

On a final note, New Virginia Fire Department is looking for volunteers. They used to have a staff of 27 volunteers. They are now down to 12. Many of these volunteers work outside the area and aren't around to answer the calls. Of these volunteers only 3 are medics (2 paramedic and 1 EMT). Each volunteer must be CPR Certified, but this training can be part of the training you receive. Most calls require EMS and therefore the need for medics is higher. However, the whole department needs more volunteers.

Even if you only want to be a driver for EMT, you must be CPR certified and know some basic terms so when asked to get something you know what you are to retrieve. You do not need a CDL, just a regular driver's license. You must live within the service area, or extremely close, to be a volunteer. Because of lack of people currently, the ability to be on rotation is minimal. Currently, they do try to keep one medic and one driver on call every holiday weekend. However, if the number of EMT volunteers increased, the need to work every holiday weekend would be decreased. If volunteering for fire only, it may be possible, if you are on the outskirts of the area, to keep your gear at home and drive directly to the scene. This may be possible with EMS after getting trained. They could then drive ambulance to hospital, if necessary, and then the other volunteer can drop them off at scene on the way back to station to pick up their vehicle. If after appropriate training has been completed, a volunteer thinks they need a blue light, they can request a blue light permit to avoid being stopped by patrol officers on the way to the station or scene, however, this only allows you to go 5 miles over the speed limit and you must still obey all traffic laws.

After some general discussion regarding having two applicants, possibly more and what it takes to become a volunteer, the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

To: Meeting of the Squaw Creek Township Trustees, Warren County, Iowa;
Sheri Jandik, Steven Lawyer, Kimberly Smith and Misti Kosman (Clerk)

**Subject: Request to change the name of Squaw Creek Township to West Creek Township,
with corrections to information included on the Township's website**

Dear Ms. Jandik, Mr. Lawyer, Ms. Smith and Ms. Kosman;

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I am Deb Schiel-Larson. My husband Paul Larson and I have lived in Squaw Township for more than 35 years. Our son Kevin completed his Eagle Scout project at Hickory Hills Park in November, 2013. Our rural address is: 21735 Highway 69, Indianola, IA.

I recently read that Squaw Creek Township Clerk Misty Kosman was contacted by the group Bleeding Heartland about the U.S. Department of Interior's Board of Geographic Names vote to approve new names "for nearly 650 geographic features" formerly containing the word "squaw." The new names include six creek segments in Iowa. The change was announced on September 8, 2022 and information can be found online at: <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names>

West Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) here in Warren County is the namesake of our Township. The group Bleeding Heartland recently sought comments from you, the Trustees of Squaw Creek Township. I did not see mention of their request on the Trustees' meeting agenda for today and it is my understanding that you have not responded to them yet. Is this correct?

As with Ms. Kosman, I was also unaware of the Interior Department's announcement and action, but I am very excited and pleased by this change. I am here with you today to bring two requests:

1. Our Township's namesake is now West Creek and for the same reason, the Township name must be changed too.

Our Warren County Creek became West Creek recently because the word "squaw" is known to be an offensive ethnic, racial, and sexist slur, particularly for Indigenous women. It is painful for all women. Highlighting the impact, the September 8, 2022 announcement referenced the word as "S _ _ _ _," and not spelled out, as we do the "N _ _ _ _ _" word for African Americans. Our Township name was a painful mistake. We know and must correct it.

Request: Include an action item on the agenda for your next meeting (October, 2022) to remove the word "Squaw" from our Township name and update with our creek's new name. Our new Township name would be "West Creek Township."

2. Currently, our "Squaw" Creek Township Website contains incorrect information.

What Native American population is our website referencing? It is not the language of the Ioway (also known as the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska), or the Meskwaki Nation/ Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa. In addition, where did the alleged definition come from? It is also incorrect.

Our current Township's public website text is as follows:

"Squaw Creek Township takes its name from the language of the large Native American population once present within its borders. Squaw, meaning Native American Woman, was used to name a creek that winds it's way through the township. The name of the township then adopted the name of the creek and Squaw Creek Township was created."

Website source: <https://www.squawcreektownship.com/About.htm>

Request: remove the incorrect information immediately and update the website as the Trustees move forward with a Township name change.

I have been working on change in a good way for many years. I was part of the decades long effort to change the name of "S ____" Creek in Ames and Story County, Iowa. Ames is my birthplace. How can behavior that is hurtful (use of the word "s ____") and a creek name that should be easy to correct, be so divisive and so difficult? Fortunately we had good, positive support and were successful in 2021, when "S ____" Creek in Story County was changed to Ioway Creek. Our community healed. Now each time I cross Ioway Creek and see the new signs, I am deeply grateful.

Also in 2021, "S ____" Creek was changed to Wanatee Creek in Linn County, Iowa. This is a healing, positive change as well and is helping bring us together. Jean Adeline Morgan Wanatee was a prominent citizen of Iowa and the Meskwaki Nation.

I know the power of words, and the pain it continues to cause to our own Native American friends. In the case of the word "s ____," I know that an offensive, sexist slur also negatively impacts all women. We are a community of caring people and we can do better. Since our Warren County creek already has a new name (West Creek), the opportunity to change our Township name is easily open to us now. We can follow by example and do so promptly.

My husband Paul Larson and I look forward to working with you. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Deb Schiel-Larson and Paul Larson

Email: dpaklarson@gmail.com