

Thorpe Township Board Meeting
December 6, 2023 Minutes

Present: Isaiah Mooney (Supervisor), Dan Demoret (Supervisor), Janet Dixon (Clerk/Treasurer), Lorlei Harrington (Supervisor)

Open at 6:04 pm

Minutes from October 4 Board Meeting were sent out before the meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes by Isaiah, seconded by Dan, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report was sent before the meeting for supervisor's to look over. to approve Treasurer's report by Dan, seconded by Isaiah, motion passed unanimously.
- The Certificate of Deposit (CD) held at Northview Bank is currently getting .95% interest. Rates on 12 month CDs now are over 4%. Janet brought the paperwork to move the money to a new 12 month CD. Lorlei made a motion to move the money in our CD to a new CD with the higher interest rate. Seconded by Isaiah, motion passed unanimously.
- Payroll withholding checks sent to the US Treasury for Q4, 2022, and Q1, 2023 have not cleared the bank, and the check for Q2, 2023, fell through the cracks with the transition of Clerk/Treasurers. Q4, 2022, and Q1, 2023, have been reissued and Q2, 2023 completed. This will get us back on track.

Claims / Payroll were reviewed. Motion to accept by Lorlei, seconded by Isaiah, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business -

- Website is almost complete. The Board reviewed the permit and variance information and confirmed it is current. Janet will add the information to the website as PDFs. She will also look for a calendar to add to the website.
On completion the website will take the place of the signboards on Junco Drive and on Jewel Drive. Janet showed a draft of a letter announcing the website, and she will investigate getting a mailing list to send the letter to everyone who lives in Thorpe Township.
- Dan put the Jack Pine Lane sign up again.
- Fire Numbers are available from the Hubbard County Highway Department for \$1.07 per number, complete signs (blue blades with numbers) are \$26.84, and new posts are \$10.74. Homeowners are responsible for replacing numbers or signs, and payment is required in advance.
- Cemetery – The property around the cemetery was recently surveyed to put into a trust, and the original map based on the 1908 description is no longer accurate. Matt with Murray Surveying sent a draft sketch of where the new “streets and alleys” and plots will be and lines have shifted from the original plan. With this he has questions for the board:
 1. Based on the Sketch Plan showing the potential layout of the cemetery, is it the Board’s understanding that we are safely encompassing all known existing burials? We need to work around what exists. We want to make sure that we are not missing anything. I am assuming the Town has record of burials. It would seem like we would need to match the headstones we located to the known burials of record and to make sure that the numbers match.

The Board said yes, all existing burials are shown on the draft with one exception – a historic grave in the northwest quadrant that is visible as a sunken area. We will mark it on the draft.

2. Assuming all known burials are safely encompassed, would the Board like to see any modifications

to the layout, including any changes to the width or location of the streets or alleys?

No, everything looks fine.

3. There has been some discussion about making cremation plots. Does the Board want to commit to these smaller plots in any specific location or quantity? Otherwise, what I have seen in other cases is for Boards to take a 10 x 10 plot and break it into smaller plots on the official plot on file with the Town. For example, a 10 x 10 plot can be drawn out to make four 5 x 5 plots. The biggest challenge with this is keeping the map and further divisions of the plots clear and in good shape; however, the Town could always commit to having the official map updated (professionally) from time to time to keep everything in good order.

No specific location or quantity for smaller plots. We want to stay with 10 x 10 plots.

4. When it comes to numbering the lots, are we committed to using certain numbers on certain lots to maintain consistency with the Town records, or can the Town records be modified to match the numbering system used on the new map? In addition to the Town records, I am assuming that individuals may also have documentation of the lot number they purchased? If so, this needs to be taken into account.

Town records can be modified. We will notify those who have purchased plots to let them know of new numbers.

5. We could assign a number to each 10x10 square and as the squares are further subdivided by the Town, attach a letter to each additional subdivision within the 10 x 10 square. For example, Lot 1 could be subdivided by the Town into four parts as Lot 1A, Lot 1B, Lot 1C, Lot 1D, etc.

Yes, that will work.

6. If the Town would like to designate some smaller plots now, what size plot would seem reasonable: 5 x 5 or even smaller? Is there any preference on where these smaller plots are located?

No, we are not going to designate smaller plots at this time.

- Janet will ask Matt about how they will mark the plots. The Board requested something that can be mowed over. Also they would like larger posts at the end of each section running east and west. Janet will also find out the dimensions of a vault.
- Janet will contact the Bairs about their plots to make sure they know about the change in plot areas.

New Business -

- Correspondence
 - Thank you from Kinship for donation,
 - Information from Marlee Morrison regarding the Hubbard County allocation of the Minnesota Opioid Settlement funds.
 - Newsletter from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
- Other New Business
 - The “new” township printer (refurbished) has not been printing clearly, even after repeated cleaning. Janet will take it to the Transfer Station and use her own, with the township paying for ink.
 - Dan will move the 4 drawer file in the township hall to Janet's shop to hold the township's files.

Adjourned

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 6, at 6pm at Janet Dixon's house, 28666 Junco Drive.