

Pursuant to due call and notice there of the Southside Township Board of Supervisors met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 07, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Southside town hall, Wright County, MN. The following members were present: Chairman Tim Hable, Supervisor Jim Hallstrom and John Reynolds and Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill. Also present: Ralph & Barb Searles, Russ Fortner, Dennis Neu, Blaine Barkley, Lone Latour, Jim Gray, Bill Costello, Bob & Elaine Fleskes.

Chairman Hable led the pledge of allegiance.

Supv Hallstrom made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 regular meeting with one change. Supv Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Costello of Elevation Homes was present as a representative of Kristin & Brad Pardue Von Bank. They own a vacant lot on Lake Sylvia near 7836 Pleason Ave NW. They are requesting a variance to build a 3177 sq. ft home 36 from the center line of the road. The lot has a bluff and they need to be 30' off of the bluff. The home will have a crawl space and most of the trees on the lots front side will be kept intact. They are planning a pool and patio area in the back yard. The bluff will remain as is except for an area that will be cleared for a path down to the water. The area to build with the bluff makes it necessary to place the house within the setback area of the road. The home has a lot of glass and cedar siding so it will blend into the wooded lot. Supv Hallstrom made a motion to approve the variance request to build a 3177 sq. ft. home 36 ft. from the center line of Pleason Ave NW due to the need to stay 30' off of the bluff line. Impervious surface coverage will be at 13.78%. Supv Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lone Latour was present to request a lot line adjustment for a 28.01-acre parcel with a building entitlement. She owns 86 acres and plans to sell this 28.01-acre parcel to Jeremy Kaskinen who has been farming the land for the past several years. The acreage is in two different parcels, one north of Hwy. 55 bordered by 90<sup>th</sup> ST. NW and one south of Hwy. 55. The acreage has its own PID#217-000-222100. Supv Hallstrom made a motion to approve the lot line adjustment to separate a 28.01-acre parcel with building entitlement, PID#217-000-222100. Supv Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ralph & Barb Searles, 7037 Newcomb Ave NW, Lake John were present to request variances to build a 24'x32' garage and a 18'x18' addition to existing house. The Searles plan to move and live here year round and need the extra living space and garage. The current garage sits on a cement slab and has a roof that is compromised due to a garage door opener that was installed by cutting into the roof trusses. They were told the roof would likely collapse within the next couple of years. A variance is needed for the garage to be placed 43' from the centerline of Newcomb Ave NW. The present 20'x30' garage, which is 45' from the centerline of Newcomb Ave, will be torn down. The 18'x18' addition, which is only living space, no bedroom or bathroom, will be added to the home and will be 51' from the OHW. The current home is non-conforming and 55' from the OHW. The zoning requirement is structures need to be 100' from OHW. They own the adjoining lot which is unbuildable but will be the site of their new septic system. The lot is flat and water runs towards the lake. Supv Hallstrom moved to approve the 24'x32' garage 43' from the centerline of Newcomb Ave NW and a 18'x18' addition 51' from OHW of Lake John – reason variance is approved a new septic system will be installed. Supv Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dennis Neu of 6874 Quinn Ave NW was present to discuss the removal of trees from Quinn Ave NW road right-of-way by the township. Dennis felt the township should have notified him of the need for

tree removal. He was told the trees were removed due to the need to improve sight lines, some of the trees were buckthorn which is an invasive species, and the safety of pedestrians who frequently use the road which is very narrow. He stated MN State Statute 160 required the township notify affected property owners prior to removing trees. Township contractor Jeremy Kaskinen presented pictures of the area in question before the removal of trees and after. It was noted the trees were hanging over the road and presented problems with sight lines. There were also several buckthorn trees and Chinese elm. Chairman Hable stated the township will investigate the statute mentioned to see if we are required to notify property owners prior to maintenance of trees in our right-of-way. He stated from the photos shared by Jeremy he felt the road was safer after the trees had been removed. Dennis felt the township should notify GLSA in the future so they can notify the affected property owners of the area being cleaned and they can then contact the Board if they are concerned about the trees. Supv Hallstrom stated the township is working to maintain the integrity of the road and keep it safe for pedestrians and drivers. Members of GLSA board who were present due to another agenda item stated they would take Dennis's suggestion to the Board to see if they were interested in handling the notifications through GLSA.

GLSA Board members Blaine Barkley, Russ Fortner and Jim Gray were present to get the Boards support for a regional decontamination site for starry stonewort they are working to get started in Annandale. The current plan is to build a 75'x16' tank that would be filled with water and a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution. Boat trailers will be backed into the tank, the boat will be loosened, and after a few minutes the boat and trailer can be pulled out and the starry stonewort will be killed. There are no environmental concerns with the use of the hydrogen peroxide according to their research. They have talked to the City of Annandale which is considering leasing them a lot in the business park off of Hwy. 55. They would target 3 area lakes, Lake Sylvia, Pleasant Lake and Lake John for the pilot project. Boats would not be allowed to be launched without proof of decontamination. They have met with County Commissioners to get their support along with the County Attorney who would help with the passing of an ordinance requiring the decontamination and making it a misdemeanor if it is not done prior to boat launching. Starry stonewort was found in Lake Sylvia last fall and GLSA spent \$25,000 trying to eradicate it with no success. The Board has since spent a great deal of time and effort researching a way to keep the invasive weed from getting into other area lakes. Supv Hallstrom made a motion to support the starry stonewort regional inspection process. Supv Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried. Blaine Barkley stated it is very important to make every effort to keep this weed out of area lakes. Other lakes that have the weed have seen dramatic drops in property values which would adversely affect the townships tax base.

The townships Local Board of Adjustment will be held on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

The 2017 junk amnesty day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at French Lake Town hall.

Supv. Hallstrom made a motion to sign the 2017 South Have fire contract. Supv Reynolds seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board worked on the 2018 budget.

The following bills were approved as presented:

Check #	Date	Payee	Cash Account	Amount
6541	2/7/17	MN Benefit Association	100-10100	325.00

6542	2/7/17	Wright County Auditor Treas.	100-10100	368.97
6543	2/7/17	Norgren Tree Service	100-10100	770.00
6544	2/7/17	Hendricks Sand & Gravel	100-10100	9,335.00
6545	2/7/17	Wright County Association of Townships	100-10100	1,072.68
6546	2/7/17	Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assoc	100-10100	34.00
6547	2/7/17	Windstream	100-10100	39.00
6548	2/7/17	Waste Management	100-10100	2,587.77
6549	2/7/17	Carmen M. Merrill	100-10100	886.52
6550	2/7/17	James Hallstrom	100-10100	190.77
6551	2/7/17	Timothy A. Hable	100-10100	166.23
6552	2/7/17	John H. Reynolds	100-10100	304.98
6553	2/7/17	Wright Hennepin Electric Public Employees Retirement	100-10100	26.06
somper000406195	2/8/17	Association	100-10100	<u>151.20</u>

**Total**

**16,258.18**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.