
3/5/2024 Brandon Township Annual Meeting Minutes

Call Meeting To Order

A meeting of Brandon Township was held on March 5, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Brandon Township Hall located at 25993 482nd Ave, Corson, SD 57005.

Roll Call

Scott Tripp, Thomas Brown, Dean Herll, Elizabeth Aaker, Jason Metzger

Public Present

Wyatt Sundvold, Sandy Johnson, Brian Bailey, Chuck Brown, Kelly Lyons, Spencer Schenk, Darlene Keiner, Kayla Dover, Jason Knudsen, David Elofson, Sandy Elofson, Andy Ekedahl, Matt Garwarecki, David Sorenson, John Burkman, Klanissa Burkman, Paul Poncelet, John Weir, Deb Weir, Pat Ponceter, David Kolstrud, Bruce Heggen, Quinton Johnson, Nicole Haug, Jess Elofson, Beth Warden

Guest Include: Pete Richardson & Andy Haus- Knife River
Robert Dykstra & Matt Truckenmiller- Brandon Fire Department
Randy Webert & Nicole Conrad- Medstar

Pledge of Allegiance

Read Agenda and Ask for Additions: No items added

Select Election Judges and 1 Moderator

- Dave Sorenson was selected as moderator and Chuck Brown and Brian Bailey were selected as judges.

Presentation By Guests

- **Brandon Fire Department Funding Request**
 - o Robert Dykstra of Brandon Fire Department presenting current call numbers and financial figures. Of the 510 calls last year, 51 were in Brandon Township. Fire department had plans to replace the Tender/Pumper (1990) however prices have gone up substantially, so they decided to just make repairs which have cost \$4,500 for 2024. New rescue tools have or will be purchased in 2024 with some grant money in the amount of \$6,400 and they should last 10 years. The Brandon Fire Department is under a 5-year contract with Brandon Township, so no vote was needed to continue funding for fire department. Funding will be \$16,500 per contract.
- **Medstar Ambulance Funding Request**
 - o Randy Webert presented call numbers of 3,400 in 2023 and 29 were in Brandon Township. So far for 2024, there have already been 26 calls in Brandon Township, so much higher than last year. Requesting \$3,600 contract for area running from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024
 - o John Burkman set motion to have Brandon Township sign contract for funding Medstar for the 2024 year. Garwarecki 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes

- Aaker read meeting minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting. John Weir set motion to approve meeting minutes. Heggen 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Treasurer Report

- Herll went over expenses and income of the previous year. The township is in good standing with a good reserve in the bank account of \$353,878.98 and a CD of \$34,152.38. Outstanding loan balance on the maintainer is \$90,589.12.

- Herll commented on snow removal costs were high for 2023 and township added more gravel to budget last year.
- Schnek set motion to approve treasurer report. Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Treasurer Budget/Opt Out for Additional Funds

- Dean Herll reviewed cash on hand \$353,878.98 and a CD of \$34,152.38 and he feels we are at a good reserve.
- CD will be called in late March and interest will be paid out in early April.
- Expenses for 2025 are very similar to 2024 with increase in insurance costs of \$1,300 and legal fees were lowered from 2024 from \$10,000 to \$5,000.
- Schnek set motion to approve treasurer budget. Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried
- All board members felt the township needed to opt out for funds of \$5,000 to make township available for FEMA funds in the future. John Burkman set motion to approve opt out for funds of \$5,000. Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Supervisor Report on Road Maintenance

- Railroad Crossing 259th Street:
 - o Ongoing issue with DOT requesting lights and arms placed on railroad crossing. SD DOT says the railroad needs arms and lighting system because of past accidents in area. DOT and Burlington Northern have increased contribution to \$75,000 each, total of \$150,000 to close the road. They estimate the new lighting and arms would cost \$400,000 and the township would be responsible for 10% of that amount. Alternative option would be to vacate the road and receive \$150,000, close the road to through traffic or do nothing.
 - o Brown concerned about emergency issues of delayed time if road would be closed.
 - o Spencer asked if we need to have other government agencies to sign off on closing a road, and the board responded we have complete authority.
 - o Dykstra from Brandon Valley Fire Department concerned about closing the road as it is direct access to houses to the east. Using alternative roads of 260th or 483rd not a very good option due to curves in the road and extra turns. All of which cause fire trucks to lower travel speeds.
 - o Herll stated we have not heard any punishment from the DOT if we choose not to add crossing bars to train tracks. Also, there currently is no timeline on when we must have the decision made.
 - o Township board would like to have legal counsel on the issue. Brown stated he had heard back from the current attorney that she discovered there is a conflict of interest for her. She suggested contacting Meierhenry Sargent LLP to seek council on the matter. Brown spoke to the attorney, and he suggested no vote on the subject until fully reviewed. Brown would like township approval to seek council from different attorneys on the subject.
 - o Schnek set motion to allow Brandon Township board to investigate new attorney to for legal counsel that has no conflicts of interest. Garwarecki 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried
 - o Will advertise this issue in future meetings when decisions on this road need to be voted on.
- **Pushing snow across road and obstructions:** It is against the law. It ruins the crown of the road and causes road issues when melting begins. In addition, piles of hard snow can damage maintainer.
- **Culvert inspects, please contact the board:** Please report if you see any culverts you feel need to be inspected. Board yearly inspects culverts.
- **Construction of I-90 Bridge:** Construction beginning, expect delays but no closure is expected. New bridge should have a much safer design.
- **Quote on Redwood & Chestnut chloride treatment:** Township board is working on getting a quote for treatment and presenting it to the Brandon City Council.
- **Pipeline:**
 - o There currently a draft ordinance in process for Minnehaha County townships. There has not been a final draft sent out.
 - o Warden spoke about SB201 legislative bill that is currently being debated on the state floor. It would remove townships authority to determine if pipelines are allowed. In addition, federal regulations are currently in the works and expected to be presented in the next few weeks.
 - o A future meeting will be held once ordinance has finished for township members to vote on.

- **Redwood & Chestnut Development**
 - o New developer will begin building large housing, apartments and business areas on the southeast corner of the Redwood/Chestnut intersection. New Brandon Valley Elementary School will begin construction soon, opening 2026. Road is hard to maintain with traffic areas as it is. Construction & school busses will cause more damage to the road.
 - o Load limits on Redwood Blvd were put into effect last spring.
 - o City of Brandon not communicating with township board. Board has been seeking legal counsel on the matter since road maintenance will be more of in the issue in the future.
 - o There was a discussion about adding a township constable to help reinforce township laws. Aaker will check laws in this area.
- **Overview of road maintenance and other issues-**
 - o Many comments were made about the great job employee Mike Gross has been doing to keep the township roads in good condition.
- **Packer for Grader**
 - o Much discussion about adding a packer for the grader in the past. Tripp is concerned about the cost of \$40,000 for the little improvements it could make to the roads. Herll is concerned that to properly use a packer you need to have wet road or have a water truck. With the dry roads this year, it would not be able to be used much.
 - o Brown said he is not in favor of using township money for equipment that would not be used much.
 - o No motion was made for purchasing a packer.

Weed Control & Tree Removal

- Weeds and brush in the right of way were discussed. The township received a bid from Ditch Weed LLC for the spraying of the ditches for \$50 per mile with Tordon22K and \$56/mile for 2-4D LV6 applied at 20 gpa/water. Hagan set motion to have Brandon Township use Ditch Weed LLC for weed removal. Bailey 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Dumping of materials, cargo, snow, other obstructions in ditches

- Board asked township's help in reporting people who are illegally dumping garbage.

FEMA Compensation Policy

- FEMA requiring a set compensation policy for board members going beyond normal duties during natural disaster. Aaker stated FEMA recommending \$16, Tripp suggested \$16 per hour with no per diem—same as last year. Garwarecki made motion to set FEMA Compensation for \$16 per hour, no per diem. Bailey 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Set Salaries of Township Board

- Current annual salary \$1,000 per year and any training meetings, not including normal meeting, to be compensated to board members at \$25 per hour. Schnek set motion to keep all wages for board members the same. Garwarecki 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Full Maintenance, Minimum, or no Maintenance Roads

- No changes in road maintenance. Will do full maintenance on all road with the exception of no maintenance roads of West Redwood Blvd and Chestnut Trail. Lyons made motion to approve current maintenance of roads. Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

New Business From The Floor

- No new business from the floor

Nomination of Township Officers

- Clerk- Elizabeth Aaker, Treasurer- Dean Herll & Supervisor- Jason Metzger
 - o No petition to run for supervisor position submitted

- Sundvold made motion for Aaker to be reelected to clerk for 1 year, Herll to be reelected to treasurer for 1 year and Jason Metzger to be reelected to 3-year supervisor. Jess Elofson 2nd motion. Call to Vote: Unanimous vote, Motion Carried.

Announcements/Public Comments

- March 18, 2024 Minnehaha County Equalization Meeting 7:00 p.m
- March 26, 2024 Meeting (required by State Law) 7:00 p.m
- Meeting minutes, agenda & announcements on website at brandontownshipped.com

Adjournment

- Garwarecki made a motion to adjourn at 8:46pm. Heggen 2nd motion. Unanimous vote, Motion Carried

Elizabeth Aaker, Brandon Township Clerk