

Canosia Township  
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Town Leadership: Chair Penny Dieryck, Supervisor Jeff Erikson, Supervisor Kevin L. Connick, Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 6, 2023**

**ATTENDING:** Chair Penny Dieryck, Supervisor Kevin Connick, Supervisor Jeff Erikson, Clerk Amber Madoll, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal, Road Foreman Gary Oswell, Chief Gene Stevens, and 3 guests. The meeting was held virtually and in person at the Canosia Town Hall.

Chair Dieryck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA, MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT & BILLS**

- A. SUPERVISOR ROLL CALL:** Chair Penny Dieryck, Supervisor Kevin Connick, and Supervisor Jeff Erikson are present.
- B. AGENDA: Motion** made by Jeff Erikson, seconded by Kevin Connick to approve the agenda with the Nelsondale Rd conversation moved to public comment. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Connick voted in favor.
- C. MINUTES: Motion** made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Jeff Erikson to approve November 1, 2023 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Connick voted in favor.
- D. TREASURER'S REPORT:**
  - a. Treasurer Borndal stated that Pinewoods is raising their rates to \$16.50/hr starting 1/1/24. **Motion** made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Jeff Erikson to increase the hourly rate to Pinewood Inc. To \$16.50 beginning 1.1.2024. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Connick voted in favor.
  - b. Treasurer Borndal stated that a check for \$125 came from the SLC Elections. Clerk Madoll stated that this is reimbursement for our 2023 election cycle. **Motion** made by Jeff Erikson, seconded by Kevin Connick to accept the check from St. Louis County for \$125 to be utilized for Township election related expenses. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Connick voted in favor.
  - c. **Motion** made by Penny Dieryck, seconded by Jeff Erikson to approve the treasurer's report as written. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Connick voted in favor.
- E. PAY BILLS: Motion** made by Kevin Connick, seconded by Jeff Erikson to pay bills # 22399–22436 and EFT2023-11. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Connick voted in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Nelsondale Road and Lorendale Road:** Supervisor Connick stated that Canosia Township has been maintaining the curved section of Nelsondale Road that connects to Lorendale Road for years and will be going through the formal process of making it a permanent part of Nelsondale Road. Currently, the

township has legal ownership of Lorendale Road and the straight portion of Nelsondale Road. However, Supervisor Comnick stated that the township has maintained all road sections, including the one in question, for years to include: brushing, snow plowing, gravel replacement, culverts, etc. Supervisor Comnick stated that the township would be working with the township lawyer to follow the formal process for road procurement. Supervisor Dieryck stated that the strip of road in question encroaches on two parcels owned by different owners (Mr. Haugen and Ms. Metzger), so they should both be contacted. Supervisor Comnick stated that Mr. Haugen put his driveway in illegally because he did not have a township driveway permit. Mr. Haugen stated that he did not need a permit, because he considers the strip of road that encroaches on his property to be his. He stated that the previous owner, the neighbors, and no one else has advised him that he doesn't own that land and that he paid for it. He stated that he feels like the township is taking away his land. In addition, he stated that he questions whether the township has been maintaining the road portion in question as there are culverts that are not draining and tree stumps. Supervisor Comnick stated that the township would be taking ownership of the road and that Mr. Haugen would not be compensated. Supervisor Dieryck asked Mr. Haugen if he knew that he didn't own the road. Mr. Haugen stated that the title company did ask the previous owners and they stated it was private. The board is in agreement that the portion of Nelsondale Road in question should be surveyed. Supervisor Comnick asked for Road Foreman Oswell to conduct the survey. Road Foreman Oswell stated that he was not qualified to complete a formal survey and that it should be done by a surveyor who could then provide a legal description. **Motion** made by Jeff Erikson, seconded by Kevin Comnick to have the portion of Nelsondale Road not formally owned by the township to be surveyed. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Comnick voted in favor. Mr. Haugen stated that he would like to see documentation concerning the road prior to any surveys being done. Supervisor Comnick asked if Mr. Haugen installed a culvert. Road Supervisor Oswell stated that Mr. Haugen installed a culvert on his private land. Supervisor Comnick asked Mr. Haugen if he is filling in wetlands on his property. Mr. Haugen stated that he is working directly with a wetlands advisor with the county to make sure he is compliant. Supervisor Comnick requested documentation and Mr. Haugen stated that he did not need to provide it as the wetland approval comes from the St. Louis County Land and Zoning Department, not Canosia Township.

## OLD BUSINESS

**A. PLANNING AND ZONING:** none.

**B. FIRE RELIEF:** None.

**C. FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

- a. Chief Stevens stated that the fire department would like to purchase an enclosed trailer for 13K to hold the department's ATV. Supervisor Comnick asked where it would be put. Chief Stevens stated that it won't arrive til Spring but that it could go where Frank parks or in the garage. Motion made by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Penny Dieryck to approve the fire department purchasing an enclosed trailer for the township's ATV up to \$13,000.00 Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Chief Stevens stated that they had two members leave and two new ones are joining. He asked that Clerk Madoll ask the school to put an advertisement up on the digital board.
- c. Supervisor Comnick stated that he talked with Vic Lund at the county and they would pay for signage on the road to prevent parking in front of the fire hall but that the township would need to pay for striping/painting. Chief Stevens will let Supervisor Comnick know how many signs are needed and where. He also asked about No Parking painting on the other side of the road from the fire hall. Supervisor Comnick stated that he would ask Mr. Lund.
- d. Chief Stevens stated that they held a forceable entry class and an EMS environmental/behavioral drug overdose training.

2023 FIRE DEPT. RESPONSES			
Call Type	NOVEMBER #'s	Notes	Total for 2023
EMS	12		110
Medical MUA	1	GL FD	30
Twp Fire	3	Grass fire/permit burn, load explosion at the boat landing	21
MUA Fire	2	Rice Lake FD	23
Service	0		0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>		<b>184</b>

- D. ROADS:** Supervisor Comnick stated that the state is offering a gravel seal product that is significantly cheaper than asphalt. He is considering investing in a couple of township roads for testing to see if it would be a reliable alternative.
- E. RECYCLE SHED:** Treasurer Borndal stated that there will be an annual recycling meeting coming up. She and Supervisor Dieryck will attend.
- F. RECREATION AREA:** Supervisor Dieryck stated that she will work with Clerk Madoll on the DNR grant.
- G. CEMETERY:** Supervisor Erikson stated that he is finishing up on the new Veteran's plaque. Supervisor Comnick stated that moving forward all niche expenses will be noted in their own fund, which has been set up.
- H. PLAWCS:** Supervisor Dieryck stated that the Closed Meeting held earlier to discuss PLAWCS ended early due to the township's lawyer being unavailable and stated that it will be rescheduled.
- I. BUILDING MAINTENANCE:** Supervisor Erikson stated that there is a light out by the Fire Department door.
- J. ARPA:** Treasurer Borndal stated that she will be attending a 2024 webinar that will cover the processing for closing the ARPA funding cycle.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. 2024 Elections:** Clerk Madoll stated that the AutoMark is being replaced with a new, smaller machine for the 2024 season. She stated that the county will pay for the election workers' hours related to the Presidential Nominations Primary Election and up to \$150 in supplies related to that election. It will be held from 7am-8pm on March 5, 2024. She stated that there will be layout changes recommended by the county to provide voters with more voting privacy. She stated that she and Deputy Clerk Brunette attended the PNP training and that the hours related to the training were paid for by the county. She also stated that there will be new voter registration forms for the spring elections and new ones that will come out in June 2024. She also stated that the candidacy timeline for the open town supervisor position will be from January 3, 2024-January 16, 2024.

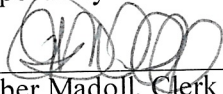
**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Township Insider, Duluth Township Newsletter, Orman Newsletter, MAT Annual Meeting Invite, 2024 Law Poster Ad, Town of Fredenberg Newsletter

**ADJOURNMENT**

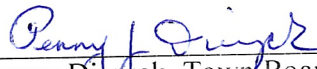
Motion by Kevin Comnick, seconded by Jeff Erikson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, 3 – 0. Jeff Erikson, Penny Dieryck, and Kevin Comnick voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amber Madoll, Clerk  
January 3, 2024

APPROVED:



Penny Dierck, Town Board Chair  
January 3, 2024