

**Town of Hickory Grove
Regular Board Meeting
February 20th, 2024**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Northouse at 6:00 p.m. He noted that meeting notices were posted at the town shop and on the town website.

Present at the meeting were, Gary Northouse, Gary Klein, Al Wester, George Gunderson, Sheila Ruchti, Scott Downs, Tim Biba, Larry Schultz and Rhonda Gildersleeve.

Motion was made by Gildersleeve to accept the agenda as printed. Klien seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes were passed out and after reading them, Klein made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Gildersleeve., Motion carried.

Accounts payable were looked at by the board and approved for payment with a motion by Gildersleeve and seconded by Klein. Motion carried.

Expenditures 17926-17938 were reviewed. Klein made a motion to accept the expenditures, seconded by Gildersleeve. Motion carried.

Gunderson ask about putting in a culvert going into his field where there was one previously. The board agreed that as long as there was one there previously, it would be good to reinstall the culvert.

Biba ask about the purchase of the Swenson property. It was stated that there was not enough land offered by the land owner to build what the town needs. So, unless the land owner agrees to sell more land, the project will not go forward.

Biba also asked if anyone looked into the recycling changing to a property pickup. The opinion was everything was working well and at a much lower expense and other complications.

Downs questioned the budget process to know what was spent and what was still open to spend in each category of the budget. This has always been kept track of, but we now have a new updated form to present it better to the board.

Northouse went over the Johnson Road project where an existing culvert had failed. The culvert was replaced by the county and will be cost shared by the county.

Northouse went over the 6-20 -foot bridge project the state is requiring the townships to do. Phase one is there will be an inventory done by Northouse and his wife. After the inventory the county will then do the inspections of the culverts. All costs will be paid by the state.

The Sleepy Hollow bridge replacement is on hold by the contractor until fall of 2025 or maybe Spring of 2026. The sealcoating will be done on Sleepy Hollow this year.

The bids for seal-coating and gravel will be advertised for 4.56 miles of sealcoat and 22 tons of gravel.

Northouse, had a request from the patrolman, that a grabber bucket be purchased for safety reasons and protection for the new tractor. A cost was given at \$3400 for a new grabber bucket. Klein motioned to purchase the grabber bucket, and Gildersleeve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After finding out the old orange International truck would cost too much to fix, and the frame was cracked, preventing it to be used on the roads, the board accepted a offer of \$1000 to purchase the truck as is. Klein motioned to accept the offer of \$1000. Gildersleeve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Northouse motioned to refund †he tax overpayments to Bruce Heise of \$4000, Ben and Elsie Stoltzfus of \$50 and Fred Urbin of \$370. Gildersleeve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting set for Tuesday March 12th 2024 at 6:00pm

Motion to adjourn by Northouse seconded by Gildersleeve. Meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted
Allen Wester, clerk

Motion made by Klein to approve the minutes, second by Northouse. Motion carried.