REGULAR MEETING

**October 3, 2024**

**Aurora, Minnesota**

***The Regular Meeting of the Town of White was called to order by Vice Chairman Edward Kippley at 5:00 P.M., on Thursday, October 5, 2024, at the City/Town Government Center.***

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Supervisors-Anttila, Skelton (5:17 p.m.), Kippley; Clerk-Knaus, Treasurer Gross; Foreman-Niemi; Attorney – Kearney

Absent:

Also Present: Chad Skelton, Mike Skinner, Curt Anttila, Bill Lesar, Steve Nelson

**1. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2024; SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024; ALL BILLS AND PAYROLL AS PRESENTED BELOW, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE TO BE FILED FOR SEPTEMBER 2024. MOTION CARRIED**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Check#** | **Vendor** | **Description** |  **Total**  |
| CC09-03-24 | Cardmember Service | Training, Supplies |  $ 4,883.79  |
| DD09032401 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 34.42  |
| DD09032402 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 65.96  |
| DD09032403 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 306.42  |
| DD09032404 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 113.26  |
| DD09032405 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 201.95  |
| DD09032406 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 231.52  |
| DD09032407 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 152.68  |
| DD09032408 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 324.16  |
| DD09032409 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 132.97  |
| DD09032410 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 172.39  |
| DD09032411 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 387.23  |
| DD09032412 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 34.42  |
| DD09032413 | Payroll Period Ending 07/30/2024 | FD July 2024 Payroll |  $ 73.84  |
| F09-03-24 | E.F.T.P.S. FD | Withholding Tax |  $ 67.56  |
| D09-04-24 | Empower | Employee Deductions ppe 8/31/24 |  $ 350.00  |
| DD09042401 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 685.28  |
| DD09042402 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,340.37  |
| DD09042403 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 24.67  |
| DD09042404 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,519.95  |
| DD09042405 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,125.12  |
| DD09042406 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 166.23  |
| DD09042407 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 2,371.38  |
| DD09042408 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 376.28  |
| DD09042409 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,890.30  |
| DD09042410 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,822.42  |
| DD09042411 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,929.27  |
| DD09042412 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 2,408.94  |
| DD09042413 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 2,096.06  |
| DD09042414 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,420.25  |
| DD09042415 | Payroll Period Ending 08/31/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 8/31/2024 |  $ 1,821.44  |
| F09-04-24 | E.F.T.P.S. | Payroll Deductions PPE 09/04/24 |  $ 6,723.87  |
| M09-04-24 | MN Department of Revenue | Employee Deductions 08/31/24 |  $ 1,278.68  |
| P09-04-24 | P.E.R.A. | Payroll Deductions PPE 8/31/24 |  $ 3,674.74  |
| 35628 | JBN Inc | PW & FD Septic Replacement & Design Down Pmt |  $ 15,000.00  |
| 35629 | Austin's Miller's Roofing & Siding | Salt/Sand Dome Roof 50% Pmt |  $ 55,900.00  |
| 35630 | ServiceMaster Cleaning | Fire Hall Abatement & Demo |  $ 6,017.42  |
| 35631 | Aurora Chamber of Commerce | 2024 Dues |  $ 75.00  |
| 35632 | Diamond Mowers | JD Mower Blades & parts |  $ 1,573.53  |
| 35633 | East Range Times | Advertising |  $ 1,122.00  |
| 35634 | JBN Inc | Septic System Install Final pmt |  $ 15,000.00  |
| 35635 | RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc | Water Testing |  $ 31.35  |
| 35636 | Zito Media | Fire Hall & PW Telephone & Internet |  $ 410.44  |
| 35637 | Mike Lesar | Expense Reimbursement |  $ 34.33  |
| 35638 | Niemi, Clark | Cell Phone Stipend Aug 24 |  $ 50.00  |
| 35639 | Knaus, Jodi | Cell Phone Stipend Aug 24 |  $ 50.00  |
| 35640 | Amanda Gross | Cell Phone Stipend Aug 24 |  $ 50.00  |
| 63386 | I.U.O.E. Local 49 | Union Dues Sep 2024 |  $ 315.00  |
| 35642 | Aurora, City of | Shredding, Building Repair Supply |  $ 22.64  |
| 35643 | East Mesabi Sanitation | Refuse Collection Aug 2024 |  $ 12,043.77  |
| 35644 | Mesabi Bituminous Inc | Hotmix 65.37 tons |  $ 4,575.90  |
| 35645 | 1st Ayd Corporation | Towel Roll & Lubricant |  $ 191.06  |
| ST09-13-24 | MN Dept of Revenue - Sales Tax | Sales Tax - Aug 2024 |  $ 1,478.00  |
| D09-18-2024 | Empower | Employee Deductions ppe 09/14/2024 |  $ 350.00  |
| DD09182401 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,575.36  |
| DD09182402 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,503.95  |
| DD09182403 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 36.94  |
| DD09182404 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 2,459.98  |
| DD09182405 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,872.14  |
| DD09182406 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,935.93  |
| DD09182407 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,941.10  |
| DD09182408 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 2,667.20  |
| DD09182409 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 2,446.20  |
| DD09182410 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,420.25  |
| DD09182411 | Payroll Period Ending 09/14/2024 | Regular Payroll Ending 9/14/24 |  $ 1,821.44  |
| F09-18-2024 | E.F.T.P.S. | Payroll Deductions PPE 09/14/24 |  $ 6,605.04  |
| M09-18-2024 | MN Department of Revenue | Employee Deductions 09/14/2024 |  $ 1,277.85  |
| P09-18-2024 | P.E.R.A. | Payroll Deductions PPE 9/14/2024 |  $ 3,917.56  |
| 35646 | Aurora Electric | Septic System Install Electrical Work |  $ 650.00  |
| 35647 | Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P. | Legal Services - Elections |  $ 397.50  |
| 35648 | Hoyt Lakes, City of | Ambulance Agreement |  $ 1,000.00  |
| 35649 | CTC | Town Office Phone SEP 2024 |  $ 225.80  |
| 35650 | Excel Business Systems | Copier Contract |  $ 214.06  |
| 35651 | Ferguson Enterprises #1657 | Tender parts |  $ 399.00  |
| 35652 | Jessica Forsline | Travel Expenses |  $ 18.76  |
| 35653 | Amanda Gross | Cell Phone Stipend |  $ 50.00  |
| 35654 | Amanda Gross | Travel Expenses |  $ 379.10  |
| 35655 | Knaus, Jodi | Cell Phone Stipend SEP 24 |  $ 50.00  |
| 35656 | Colosimo, Patchin, & Kearney, LTD | Monthly retainer OCT 2024 |  $ 465.00  |
| 35657 | League of MN Cities Insurance Trust | Dues 4 months |  $ 710.00  |
| 35658 | Lake Country Power | SEP Electric Service |  $ 2,902.00  |
| 35659 | Bryan Lehman | Clothing Allowance |  $ 54.98  |
| 35660 | Minnesota Power | Lift Station |  $ 192.82  |
| 35661 | Minnesota Power | Electric Service Lift Stations |  $ 29.62  |
| 35662 | Minnesota Power | Street Lighting |  $ 256.84  |
| 35663 | MN Fire Service Certification Board | Cert Apps Thorne, Anderson, Reid |  $ 78.75  |
| 35664 | Menard's-Virginia | Shop Supplies |  $ 146.65  |
| 35665 | L & M Fleet Supply, Inc. | Chainsaw Parts, Supplies |  $ 297.92  |
| 35666 | RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc | Water Testing |  $ 31.35  |
| 35667 | Northland Lawn & Sport | JD Mower Parts |  $ 379.81  |
| 35668 | Niemi, Clark | Travel Expenses |  $ 335.34  |
| 35669 | Niemi, Clark | Cell Phone Stipend |  $ 50.00  |
| 35670 | P.E.R.A. | Fire SVF Deficit Contribution 2024 |  $ 203.00  |
| 35671 | Portable John | Toilets Rental Sep 2024 |  $ 238.35  |
| 35672 | PeopleService Inc. | Oct 24 W/WW Professional Services |  $ 461.25  |
| 35673 | St. Louis County Auditor-PW | Aug 2024 Fuel |  $ 5,487.52  |
| 35674 | VC3 | Sep Contract |  $ 42.50  |
| 35675 | Volunteer Firefighter's Benefit Ass | Life Insurance |  $ 212.00  |
| 35676 | Walker, Giroux & Hahne LLC | CPF Review & Consultation |  $ 525.00  |
| 35677 | Curtiss Anttila | Housing Institute, Service Contract |  $ 600.00  |
| 35678 | Central Pension Fund | Retirement Contributions Aug 24 |  $ 3,816.00  |
| 35679 | Knaus, Jodi | OT Meals 8/11/24 8/12/24 |  $ 72.00  |
| 35680 | Aurora, City of | New Water/Sewer Connections |  $ 2,000.00  |
| 35681 | Central Pension Fund | Retirement Contributions Sep 24 |  $ 3,456.00  |
| 35682 | I.U.O.E. Local 49 Fringe Benefits | Nov 2024 Group Insurance |  $ 13,275.00  |
| 35683 | Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc | LTD/STD OCT 2024 |  $ 356.96  |
| 35684 | XZ6344990 | Health Care Savings |  $ 254.23  |
| 35685 | XZ3772001 | HCSP Reimbursement |  $ 923.92  |
| 35686 | Aurora Auto Value | Fuel Pump & Mower part |  $ 177.97  |
| 35687 | Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. | Welding Supplies/Services |  $ 276.07  |
| 35688 | Northland Lawn & Sport | JD Mower Parts |  $ 488.93  |
| 35689 | McCoy Construction & Forestry Inc. | JD 670G Repairs |  $ 2,520.87  |
| 35690 | Auto Value | Shop Supplies & Tools |  $ 184.31  |
| 35691 | Knaus, Jodi | Travel Expenses |  $ 485.35  |
| 63387 | Colonial Life | Sep 24 Employee Deductions |  $ 537.42  |
| 63388 | Minnesota Life Insurance Company | Employee/Employer Insurance |  $ 202.30  |
| 63389 | MN NCPERS | Life Insurance Employee Paid |  $ 32.00  |
| DD09302401 | Payroll Period Ending 09/30/2024 | September 2024 Monthly Payroll |  $ 444.59  |
| DD09302402 | Payroll Period Ending 09/30/2024 | September 2024 Monthly Payroll |  $ 236.08  |
| DD09302403 | Payroll Period Ending 09/30/2024 | September 2024 Monthly Payroll |  $ 443.76  |
| DD09302404 | Payroll Period Ending 09/30/2024 | September 2024 Monthly Payroll |  $ 364.86  |
| DD09302405 | Payroll Period Ending 09/30/2024 | September 2024 Monthly Payroll |  $ 528.56  |
| F09-30-24 | E.F.T.P.S. Monthly | Employee Deductions |  $ 221.80  |
| M09-30-24 | MN Department of Revenue Monthly | Employee Withholding |  $ 54.99  |
| P09-30-24 | P.E.R.A. Monthly | Retirement Deductions |  $ 262.52  |
|  |  | **TOTAL** |  **$ 234,680.61**  |

**2. THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024, LISTED RECEIPTS IN THE AMOUNT OF $55,979.26:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Taconite Municipal AidWater/Sewer Connection FeesGarbage Bag RevenueRefuse RevenueLLCC Rental FeesTwin Lakes RentPermit FeesAssessment Search Fee2024 Mineral Lease Excess Revenue | 42,448.004,000.002,563.00376.02245.0050.0025.0025.008.46 |
| Interest Earned | 6,238.78 |
| **TOTAL** | **$55,979.26** |

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024 RECEIPTS AS READ. MOTION CARRIED**

**3. CITIZENS/GUESTS**: None

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

4.1 Salt/Sand Dome Roof Replacement – work will be completed soon.

4.2 Fire Hall Flood Repairs & Insurance Claim - ad was published in the shopper. LMCIT will need breakdown of hours and materials needed for each item of replacement to be included in the quote. Only written quote received was from Jerrud Paul. Skinner was present at the meeting and asked for new jackets as a part of their uniforms and if there was any money in the budget.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA ACCEPTING THE QUOTE FROM JERRUD PAUL IN THE AMOUNT OF $22,100.70 RECEIVED AND FORWARD TO THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES INSURANCE TRUST. MOTION CARRIED**

 **IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA FOR OFFICE TO NOTIFY THE BOARD OF THE ESTIMATED COST OF JACKETS AND GET VERBAL APPROVAL FROM BOARD MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY IF THERE IS MONEY LEFT IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED**

4.3 Joint Water Project - Infrastructure is hooked up but testing and sampling still needs to be completed. Letters will be mailed to each household from Bolton & Menk with the required application for connection and fee information in the next week. Early November is the target date for the system to be turned on for residents to begin using the new water source. New pavement will be a part of fixing things from construction once all of the work is completed in the cul-de-sacs. Administrative team will be meeting with Hoyt Lakes representatives soon regarding them joining the system.

4.4 LLCC Deed/Legal update –No updates. Kearney will follow-up with Lewicki.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.5 Septic System Design & Upgrade Project – Thanks to Niemi and the Public Works Department for their work on this Project. All work is complete. Just waiting for final inspection notice to be received by St. Louis County.

4.6 LLCC Facility needs –Boiler replacement is still pending.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.7 2023 Curve Realignments – No new updates.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.8 Road 51 – Logging Project with DNR – clearcut of parcel pending to this winter

 **IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY SKELTON TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.9 FEMA 2023 Spring Road Damage Updates – Further mitigation pending; administrative costs of $3,977.62 submitted and won’t be paid until project is closed out.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.10 Housing – Pineville lots withheld – sale by auction in 2025 pending- will be removed from agenda and put back on when auction comes up;

4.11 June 18th Emergency – FEMA project updates – damage documentation is being tracked and administration continues to meet with FEMA for reimbursements.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.12 Central Pension Fund Employee Contributions – Not resolved yet. Town & Union attorneys are discussing things.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.13 Water/wastewater Inventory & Compliance with MDH – Pending

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.14 Storage Building for Fire Hall & Public Works – East side of lot towards PW would be a good location. 25 feet x 85 feet with space for lockers and decontamination area, along with fixing the roof and a second level for storage would be ideal. Curt Anttila will meet with Niemi next week. Also included in the grant would be emergency power for both Fire Hall and Public Works buildings. Scenic Acres will be selling their old phase 3 generator which is like new if the Township is interested.

 **IT IS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

5.1 U of M request to do research on parcels in Township through 2027 – More information is needed by the Board members to make an informed decision regarding this request.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

5.2 Oxygen Credit Idea – submitted by Mark Howard – invite to a future Board meeting to research further

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

5.3 2025 St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program Notice – Curt Anttila will check into this program and report back to the Board.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

5.4 Tom Parker Citizen Concern Form Submittal – Speed Limit Sign in Pineville; Concern form submitted by Parker regarding fast traffic in Pineville. Also, Office Staff would like to know how the Board would like to be informed of these forms when they are submitted to the Office. The Board would like each form to be placed on the agenda for review and then placed on file along with documentation on the bottom of each form as to the action taken.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO LOOK AND ADD SIGNS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND RESPOND TO TOM PARKER THIS HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF. MOTION CARRIED**

5.5 FY26 Congressional Directed Spending Window for Application – Projects? Apply? Add to water project agenda.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

5.6 Resolution 2024-023 Election Judges for General Election

**WHEREAS,** a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and Minnesota Statutes 204B.21 allows the Town of White to appoint election judges for voting precincts which the Town administers; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of White has two (2) voting precincts; and the City of Aurora has one (1) precinct which the Town administers; and

**WHEREAS,** MN Statute 204B.19, Subd. 2, requires that an election judge (1) can read, write, and speak the English language, (2) is not the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct or any candidate of the election, (3) is not domiciled, either permanently or temporarily with any candidate at the election, or (4) is not a candidate in the election.

**WHEREAS,** the base number of required election judges for an election in Minnesota under Minnesota Statutes 204B.22 has been determined to be a minimum of 4 election judges for each precinct with more than 500 registered voters; and

**WHEREAS,** the clerk recommends the appointment of a minimum of 18 election judges due to the anticipated voter turnout, election judge availability, and necessity of maintaining party balance at all times during the day; and

**WHEREAS,** the following individuals have agreed to serve as election judges and have met the qualifications established by the State of Minnesota, or will be receiving training and will be eligible to serve after meeting the qualifications established by the State of Minnesota.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLOVED,** that the Town of White hereby appoints the following persons identified to serve as election judges as needed, for the November 5, 2024 General Election for both the City of Aurora and the Town of White precincts with the understanding that amendments may be necessary to the appointments in order to fill vacancies and meet party balance requirements.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Town of White approves payment of an hourly wage of $16.00 per hour for Election Judges during election judge training and time served on Election Day.

Kim Zinski Linda Cazin Christina Rolando Heather Salmi

Lindsey Luke Jessica Forsline Glenda Johnson Jeri Hietala

Kathryn Nisula Carole Lauseng Barbara Harthan Stephanie Stecker

Michele Lammi Betty Stende Amanda Gross Mary Ann Helander

Deb Schermann Tammy Larson-Boyles

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Town of White Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to add additional election judges as needed and allowed by Minnesota Statutes 204B.21.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of White this 3rd day of October, 2024.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY SKELTON APPROVING RESOLUTION 2024-023 ELECTION JUDGES FOR GENERAL ELECTION. MOTION CARRIED**

5.7 Resolution 2024-024 – Absentee Ballot Board for General Election

**WHEREAS,** the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and

**WHEREAS,** MN Statute 204B.19 to 204B.22, requires an absentee ballot board be appointed by the governing body of the municipality and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of White has two (2) voting Precincts; and the City of Aurora has one (1) precinct in which the Town administers elections for; and

**WHEREAS,** the following individuals have agreed to serve as the absentee ballot board and have met the qualifications established by the State of Minnesota and will process returned regular absentee ballots.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of White hereby appoints the following persons identified to serve as the absentee ballot board, for the 2024 General Election with the understanding that amendments may be necessary to the appointments in order to fill vacancies.

Jodi Knaus Amanda Gross Jess Forsline Lindsey Luke Stephanie Stecker Kim Zinski

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of White this 3rd day of October, 2024.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING RESOLUTION 2024-024 BALLOT BOARD FOR GENERAL ELECTION. MOTION CARRIED**

5.8 Annual Meeting Follow-up Discussion - Skelton met with Public Works employees and will meet with Office Staff in the future; the Board hopes to not layoff any employees but a ten percent budget cut is a major setback. Employees are the biggest asset of the Township. The Board would like to see more attendance at the Annual Meetings and the Township needs to promote them more with flyers or something in addition to the website and newspaper. Steve Nelson appreciates the work we all do and feels a more formal procedure for citizens to have the ability to talk would be appropriate with a time limit or a moderator controlling the meeting. At this last meeting, there was a certain group of people who were not allowing others to speak, shouting, etc. The Board reviewed the letter and garbage survey to be mailed out to households but more conversation and review is needed.

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO HAVE A MORE FORMAL SPEAKING PLATFORM AT THE ANNUAL MEETINGS INCLUDING THE SPEAKER IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES FIRST AND A TIME LIMIT SET FOR EACH SPEAKER AT THE ANNUAL MEETINGS. MOTION CARRIED**

 **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO SET A SCHEDULE MEETING FOR OCTOBER 9, 2024 AT 5:00 P.M. TO REVIEW THE 2025 BUDGET, THE GARBAGE SURVEY AND LETTER TO BE SENT TO RESIDENTS FOR BUDGET CUT IDEAS. MOTION CARRIED**

**6. REPORTS:**

Clerk’s Report

 1. Preliminary budget detail is being worked on for 2025 budget since the levy cut of 10%; comparisons of 2024 to 2025 levy reports sent to St. Louis County are attached. Board input is needed so staff can provide options for cuts and determining the final budget reports in the coming months. Should we schedule a special meeting?

2. The East Range Mental Health Day for staff originally planned for Monday, October 1, 2024 was postponed. The city of Aurora is now looking at next Spring for this event.

3. Absentee Voting for the General Election began Friday, September 20, 2024 and it has been busy! Office will be open Saturday, October 26, Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3rd from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. for voting.

4. Clark, Amanda, and I attended the MN Association of Cemeteries Annual Conference last month. This conference covers a lot and it is so beneficial to attend: New this year: fundraising opportunity option where wreaths can be purchased online by families for graves – Town sets price with marginal profit; wreaths are mailed directly to owner to place at cemetery or keep at home; vendor creates website and does it all; cremation is the future – 2025 cremation rate in US will be 64.1% according to CANA and increase to 78.4% in 2026. CANA estimates between 60% and 80% of cremated remains are not interred in a cemetery. “Recouping” unused grave space known as revesting is an option. The Town needs to check into the LMCIT policy and see how the cemetery is covered under our property coverage, normally an endorsement is needed for it to be covered. Cemetery Rules and Regulations should have removal of monument will be done by Town if it is a safety concern (leaning, falling, crumbling) even though the Town does not own the monument (it is considered private property). New laws regarding natural/green burials are in effect and this is all new territory.

5. The Township hosted at Loon Lake Community Center the monthly Regional Safety Meeting & Training last month. Attendance was great and the topic was slips, trips, and falls, back safety, and ergonomics. Next month’s training will be held in Mt. Iron and will cover Emergency Action Plans and Fire Extinguisher Use

6. Wilson McShane (Local 49 Benefit Provider) will be conducting an audit of all records in the Town Office on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

 On-going Projects & Pending Items not discussed:

* Franchise Fees for Power & Utilities (fiber)
* Road Vacation Filings for the Road Realignments in 2023

  **IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO FILE THE CLERK’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED**

Foreman – prep for winter; ditching; Road 54 detour complaints – called St. Louis County for dust control/chloride/water as the detour will last two weeks;

Supervisors:

Anttila - Everything is good.

Kippley – Brought forward a concern about the Public Works garage roof as it appears to be flaking and he is wondering if it is hazardous. Curt Anttila will address.

**7. TRAINING REQUESTS & MEETING NOTICES**: None

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 5:00 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; Board of Canvass: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 4:45 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; Special Meeting: October 9, 2024 5:00 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; ERJPB Meeting: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 9:00 AM @ City/Town Government Center;

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 6:33 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**

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**Jodi Knaus, Clerk Jon Skelton, Chairman**