



LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

ANOKA COUNTY

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Special Town Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

Board Members Present: Supervisors Mike Parker, Jonn Olson, Bob Millerbernd, Carol Searing, and Andy Luedtke; Treasurer Alyssa Dehn; Clerk Pam Olson

Board Members Absent: none

Others Present: ~ 130 members of the public (sign in sheet not accurate due to last minute move to senior center)

Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda: Supervisor Parker called the Special Linwood Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Linwood Senior Center at 22817 Typo Creek Drive NE, Stacy, on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and the clerk performed the roll call.

Purpose: Supervisor Parker announced that the purpose of the meeting is to consider, discuss and possibly take action upon a resolution rescinding authorization for an employment contract with interested officer Andrew Luedtke. The meeting was called by Human Resources Supervisors Bob Millerbernd and Carol Searing.

Attorney comments: Attorney Jason Hill explained that the reason for the meeting was to readdress a resolution that was adopted by the Board in 2023. MN Statutes are very clear in conflict of interest and employment contracts. It's a very serious thing and there are criminal consequences that may result. There is a reason why the contract requires a unanimous vote of the Board. The HR group wanted to address concerns about roles – the role as a town board supervisor and the role as a town employee. The attorney explained that MN Statute doesn't allow city council members or mayors to also be employed by the city. Townships are allowed to contract with employees who are also Town Board supervisors, but only by a unanimous vote and with the necessary reporting documentation. Auditors review contracts to be sure that all reporting procedures have been adhered to and that there are no conflicts of interest, on top of any appearance of conflicts. Attorney Hill outlined three options for the Board to consider. The attorney recommended a form of training for all Board members and staff to fully understand the importance of maintaining their role as a supervisor as well as the role of employees. Linwood Township is unique because it operates more like a city in that it has staff, a fire department, and its own zoning code. Most townships don't. The attorney believed that much of the issue was a misunderstanding and that training would help the Board.

The second option was to review the new resolution which would require Town Board approval by a unanimous vote. The third option was to do nothing and let the existing resolution remain.

Supervisor Luedtke stated that in light of what the attorney presented, he implored that Board get more educated on the process and suggested that the training could be handled as a workshop with no actions taken, but an opportunity for open discussions among the Town Board and staff.

Supervisor Searing moved to leave this open and go for training and see how it goes. The motion died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Luedtke made the motion that this Board moves forward with some training; the subject matter leading into workshops and educational matter, whatever we can do to get us educated for the ever-changing statutes that affect Minnesota townships. Supervisor Olson seconded. Supervisor Olson offered an amendment to include staff in the training, so everyone is equally educated. Supervisor Luedtke accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Chairman Parker allowed questions from the audience.

Adjournment: Supervisor Olson moved to adjourn; Supervisor Millerbernd seconded. All voted in favor; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Approved on March 26, 2024

Attested:

Michael Parker, Chairman

Pamela Olson, Clerk