

Clear Lake Twp. discusses options for town hall building

By Penny Leuthard,
Staff Writer

During their meeting Tuesday night, the Clear Lake Twp. Board again discussed what should be done with the township hall building, especially with the recent damage that had occurred.

Supervisor Bud Stimmler explained the water damage that was caused by the drainage problem on the east side of the building, and said siding to match what had torn off the north side during a wind storm had been found.

Treasurer Paul Goenner informed the board they had received an insurance check for \$2,313 for the siding. Insurance doesn't cover the water damage.

A discussion was held on whether to replace the entire wall or patch the damaged area. Because of the building's uncertain future, it was decided patching the damaged area, around 72 sq. feet, would be the best route to take.

Clear Lake Twp. Hall has been listed with a realtor since last summer. Although there has been some interest, the building has yet to be sold.

"We have to decide if we're going to continue putting money into the building," said Chairman Gary Gray. "We could look at an online or live auction and take what we can get for it."

Tearing the building down and selling its footprint was also discussed.

The board agreed not to put any more money into township hall, and will start investigating legal issues that may come with demolition.

Road Report

Twp. Engineer Terrence Vander Eyk informed the board MnDOT's contractor had fixed the drainage problem on the east side of the township hall, which had been caused by reconstruction on Hwy.



CLEAR LAKE TWP. Treasurer Paul Goenner discusses township hall with the board during their meeting Tuesday night. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

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That piece of sidewalk, which belongs to the city, is still incorrect however, and will accumulate water during freeze/thaw cycles. Gray will attend the next city council meeting to discuss fixing the problem.

Eyk and Stimmler met with MnDOT concerning 70th Ave, which is deteriorating. The edges will be milled and replaced with bituminous within the next couple weeks.

Road Complaint

Gray informed the board he had received two calls from a resident complaining that 80th Ave. hadn't been tarred yet and wasn't being maintained.

"He called us liars and accused us of favoritism and abandoning the road," he said.

The township built up 80th Ave. last year but had no intention of tarring it at that time.

"We improved it and it needed it," said Gray. "The only discussion that came up was that it would be ready at a later date if we determined it should be blacktopped. It could happen but it's not at the top of the list. It's a matter of priorities."

The resident also com-

plained the road was the only remaining township road without asphalt, which isn't the case.

Gray advised the resident to attend a township meeting if he wanted to further discuss the issue.

Tree Request

Noel and Gayle Lewandowski approached the board to inquire whether the township would be willing to split the cost of removing a dying tree alongside the road on their property that had been hit by a snowplow blade several years ago.

Gray explained there is only 14 feet of right-of-way along the road, which doesn't give the plow much room to push the snow, so he wasn't surprised the tree was hit.

Noel Lewandowski told the board they would cut and split the wood, they just needed someone to take it down. He had obtained a quote to do so for \$425.

The board agreed to take responsibility for cutting the tree down and leaving the rest for the Lewandowskis to dispose of.

Other Business

Stimmler notified the board the official launch of the Clear Lake area history book will be taking place on Sat., Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Clear Lake City Hall. Author Michael Keigan will be giving presentations and signing copies.

A motion carried for the 2019 levy to be kept at \$460,000, the same as 2018.

The fall road tour was set for Sept. 12 at 5 p.m.

The sheriff reported 94 incidents for July, including 39 traffic violations, a fish house stolen from a residence, eight medical, one property damage accident and one littering complaint.

The next Clear Lake Twp. meeting will be Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.