

Rochester Township

Board Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Jamie Neisen.

Members present - Jeff Orth, Matthew Kitzmann, Jamie Neisen and Randy Staver

Guests – Arthur Handelman, Brian Zmolek

Vacant Supervisor Position (Douglas Butler) – Jamie Neisen introduced the topic and stated that the purpose of the discussion today was to have a conversation with two individuals seeking to fill the vacant position previously held by Douglas Butler. Doug has moved out of the township and is therefore no longer able to fill the supervisor role.

Mr. Zmolek was asked questions such as what he thinks the township is doing well, challenges facing the township in the future, availability to fulfill the duties of supervisor and skills he would bring to the position.

Mr. Zmolek responded that he thinks people in the township want to know they are being heard. They may not like a final decision but want to know they have had a chance to speak and also understand the rationale for a given decision. He thinks the township does a good job reaching out to township residents and professionals. He believes one challenge facing the township is that developers, by nature, want to develop and will sometimes push the envelope. It is important that the township board fully vet projects and requests.

Mr. Zmolek stated that he works at Mayo Clinic and his position allows him flexibility to serve as a township supervisor and that his Mayo supervisor is supportive. In fact, his Mayo supervisor serves on the Pine Island school board. Mr. Zmolek said that his skills include managing people, experience working with process / work flow and working with regulatory agencies. He believes in quality, good communication and accepting responsibility.

Mr. Handelman was asked similar questions about what the township is doing well, challenges and his skillset.

Mr. Handelman felt that the board could perhaps push back more and stand up for township residents on projects and requests. He further stated that it is important for the board to assess economic impact, the total cost to the township, and who is responsible for costs. He said that solutions might not be obvious – need to look for underlying issues. He is also concerned, as the county is as well, about any unfunded mandates.

Mr. Handelman is an attorney by profession and stated he has skills in mediation and dispute resolution.

Discussion ensued between the board and both candidates. It was noted that both individuals are excellent and could fill the supervisor role. At the conclusion of the discussion a roll call

vote was taken. All four members voted to select Brian Zmolek. After the vote, Mr. Zmolek was administered the oath of office by the clerk. It was noted that Mr. Zmolek will fill the position until the spring of 2021 and at that time will need to be formally elected by the township to serve the remainder of Doug Butler's term.

Meeting Adjourned – Jeff Orth moved and Matt Kitzmann seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Staver, Clerk / Treasurer

Jamie Neisen, Chairman