

*Dead Lake Township*  
*PO Box 54*  
*Richville, MN 56576*

Dead Lake Township Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting of Dead Lake Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Chairperson Kirchenwitz.

**Present:** Justin Kirchenwitz, Dave Ellingson, Duane Ard, Dawn Lueders and Tammy Trosdahl

**Absent:** Cheryl Harris

There were two people in the audience. (Sheet attached)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Monthly Meeting Minutes:** Supervisors reviewed the May minutes. A motion was made by Ard and seconded by Kirchenwitz to approve the May 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Trosdahl reported the figures for May 2023 as follows:

General Fund	\$ 35,447.94
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 105,428.67
Township Equipment Fund	\$ 30,000.00
Fire Fund	\$ 4,297.07
Verizon Lease Payment	<u>\$ 4,676.02</u>
Total	\$ 179,849.70

A motion was made by Kirchenwitz to approve the May 2023 Financial Report. A second was made by Ard. Motion passed unanimously. Trosdahl reported that the numbers for May for CTAS agreed with the Bank Statements. Trosdahl reported that a total of \$134,269.88 was received during May 2023.

**Bills for June:** Lueders presented the bills for June 2023 to the Supervisors. After reviewing the bills, a motion was made by Kirchenwitz and seconded by Ard to approve the bills as presented. Kirchenwitz and Ard approved all bills, with Ellingson abstaining on the bills for Lakes Area Truck Repair. Motion passed. Ellingson will sign the paperwork for Conflict of Interest for Lakes Area Truck Repair because he is an employee, and the paperwork will be on file with the Clerk.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Trees on 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue:** Marlyn Bruns was at the meeting regarding the letter Dead Lake Township sent out about the Supervisors intention to remove two trees in the road right of way across from his house at 39299 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and his neighbor, Tom Wenner at 39281 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Bruns asked what the criteria was for choosing the trees across from his residence. Kirchenwitz stated that the two trees across from the Bruns residence are in the way for the snowplow. The snowplow cannot push the snow sufficiently off the road with the wing. Bruns also suggested that if those two trees are causing a hazard, then the Supervisors should go further down 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue and look at all the trees that are close to the top of the road. Bruns stated that he has counted 18 trees that are within four to six feet off the road. Ellingson stated that there was a resident from that road at a previous meeting that stated those trees were a nuisance with snow removal in the winter. Ard stated that he had previously been on the Township Board and those two trees had been on the list to remove at that time, and he wonders why they haven't been removed before now. Kirchenwitz said he looks at the Township's three operations from the mower, grader, and snowplow. Kirchenwitz has the snowplow driver saying he can't put the wing out to push the snow from the road. He must pick everything up and go around the trees. Bruns asked the Supervisors to reconsider removing those trees as they have been there for many years.

**Trees on 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue (cont.):** Kirchenwitz stated that the Supervisors will drive 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue and look at the rest of the trees down 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Kirchenwitz stated the Board will discuss the trees on 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the next meeting. Kirchenwitz stated that the tree across from Wenner's property at 39281 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be removed this fall since he did not respond within the 14 days to the letter he received. Kirchenwitz told Bruns that a decision will be made at the July Town Board meeting. A letter of findings will be sent out to Bruns after that meeting to inform him of the decision. The Township Board will then wait for 60 days. Kirchenwitz thanked Bruns for coming to the meeting and stating his concerns.

**Southview Lane:** Kirchenwitz stated that all the paperwork is done and complete. Lueders went to Gary Schattschneider from Edna Township, and Jack Werner from Rush Lake Township, to get initialed anything that was handwritten on the agreement and what was changed by Edna Township at their May meeting. All parties needed to initial each change to show approval. Lueders received the paperwork back from the County today, so everything is done. Lueders will get copies emailed to the other two Townships. Kirchenwitz added Southview Lane to the list for the mower.

**Chloride application:** The chloride is done and taken care of. Kirchenwitz was very happy with how everything went. Ard was concerned about some of the intersections being missed on the corners. Ard feels Fergus Power Pump maybe shut the pump off before they got to the other roads. The rest of the roads he feels are good.

**Trees on 360<sup>th</sup> Street:** Ard stated that Wells Excavating is done with the trees.

**Beaver leveler on Beaver Dam Road:** The beaver leveler has been installed and Barry Excavating should be sending a bill.

**Deputy Treasurer:** Kirchenwitz spoke with Cheryl Harris and when a Deputy is put in place, the person that holds that office chooses their Deputy. Harris didn't say much at the June meeting about Tammy Trosdahl being the Deputy Treasurer. Harris wanted it on the record that she does approve of Trosdahl as her Deputy and feels things will work out well.

**Verizon:** Verizon has like a broker or negotiator that Verizon hires to go around and get their contract agreement amounts lowered. Dead Lake Township has a 30-year contract with Verizon. The first 10 years will be done in December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Verizon has the option to extend the contract for a 3% increase every year for the next 20 years. The person from Verizon has reached out to Harris several times and recently called Kirchenwitz. Kennedy & Graven, the law firm representing us told Kirchenwitz that Verizon will now be more aggressive because Verizon wants to pay less than what is being paid to Dead Lake Township now. The attorney with Kennedy & Graven said that Verizon owns the cell tower, which means it will cost more than they want to spend to take the cell tower down and move it to another location. Kennedy & Graven said Verizon will probably not offer another contract; they will probably choose to do the 3% increase each year. The Kennedy & Graven attorney said that Verizon could very well reach out to all the Board members with threats to remove the tower. Kennedy & Graven said to do nothing.

**Website:** The website will be up and going by Tuesday or Wednesday this week. People can access previous approved minutes and forms such as the approach application form. The website address is [www.deadlaketownship.org](http://www.deadlaketownship.org).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Road Tour:** Supervisors discussed the road tour (see attached sheet)

**Grader Teeth:** The Supervisors looked at the two types of grader teeth available. One spins and the other does not. Kirchenwitz got a quote from Kris Engineering for \$3,963 for the cost of all new spinning teeth to replace the worn ones. The quote was for 5/8 inch teeth and the grader needs ¾ inch teeth. Kris Engineering will update the quote to the right size and get it back to Kirchenwitz. Motion was made by Kirchenwitz and seconded by Ard to approve the updated quote from Kris Engineering. Motion carried unanimously.

**378<sup>th</sup> Street:** Kirchenwitz stated that Fergus Power Pump went extra footage and applied chloride that shouldn't have been applied. Fergus Power Pump went back and measured and took the extra footage off the bill.

**Roads and Speeding:** In the letter received from Bruns regarding the trees on 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue, it was stated that cars drive 60 mph on that road. There have been complaints in the past regarding the speed vehicles travel on the township roads. Kirchenwitz stated that there really is no way the Township Board can enforce speeding. Kirchenwitz said the residents could get a slow down sign and put up, or a solar radar gun attached to a sign showing people their speed.

**Ross Approach:** Stephen and Amanda Ross applied and paid the deposit for an approach to be installed on the lot behind 38978 South Marion Drive. Ellingson and Ard both looked where the approach is supposed to be installed and said the approach will need a culvert. Stephen Ross said he will install a culvert.

**Fire Extinguisher Inspection:** Kirchenwitz said he will reach out to the company and get the fire extinguishers inspected.

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife:** Dead Lake Township received a letter informing us that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has secured an option to purchase a Grant of Easement for Wildlife Habitat Protection from Leigh and Shana Barry in Section 22 of Dead Lake Township. The easement will consist of approximately 126 acres.

**Termination of Don Walz and Andrew Smith:** It was motioned by Kirchenwitz and seconded by Ellingson to terminate Smith as of April 30<sup>th</sup> and to terminate Don Walz as of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

**Special Meeting for Levy:** If a special meeting is needed to increase the Levy, Kirchenwitz and Harris feel the meeting could be held before the August meeting. Kirchenwitz stated the Levy can be tabled until July. By the July meeting most of the major bills should be turned in and the Board should have a better idea if there is a need to increase the Levy and by how much.

**State Demographic Report:** This year the report estimates the population is at 548 with 243 households. Last year the population was 545.

**Yellow Snowplow Truck:** Kirchenwitz brought up that last winter the yellow truck springs were worn out and that is why there was so much bouncing on the roads when it was used. Ellingson said he asked and was told if you tear it apart to replace the plates you may as well have the springs replaced. The labor is already there. The springs now get weak and stretch when they are worn out and don't break like the older models did. Ellingson will get a quote on replacing the plates and springs for the July meeting.

**Wear Cups on the Grader:** Ard brought up that the wear cups on the grader need replacement. Ellingson said he checked, and the parts are not expensive. Kirchenwitz made the motion to replace the wear cups on the grader and Ard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Grading on Dead Lake Road:** Mike Harris brought up that Dead Lake Road is starting to get some washboards in a couple of areas on the road. Being Dead Lake Road is a road that has had chloride applied, the Supervisors will keep checking the road. If the washboards get too rough the Supervisors will have Randy touch the areas up with the grader.

**Calendar Items:** There weren't any this month.

**Housekeeping Items:**

There were housekeeping items laid out for the Supervisors to look at if they wanted.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on July 10, 2023, at the Dead Lake Township Hall.

Having no further Township business to conduct, Kirchenwitz motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ard seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Dawn Lueders, Clerk

Approved:

  
Justin Kirchenwitz, Chairperson

## 2023 Dead Lake Township Road Tour

### June Notes

**375<sup>th</sup> Ave:** Add culvert by Baartson's to move water off the road. Kirchenwitz met with Ryan Fithen, from Mr. D's Excavating about getting a culvert in on the south side of the driveway. A culvert will help with most of the water but not all of it. The cost would be \$975.00 to install the culvert. Motion made by Ard and seconded by Ellingson to get the culvert put in. Motion carried unanimously. Complete.

**Govern Rd:** Asphalt patch. See notes for 360<sup>th</sup> Street below. Kirchenwitz marked the area on Govern, took a picture, and sent it to Hendershot at Performance Paving for an estimate.

**360<sup>th</sup> St:** Asphalt patches. Kirchenwitz got a quote from Performance Paving to repair the areas needing patches. Dan Hendershot from Performance Paving gave a quote for four areas on 360<sup>th</sup> but there wasn't one for Govern Road. Kirchenwitz will reach out to Hendershot for clarification on his quote and revisit both 360<sup>th</sup> St. and Govern Road needs next month for patching. There was also discussion on options available since there is constant patching being done and the cost involved. Kirchenwitz stated that we would likely not be able to get anyone out to do any paving before winter because everyone has already ordered their asphalt and has all their jobs lined up. Kirchenwitz stated that the Supervisors have some options available. The Supervisors could choose to leave the road as is. Kirchenwitz said the job Mr. D's Excavating did with the one area looks good. Mr. D's Excavating could dig out the other problem areas and do the same thing with the gravel as with the first area. Patching the areas with asphalt would be another option. The Supervisors could always leave the areas as they currently are until next year. Kirchenwitz said no decision needs to be made at this meeting. The Supervisors can think about what option they would think is best and revisit this at the next meeting.

**375<sup>th</sup> St, 390<sup>th</sup> Ave, 385<sup>th</sup> St:** Gravel from 14 to just west of the of 385<sup>th</sup> Ave. It was motioned by Kirchenwitz and seconded by Ard to apply gravel to these roads. Motion carried unanimously. Complete.

**385<sup>th</sup> Ave:** 2 trees on the lakeside to be removed, owners need to be contacted. Gravel 385<sup>th</sup>. Being the trees are so close to the road, they are a hazard for the snowplow and grader. It was noted that when snow plowing, the road gets very narrow through this section and this past winter was only wide enough for one vehicle. There was a motion made by Ard and seconded by Ellingson to send a letter to the landowners letting them know the Township's intent to remove the trees. The landowners can request a hearing within 14 days of the letter date. The motion carried unanimously. It was decided to wait until next year, before the chloride is applied, to apply gravel to 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Marlyn Bruns was at the meeting regarding the letter Dead Lake Township sent out about the Supervisors intention to remove the two trees. Bruns asked the Supervisors to reconsider removing those trees as they have been there for many years. Bruns also suggested that if those two trees are causing a hazard, then the Supervisors should go further down 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue and look at all the trees that are close to the top of the road. Bruns stated that he drove down 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue and has counted 18 trees that are within four to six feet off the road. Kirchenwitz stated that the Supervisors will drive 385<sup>th</sup> Avenue and look over the other trees that Bruns brought up. Kirchenwitz told Bruns that a decision will be made at the next meeting. Kirchenwitz stated the tree across from Wenner's property will be removed this fall.

**397<sup>th</sup> St:** Sign to be put back up, found sandbags and rebar blocking a culvert on road. We removed them and will keep an eye on it to see if the owner puts it back. Kirchenwitz noted that the sign has been put back up. Kirchenwitz also stated that the rebar and sandbags were back in the culvert. Kirchenwitz removed the rebar and sandbags again. Lueders was asked to send a letter to the landowners asking them to remove the items if the items belong to them. Complete.

**Southview Lane:** Supervisors went down this road to check the road out as requested by residents. The resident's request is to have the 3 bordering townships take the road into a township road. Other than a couple of branches the road is in pretty good shape. Edna Township, who was also on their road tour, stopped and Jeff Guck from Rush Lake Township was there as well. While many other things would need to be completed it appears the 3 townships would work together to get this road taken care of. Refer to regular meeting minutes. The hearing is set for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am to meet with Edna and Rush Lake Township to decide if Southview Lane will be accepted as a Township Road. Complete.

**Beaver Dam Road:** There is a low spot North of Eric Hanson's that needs gravel. Motion by Kirchenwitz and seconded by Ard to add gravel to this area of Beaver Dam Road. Motion carried unanimously. Complete.

**Notes:** There were several trees and limbs down from the winter especially from the last heavy snow we got; tree trimmer will take care of these. Supervisors cleaned up 2 areas with excessive damage in yards from winter plowing. Al Sazama has some of the debris cleaned up and will finish the rest of the areas.

Legend:

May

June

Date Range : 7/1/2023 To 7/31/2023

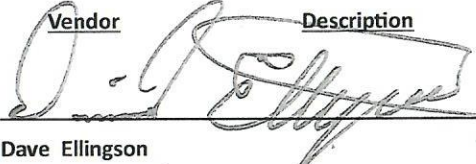
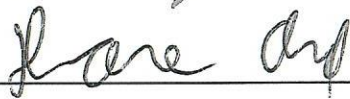
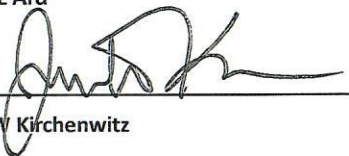
<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
07/05/2023	United Community Bank	Loan Payment for July 2023	9532	\$1,000.00			
					285-41501-612-36	Financial Administration	\$173.25
					285-41501-602-36	Financial Administration	\$826.75
07/10/2023	Arvig Comunications	Internet monthly fee	9533	\$92.17			
					100-49141-325-36	General Gov't Building and Plant Parking Lots	\$92.17
07/10/2023	Barry Excavating Inc	Pick up beaver leveler and install on Beaver Dam Road	9534	\$240.00			
					201-43122-458-700	Unpaved Streets	\$240.00
07/10/2023	MATIT	Commercial Package/Inland Marine/Ins Coverage 7/1/2023-6/30/2024	9535	\$4,258.00			
					100-49242-162-	Insurance: Commerical Package/Officer Bond	\$4,258.00
07/10/2023	Lakes Area Truck Repair Inc	Repari A/C; replace gasket, oil, fule 2 air and 2 cab filters on grader	9536	\$995.17			
					201-43126-221-31	Road and Bridge Equipment	\$995.17
07/10/2023	Kris Engineering, Inc	NUts/bolts; freight; 4 boards; 130 teeth; 4 face plates for grader	9537	\$4,048.92			
					201-43126-221-31	Road and Bridge Equipment	\$4,048.92
07/10/2023	Lake Region Electric Coop	Electric Bill - June 2023	9538	\$32.99			
					100-41940-381-49	General Government Buildings and Plant	\$32.99
07/10/2023	Dave Ellingson	Mileage Reimbursement 35 miles	9539	\$22.93			
					201-41110-331-34	Council/Town Board	\$22.93
07/10/2023	Duane Ard	Mileage Reimb 40 miles	9540	\$26.20			
					201-41110-331-34	Council/Town Board	\$26.20

Date Range : 7/1/2023 To 7/31/2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
07/10/2023	Tammy Trosdahl	Mileage Reimbursement 24 Miles	9541	\$15.72	100-41510-331-34	Treasurer	\$15.72
07/10/2023	Dawn Lueders	100 Miles - reimbursement	9542	\$65.50	100-41425-331-34	Clerk	\$65.50
07/10/2023	Internal Revenue Service	Federal Withholding 2nd Quarter 2023	9543	\$3,880.51	100-41950-127-	Tax Payments	\$3,880.51
07/10/2023	Minnesota Revenue	State Withholding tax 2nd Quarter 2023	9544	\$531.17	100-41950-127-	Tax Payments	\$531.17
07/10/2023	PERA	Withholding for PERA July 2023	9545	\$302.06	100-41950-121- 100-41950-173-	Tax Payments Tax Payments	\$161.82 \$140.24
07/10/2023	Sazama Road Maintenance, LLC	Remove/install new teeth on Grader; Trim tree with bucket truck on Cozy Cove Road	9546	\$642.50	201-43126-404-31 201-43122-447-701	Road and Bridge Equipment Unpaved Streets	\$560.00 \$82.50
07/10/2023	Ben Wolden Landscaping	Mowing Road Ditches	9547	\$1,330.00	201-43101-408-	Highways, Streets & Roadways	\$1,330.00
07/10/2023	Carr's Tree Service Inc	2023 Ditch spraying in Township	9548	\$3,965.00	201-43101-405-109	Highways, Streets & Roadways	\$3,965.00
<b>Total For Selected Claims</b>				<b>\$21,448.84</b>			<b>\$21,448.84</b>



Date Range : 6/13/2023 To 7/10/2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Claim #</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Detail</u>
						7/10/23	
	Dave Ellingson					Date	
						7/10/23	
	Duane E Ard					Date	
						7/10/23	
	Justin W Kirchenwitz					Date	