

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING MAY 29th, 2024

Present – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Alan Walker and Scott Case.

Also present via Microsoft Teams – Michael Helms Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, MN OSHA Principal Safety Investigator

Call to Order – The special meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Jay Swanson at 1:00 p.m.

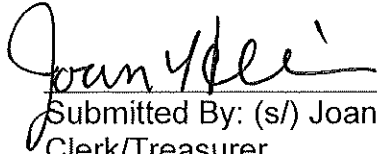
Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion with Michael Helms –

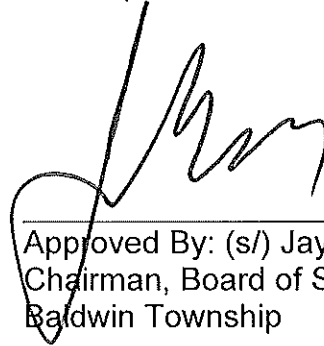
Baldwin Township received an unexpected visit from OSHA on February 22nd, 2024. On April 10th, there was a citation and notification of penalty sent to the Town Hall by certified mail. The citation and notification of penalty/citation describes violations of the Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973. On April 17th, 2024, a notice of contest and service to affected employees was emailed to the MN Department of Labor. Baldwin Town Board is objecting to the severity of the citations and the penalties associated with them. Chairman, Jay Swanson, stated at the meeting that in the 15 years that he has been on the Town Board, there has not been any major injuries. On April 29th, 2024, we submitted a mandatory progress report, which was part of the rights and responsibilities on the original citation and notification of penalty received on April 10th. All citations have been corrected except the hazardous assessment which will be done in June. This was delayed due to waiting on a vendor to complete the assessment. The hazardous assessment includes an AWAIR program, lockout tags, and SDS sheets. Swanson stated that there has been approximately \$4600.00 spent on corrected measures towards these penalties. Swanson also went on to state that he would prefer using money towards compliance instead of towards fines. Helm stated that the \$4600.00 spent by the Township, and any other invoices we receive for getting into compliance, a percentage could possibly be deducted from the overall penalty amount. The Clerk will send all invoices and expenses to Helm. This documentation will be reviewed by Helm's Supervisor along with the information from this meeting. Swanson asked for a full reduction and Helm stated that he cannot do this, only a 50% reduction at this time. Case reviewed the citation and notification of penalty and asked if the "nonserious" violations could be removed and the serious violations changed to nonserious. There are 5 types of violations; nonserious, serious, willful, repeat and failure to abate. If the types of violations are changed, this would also reduce the penalty amount. The Clerk will send all invoices and expenses to Helm. Swanson to get an appointment for the hazard assessment and once this is done, this invoice will also be sent to Helm. Swanson asked Helm if there was anything else he needed from us. Helm went over the

timeframe. Helm explained that this should be resolved 90 days from the date of the issuance on the citation and notification of penalty document. This would be the middle of July; July 10th, 2024.

Adjourn – Case/Walker unanimous to adjourn at 2:38 p.m.



Submitted By: (s/) Joan Heinen
Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

6-17-2024
Date

Attendees: None