



LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

ANOKA COUNTY

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2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Attendance: The following 42 people signed the attendance sheet: Darryl Ballman, Tom Sausen, Jo Dalbol, Adam Kantor, Mike Zacher, Kris Millerbernd, Wally Hupalo, James Garrison, Nate McCarthy, David Johnson, Dan & JoAnne Utecht, Casey & Janelle Waterman, Amanda Anderson, Charles Scriptor, Randy Krebs, Ronald & JoAnn Schally, Juli Summer, Theodore G. Engen, Hank, Senger, Ronald Usher, Tony DeChaine, Bridget Robinson, Brian Robinson, Michael Halliday, Ed Kramer, Karen Kramer, Dan Grubbs, Mark Cawley, Andy Luedtke, Carrie, Luedtke, Jay Gustafson, Sandy Lathrop, Gordon Dalbol, Terry McCarthy, Dan Babineau, Rick Lindblom, Bob Millerbernd, Tim Peterson. There were 22 log-ins to the live-stream of the Annual Meeting.

Call to order and approval of the agenda: Clerk Pam Olson called the 2021 (150th) Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Nominations for moderator: David Johnson was nominated as the moderator. No other nominations were made. David accepted the position of moderator.

Introduction of the Board: Moderator David Johnson introduced the town board supervisors who were present - Chair Mike Halliday, Vice Chair Bob Millerbernd, and Supervisor Tim Peterson. Other town supervisors not present were Carol Searing and Mike Parker.

Approval of the agenda: Ed Kramer moved to approve the agenda as presented; Tim Peterson seconded. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Approval of the annual meeting minutes: Tony DeChaine moved to approve the annual meeting minutes from March 10, 2020 as presented; Tim Peterson seconded. All ayes; the motion carried.

Road Report: As required by state statute, copies of the Road Report were available for the attending public. Clerk Pam Olson explained that in 2020, the Town Board authorized the creation of the new Road & Bridge Capital Fund to plan for major capital improvements such as road paving and resurfacing, as well as replacing road maintenance vehicles and equipment. The major capital expenditures from the Road & Bridge Capital Fund in 2020 were the paving of 233rd Avenue from Typo Creek Drive to Fontana Street and the purchase of a new front-end loader.

Financial report with budget & levy discussion: The clerk reported that the 2020 budget came in approximately \$23,310.00 under budget, excluding expenses paid by the CARES Act and Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP) funding. A chart demonstrated that disbursements from the General Fund consumed one-third of the expenditures; Road & Bridge operating fund plus the Road & Bridge Capital fund expenses made up another third; public safety expenses for fire and

police services were approximately one-fourth, with the remaining expenses being a combination of the Building Department, Senior Center, Parks/Cemetery and Building Capital funds.

Clerk Olson outline several of the major expenditures, in addition to the aforementioned 233rd Avenue paving and front-end loader purchase. The clerk commended all the hard-working election judges who were vital to conducting five elections from November 2019 through November 2020. The unplanned expenses related to holding four elections in 2020, and various technology upgrades at town hall and the fire department, were covered by federal grants for those purposes. Money for communications such as the new electronic sign and an updated website were paid for by revenue generated from cell tower rental and cable TV franchise fees, not property tax levied money. The largest single use of the federal CARES Act grant was used to provide internet service to approximately 250 township households who previously were unserved or underserved, this at a time when so many families were faced with having to work from home and students struggling to learn from home due to the pandemic restrictions.

The breakdown of the 2020 Revenue was shown to be: property taxes-71%; CARES Act/PNP-18%; recycling grant & collection fees-\$5%; and 2% each from state gas tax, cable TV/cell tower, and interest/other.

The annual budgets for several years have remained just over the \$2 million mark. The clerk described the 2022 proposed budget as barebones, coming in about \$80,000 lower than the previous year's budget. The levy proposed by the Town Board was \$1,700,000, the same as the 2021 levy. There were no questions from the audience.

Request for funds: Moderator Johnson explained that in order for the Town Board to spend levy money for certain expenditures, the electors would need to give the authorization. Pam Hoppe moved to authorize \$18,000 be spent for community celebrations and \$2,000 for recognition of service; Ed Kramer seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Moderator Johnson reported that last year, the Alexandra House received \$231 from Linwood Township for their domestic violence support that benefits Linwood residents. Tim Peterson moved to allow the Board to spend \$1,000 for health, social and recreational services. Tony DeChaine seconded the motion, which carried by majority vote.

Generator: Mike Zacher proposed that the levy be increased to purchase a back-up generator for catastrophes that cause the loss of power at the fire station. Mike stated that having a generator would give the residents a place to get water, heat, and charge their cell phones. If the power went out, the fire station wouldn't be able to get their doors open to allow the trucks to respond to medical or fire calls. Mike Zacher made the motion to purchase a generator for across the street not to exceed \$35,000; Rick Lindblom seconded. Discussion from various residents included: Kris Millerbernd who questioned if the generator was for the residents or the fire station. In an emergency, how would the fire department prioritize the residents who would be allowed to use the fire station? It was determined that the generator wouldn't power the town hall, only the fire station. Charles Scriptor suggested that the Town Board should review the situation so that the fire station has a plan for power in the event that electric or natural gas isn't available. David Johnson clarified that the fire station and the town hall do not currently have back-up power. Gordy Dalbol wants less expensive options brought to the Board for contingency planning for the emergency responders. Hearing no further discussion, a vote was called. Eleven residents voted in favor; 23 residents voted against. The motion failed.

2022 levy: Tony DeChaine moved to set the 2022 levy at \$1,700,000.00; Tim Peterson seconded. Discussion from Ed Kramer suggested adding \$25,000, just over a 1% increase, to the levy because the cost of everything is going up. Andy Luedtke recommended increasing the levy, as leaving the levy flat, while its great for taxes, it won't be great when it comes to purchasing items. The amount that's being put into capital won't be enough to scratch the surface of maintaining the buildings and equipment. Hearing no further discussion, a vote was called. 18 residents voted in favor and 20 residents voted against the motion. The motion failed.

Mike Halliday moved to set the levy at \$1,725,000.00; Ron Schally seconded, with the condition that the increased \$25,000 be earmarked to investigate options for safety and emergency items. Mike Halliday did not agree to amend his motion. Ron Schally's rescinded his conditions to seconding the motion. The motion carried with 31 voting in favor and eight against.

Next Annual Meeting: Tim Peterson moved, and Pam Hoppe seconded the motion, to hold the next Annual Meeting on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Linwood Town Hall. All ayes; motion carried.

Comments from residents: It was favorable to many in attendance to hold the pet vaccination clinic at the town hall.

A neighborhood concern was received by email questioning what is being done regarding an abandoned double-wide trailer in Paradise Point. The resident was wondering if there has been any advancement in having it removed or indication of what will happen next. Supervisor Millerbernd addressed the residents stating that the zoning official is working on this ongoing issue.

Andy Luedtke requested that the meeting packets be posted on the website and that the meetings be recorded and archived on the township website.

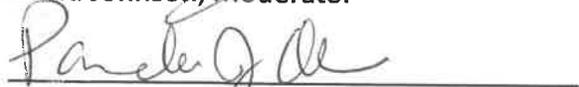
Rick Lindblom asked that a Road Closed sign be posted on 205th Avenue near Lyons Street so that motorists will know that the entrance to Carlos Avery is closed. This would alleviate the damage being caused to his driveway by vehicles turning around in it. A township supervisor will contact the DNR for permission to post the sign.

Moderator Johnson expressed his appreciation to the residents who attended the Annual Meeting, the supervisors and volunteers on committees for all the hours they put in, and the clerk for organizing the meetings and elections. The moderator encouraged people to volunteer for planning, and to participate in, the 150th anniversary celebration planned for this fall.

Motion to adjourn: Ed Kramer moved and Tim Peterson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



David Johnson, Moderator



Pamela Olson, Clerk

Approved on: *March 8, 2022*