



LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

ANOKA COUNTY

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2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Attendance: There were 83 people attending the Annual Meeting in person. The following people signed the attendance sheet: Robert Millerbernd, Mike Halliday, Nathan McCarthy, Ed & Karen Kramer, Laura Sopeth, Becky Frego, Sandy Lathrop, Hank Senger, Ron Usher, Charles Scripter, Donald Bielejeski, Andy & Carrie Luedtke, David Johnson, Char & Steve Olson, Jim Garrison, Michael S. Raml, Theresa & Buck Johnson, Sue Durand, Bob Shelton, Harvey Glowaski, Phil Osterhus, Nancy & Todd Matson, Pam & Keith Hoppe, Laura Kearns & Chuck Miller, Barb & Ted Zempel, Jeff & Carol Ladd, Lloyd Horton, Mike Zacher, Mark Boyum, Andy Dahlstrom, Danny Jackle, Jeff Uthe, Scott Lecy, Ted Engen, Brenda Connors, Michelle Krogstad, Nancy Kramer, Pete & Joy Edlund, Nick Bredemus, Shelby Kramer, Kim Roden, Josh Thomas, Terry McCarthy, Tony DeChaine, Cindy Gruett, Alice Pickering, L. Campbell, L. Keister, Diane Kroll, Kurt & H. Morgenweck, Paul & Sue Anderson, Mark & Laurie Cawley, Debbie Parker, Gordon Dalbol, Gordy Benser, Michael Westerman, Thomas Murphy, Randy Krebs, Penny Foster, Ronald Schally, Cindi & Jim Gervais, Bob & Andrea Opatrny, Wendy Thomas, Joan Del Rio, Andy Schmidt. 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 2022 Annual Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Nominations for moderator: Ed Kramer and David Johnson were nominated for moderator. By hand vote, Ed Kramer was chosen, but he declined to serve. David Johnson 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, Mike Parker, and Supervisor Tim Peterson. Carol Searing was not in attendance.

Approval of the agenda: Mike Parker moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an open discussion; Tim Peterson seconded. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Approval of the annual meeting minutes: Ed Kramer moved to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes as presented; Deb Parker seconded. The motion carried with a majority verbal vote.

Financial report with budget & levy discussion: Treasurer Alyssa Dehn explained the sources of the 2021 revenue and the total disbursements from each of the funds. Treasurer Dehn informed the attendees of the major expenditures, including repairing the fire station roof, purchase of second sets of turnout gear for the firefighters, replacing the heating units and air compressor at the fire station, and thermal imaging cameras. Purchases through grants included an enclosed trailer for the recycling center, and a gear washer and extractor for the fire department.

The proposed annual budget for 2023 shows a marked increase due to additional capital planning for upcoming road and building repairs, as well as vehicle replacements. The levy proposed by the Town Board was \$1,775,000, an increase of \$50,000 over the 2022 levy. The treasurer explained the financial impact of the proposed increase for the various taxable home values.

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 \$20,000 be spent for community celebrations and \$2,000 for recognition of service; Keith Hoppe seconded. Nancy Kramer, chairperson for the Linwood Family Fun Day committee remarked that the cost of everything is going up and requested that the amount allowed for community celebrations be increase by \$5,000 for 2023. Pam Hoppe agreed to the friendly amendment to the motion and Keith Hoppe also agreed to the amendment. The motion carried to authorize up to \$25,000 be spent for community celebrations and up to \$2,000 be spent for recognition of services for retirees, volunteers and/or special service efforts. The vote was 45 in favor and 15 opposed.

Moderator Johnson explained that expenditures by the Town Board of tax levy money for health, social and recreational services, would require prior authorization by the electors. In the past, the Board has donated for services from Alexandra House, the Forest Lake Music Boosters, and the Forest Lake Youth Service Bureau. Ed Kramer moved to allow the Board to spend up to \$1,000 for health social services. Ron Schally seconded the motion, which carried by majority vote.

Generator: Mike Zacher proposed that the levy be increased by \$50,000 to purchase a back-up generator for catastrophes that cause the loss of power at the fire station. Mr. Zacher expressed his concern that there is no contingency plan for the township and the fire department needs to be able to help out the people with diabetes, heart monitors, and other medical conditions. Residents would need water, but their wells wouldn't work. They would need a place to charge their cell phones. Mr. Zacher stated that if the power went out, the fire station wouldn't be able to get their doors open to allow the trucks to respond to emergency calls. Even though there hasn't been a major catastrophe yet, the township should be proactive and make sure the community is protected. Mike Zacher moved to amend the proposed budget to increase it by \$50,000 for a generator. There was a second to the motion. Mr. Zacher shared the rates for renting a mobile generator and that it would come from Shakopee.

Alice (last name indecipherable) was concerned that the EMS personnel couldn't get out. Mark Cawley questioned whether the generator would be gas or diesel and if there would be extra money in the General Fund for the ongoing maintenance of the generator. Mr. Cawley questioned where the generator would be located. Mr. Zacher replied that it would not be a diesel generator and that his preference would be that the generator be at the fire station. Resident Sue Durand stated that she thought that a generator would be a good asset for a small town and questioned if \$50,000 would be enough to cover the cost. Mr. Zacher stated that he estimated the cost would be closer to \$40,000, but was planning for a price increase.

Lamar Campbell recommended that rather than increase the levy, to consider where the budget could be cut and use the resources for things that were needed. Mr. Campbell suggested cutting out the community celebration as a down payment for a generator. Charles Scripser stated that this was brought up at last year's Annual Meeting and that the fire department was going to bring a proposal for a generator to the Town Board.

Joe Dolphy, Jr., a veteran of the Linwood Fire Department, was compelled to inform the residents that in fact the fire station doors can be manually opened and that four to six of the fire trucks have generators onboard. This plan to purchase a generator doesn't include the cost of maintenance and would need more long-term figures before it could be considered for approval. While Mr. Dolphy supports the work of the fire department, a generator is not vital as there are other options. Mr. Dolphy questioned whether it would be more important to have a generator at the town hall or at the fire station in the event of an emergency. FEMA would come in for a major catastrophe.

2023 levy: Moderator Johnson defined that the original proposed levy was \$1,775,000, and with an increase of an additional \$50,000 for a generator, the levy would be \$1,825,000. The moderator called for a show of hands on the topic. There were three people in favor of the increase and the majority of the voters opposed the motion. The motion failed.

Mike Halliday moved to set the 2023 levy as presented, at \$1,775,000. Ted Engen seconded the motion. The motion carried with 15 residents voting against.

Next Annual Meeting: Mike Parker moved, and Ed Kramer seconded the motion, to hold the next Annual Meeting on March 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Linwood Town Hall. The motion carried with a majority voting in favor and one person voting against.

Moderator Johnson expressed his appreciation to the residents who attended the Annual Meeting, and to the staff and volunteers on committees for all the hours they put in.

Comments from residents: Floyd Horton stated that he supports the fire department and was concerned that the township doesn't have an emergency plan. The clerk explained that the township does have a plan coordinated with Anoka County's emergency response plan. Evidence of this coordination was apparent during the pandemic, as necessary supplies were provided by the county. The emergency plan is not on the website but more information can be attained in the township office.

Cindy Gruett informed the residents that there is a history book for sale, with the stories of Linwood from the 1800s. The memorial quilt in the senior center was created by 120 different residents and it's amazing what the community has done in the last 150 years. Residents have started a history group and would like to get more people involved. Residents were welcomed to join and share their stories.

Motion to adjourn: Mike Parker moved, and Keith Hoppe seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with a majority of the residents voting aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

David Johnson, Moderator

Pamela Olson, Clerk

Approved on: March 14, 2023