



**LINWOOD TOWNSHIP**  
ANOKA COUNTY  
22817 Typo Creek Drive N.E.  
Stacy, Minnesota 55079  
(651) 462-2812 • Fax (651) 462-0500  
E-Mail: [info@linwoodtownship.org](mailto:info@linwoodtownship.org)  
Website: [www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org)

## **2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**Attendance:** Based on the meeting sign-in sheets, the following 92 people were in attendance : Robert Millerbernd, Tom Searing, Carol Searing, Sandy Lathrop, Mike Halliday, Darryl Ballman, Tony DeChaine, Cathy Hereau, Donna & Dwayne Kelley, Emily & Jon Moga, Kristy & Marty Mann, L. Campbell, Kris Millerbernd, Craig Rylander, Harvey & Merrie Glowaski, Carroll Broadbent, Carrie Luedtke, Dan Spiczka, Jay Melton, Dan Lillemo, Karen Kramer, Kent & Sue Gilbrandson, Jim Garrison, Nate McCarthy, Vince Klosner, Brianna McClaskie, Collin & Hannah Carpenter, Laura & Joe Hermann, Phil & Mary Osterhus, Craig Cold, Cassandra Baklund, Chris Konold, Diana Heineman, Paul Heineman, Mark Boyum, Jim Windingstad, Sandy Lee, Jim Robinson, Chad Longmeier, P. Quinlan, L. Sopeth, Dave & Byrdie Walton, Ron Schally, Roni Carpenter, Chad Carpenter, Judy Hanna, David Johnson, Jeff Gerdesmeier, Sim Ngiratregd, Mary Dylkowski, Charles Scriptor, Christina Smentek, Hank Senger, Tim Smentek, Pam Hoppe, Tom Sausen, Jon Moga, Warren & Alice Christy, Mitchell Marchet, Karen Skepper, Steve Dunbar, Steve Heitman, Terry McCarthy, Maynard Hoffman, JoAnne Utecht, Dan Utecht, Samantha Gaspers, Susie Saxowsky, Larry Hillyard, Brian & Crystal Meier, Barb Zempel, Ted Zempel, Mary Welty, Izabela Pokora, Matthew Pokora, Kirk Dahlberg, John Mattila, Theodore Engen, Lt. Dan Douglas, Deputy Nick Duren, Chief Deputy Halweg, Tim Peterson, Ed Kramer.

**Call to order and approval of the agenda:** Clerk Pam Olson called the 2020 (149<sup>th</sup>) Annual Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Nominations for moderator:** Nominations for Jim Garrison, Hank Senger, Joe Dolphy and Tom Searing were made for the moderator. Hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed. Hank Senger declined to serve if elected and Joe Dolphy was not present. A hand vote showed Jim Garrison with more votes than for Tom Searing. Jim Garrison accepted the position of moderator.

**Introduction of the Board:** Moderator Jim Garrison introduced the town board supervisors as Chair Mike Halliday, Vice Chair Bob Millerbernd, Supervisors Ed Kramer, Tim Peterson and Carol Searing.

**Approval of the agenda:** Cathy Hereau moved to approve the agenda; Tim Peterson seconded. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

**Approval of the annual meeting minutes:** Craig Cold moved to approve the annual meeting minutes from March 12, 2019 as presented; Nate McCarthy seconded. All ayes; the motion carried.

**Financial report with budget & levy discussion:** Clerk Pam Olson reported that the 2019 operating budget came in under budget, due largely to a carryover of the budgeted road project into 2020. The 2021 proposed levy of \$1,700,000 is an increase of \$50,000 over the 2020 levy. Olson stated

that the levy includes increases in the capital funds to prepare for future major capital expenses. There were no questions from the audience.

**Anoka County Sheriff:** Lieutenant Dan Douglas, from the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, introduced Deputy Nick Duren, who is assigned to provide police services to the Township and Chief Deputy Kevin Halweg. The 2020 contract with Anoka County Sheriff Department is approximately \$235,000, which pays for deputies to cover the 8-hour shifts. Patrol costs do not exceed the cost of contract. Residents should call 911 for emergency and non-emergency matters. Residents who would like to receive the Friday updates should contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Laura Landes.

**Senior Housing:** Karen Skepper, Director of Community and Governmental Relations for Anoka County and Steve Dunbar from Ivy Developers informed the residents of the work that has been done towards bringing senior housing to Linwood Township. Following a market analysis, the concept of a 35-unit model housing unit with enclosed parking was presented. The building would be managed by a third-party professional management company. The complex would have one and two-bedroom independent rental units, community rooms, library, property management office and other amenities. For the first few years, rental preferences would go to Linwood residents age 55 and over. After that, rental preference would go to Anoka County residents. Because the County is tax exempt and has better financing option, the rental rates should be lower than market pricing. Anoka County HRA funds would be used as collateral until the rental units pay back the financing for the project. Local contractors may submit competitive bids for the construction. The property will be owned entirely by Anoka County. Residents were in favor of senior housing and asked questions related to the project.

**Anoka County Commissioner:** Newly elected Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert introduced himself and spoke of his business philosophy. He informed residents that the first confirmed case of Corona Virus was reported in Anoka County.

**Fire Department:** Chief Darryl Ballman reported that the fire department responded to 245 fire/medical calls in 2019, which is down from the 261 calls in 2018. The average response time was 9.5 minutes with an average of six firefighters per response. Two new firefighter recruits have completed their training and two new fully-trained and experienced cadets joined the department. Three retirements from the fire department occurred in 2019: Assistant Chief Cary Shepard, Captain Steve Erickson and Captain Mike Christian.

Assistant Chief Mike Raml described the safety-first protocol for the firefighters and provided a ballistic vest for the residents to examine. Station upgrades that occurred in 2019 included purchasing 20 new self-contained breathing apparatus bottles and installing industrial fans for better air circulation. Planned improvements include outfitting a landing zone with red lights for air care, purchasing a back-up generator and a rescue boat for emergency situations. Donations to the fire department should be made to the Linwood Fire Association.

Justin Hanson, president of the Linwood Fire Association, explained the scholarship fund set up for graduating Linwood students, the funds for which come from money raised from the fire dance, booya and donations. This year, in lieu of a dance, the Association will be hosting a golf tournament as a fundraiser. The goal is to use the profits of the tournament to purchase a UTV for assisting in emergency responses. The Fire Association will continue with the purse bingo, bean bag toss, and booya as part of Linwood Family Fun Day.

**Road & Bridge:** Supervisor Kramer reported that the Road and Bridge committee has developed a 20-year plan for road maintenance and equipment purchases. The road project for this year is to pave 233<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from Fontana Street to Typo Creek Drive. Anoka County Highway Department will be removing trees and resurfacing Fawn Lake Drive from County Road 85 and County Road 36. Plans are in place for 2021 construction of turn lanes on Typo Creek at West Fawn Lake Road and at Thames Street. Single-hauler garbage service has been investigated and is not financially feasible. Supervisor Kramer encouraged residents within neighborhoods to all use the same hauler. This would reduce the wear and tear on the roads.

**Senior Center:** Senior Coordinator Pamela Hoppe informed residents of the various activities she is planning at the senior/community center, the need for volunteers and encouraged them to watch the new Linwood Community and Senior Center Facebook page.

**Recycling:** Supervisor Ed Kramer expressed his appreciation for the dedication provided to recycling center by the employees and volunteers. The recycling center is open Tuesdays 1:00-5:30; Thursdays and Saturdays 8:00-noon. The buildings, tractor, equipment, and expenses for a full-time employee are paid for by SCORE grant money.

**Parks and School Forest:** Parks Chairman David Johnson informed residents of some of the amenities available in the Linwood Parks to include tennis and pickle ball courts, basketball courts, and ball fields. The Parks committee conducted a medallion hunt in the parks leading up to Linwood Family Fun Day and Boettcher Farms Parks has been utilized by lacrosse teams. A resident expressed appreciation for public works immediate response to treating poison ivy near the tennis courts.

School Forest Committee Vice President David Johnson explained some of the many activities available in the School Forest and Community Park such as winter hikes, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing with the Scouts, and the Halloween hike. Through a DNR grant the main trail has been widened and trail signs will be added.

**Town Board supervisors' comments:** Supervisor Bob Millerbernd expressed his gratitude for the staff that works to operate the township and provide services. He encouraged residents to contact staff or any of the supervisors if they have complaints or join a committee to make a difference, and not just post negative comments on Facebook pages not controlled by the Township. Supervisor Millerbernd clarified for residents that the electronic sign in front of the town hall cost \$20,000 and was paid for entirely by rent revenue from the cell tower across the street, not levy money.

Supervisor Mike Halliday thanked the residents for attending the Annual Meeting and how nice it was to see so many new faces. His comments echoed Supervisor Millerbernd's remarks in that residents should contact the supervisors with their complaints.

Supervisors Searing, Kramer and Peterson all thanked the residents for attending the Annual Meeting.

**Town celebrations:** Supervisor Bob Millerbernd explained that 2021 is the Township's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a township. In order to spend money for Linwood Family Fun Days and intergenerational activities the electors must approve an amount to be spent. Hank Senger moved to spend up to \$25,000 for community celebration expenditures; Pam Hoppe seconded. The motion carried.

**Health, social and recreational services:** Supervisor Bob Millerbernd explained that the town board can do a contract-for-service with non-profit organizations if the voters approve an amount at the annual meeting. Warren Christy moved to approve spending up to \$1,000 in 2020 for health, social and recreational services; Cathy Hereau seconded. All ayes; the motion carried.

**Warning Sirens:** Supervisor Millerbernd explained that the Anoka County warning system updates will render Linwood's warning sirens useless. The Board is looking for input by the residents on whether to replace, update or eliminate the township's sirens. The sirens are designed to be heard outdoors and don't provide coverage throughout the entire township. Replacing the three sirens will cost approximately \$100,000 or upgrading the components to be compatible with Anoka County's system will cost approximately \$25,000. Concerns from the residents included the longevity of the sirens; if eliminated, residents without cell coverage wouldn't receive warnings; buying weather radios for residents doesn't help when away from house; the effect to the levy of replacing the sirens. David Johnson moved to do the upgrade for \$5,000 to \$7,000 per siren; Sandy Lathrop seconded. After some discussion, Johnson and Lathrop rescinded the motion. By a show of hands to upgrade each siren at a cost of \$7,000 each, 25 votes in favor and 26 votes against. The Board will make the decision on how to proceed.

**Recognition of service:** The electors must give the Board the authority to expend money to show appreciation for volunteers, and recognize the service of retiring staff or officials. Pam Hoppe moved to spend up to \$2,000.00 for recognition of service; Cathy Hereau seconded. The motion passed.

**Set the 2021 levy:** Sandy Lathrop moved to set the 2021 levy at \$1,700,000.00; Pam Hoppe seconded. Discussion included a resident who wanted assurance that the levy would not be spent on drones to spy on the public and from a supervisor who noted that cuts were made to the road and bridge capital budget in an effort to reduce the amount of the proposed levy. The motion carried by majority vote.

**Set next Annual Meeting:** Phil Osterhus moved, and Pam Hoppe seconded the motion, to set the next Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 9, 2021 at the Linwood Town Hall. All ayes; motion carried.

**Motion to adjourn:** Pam Hoppe moved and Phil Osterhus seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Jim Garrison, Moderator

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Pamela Olson, Clerk

Approved on: