

BAY LAKE TOWNSHIP
2016 ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2016

The Annual meeting of the Township was called to order at 8:30 by Carol Pund, Clerk. Fourteen voters were in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Pundt. Nominations for a moderator were opened. A motion was made by Justin Smith and seconded by Meredith Poland for Jon Steblay to be the moderator. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Sylvia Graff and seconded by Meredith Poland to approve the amended agenda to include a Town Hall report. Motion passed.

The March 10, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes were read by Carol Pundt, Clerk. David Pundt had a question regarding the recycling grant regarding the difference in cost from 2014 and 2015. Jon Steblay answered David's question by saying, this topic would be discussed later in the meeting".

RaeJean Anderson read the Treasurer's Report. Raejean talked about the new computers for the Township (her lap top and the clerk's pc). They are working out great. The Township also has a hot spot for high speed internet which is costing the Township \$50 per month. David Pundt asked about the title of "sale of investments" as a category on the Township's treasury spreadsheet. RaeJean clarified that if the Township had investments they would be listed in that category. At this time monies are kept in the Township's checking and savings account because the interest rates are so low.

Fire Contract: The Township is requesting \$36,000 for both the Deerwood and Garrison services in 2017 which is the same as last year. Deerwood Fire Department serves the North half of the Township with a cost of approximately \$39,000 in 2016. Garrison Fire Department serves the South half of the Township with a cost of approximately \$34,230 in 2016. There is an increase from the previous year in the Deerwood fire contract billing which was more than the supervisors were expecting. The Township did not receive the fire contract billing for Deerwood until after the budget for 2017 had been set. Home property values are the basis for the contract billing from the fire departments.

Road Report: Holmvgig Excavating has been awarded the road maintenance contract until 4/30/2017. Anderson Brother's Construction was awarded the Township's road improvement bid for 2016 which includes paving the North and South portions of Wood Beach Road in the amount of \$200,443.95. Maghan Trail and Woodland Beach South were the road improvement projects for 2015 at a cost of \$182,789.22. Woodland Beach South was turned back to gravel to allow the road bed to settle, and to replace the culvert. The road budget levied for 2015 was \$332,365.16. The Township spent \$280,000 leaving a balance of \$52,365.16 to start 2016. The Road Budget for 2017 is \$360,000.00. Major road expenses besides road improvements are road maintenance, snow plowing and replacing culverts. Sylvia Graff asked if Woodland Beach North would be torn up like Woodland Beach South. Jonn responded by saying no. Jon also said he is expecting the road work would be started earlier this year than last year. The road is expected to be paved as one project in the same timeframe. Sylvia Graff pointed out there is still a dip in the road on Woodland Beach South after the culvert which may be frost coming out of the ground. Meredith Poland pointed out that Woodland Beach North is really dippy. Jon said the supervisors would check out Woodland Beach North and South during the upcoming Spring road inspection. Sylvia Graff thanked the Township Board for having a grader come out to blade Woodland Beach Road South this Fall.

Cemetery Report: \$5,000 has been levied for the Cemetery Fund for 2016. Erik's Lawn Service is the lawn maintenance contractor for the cemetery. There were 8 burials, 1 disinterment and 8 sites sold in 2015. There are approximately 382 burial sites available in the New cemetery and 97 lots in the Old Cemetery. Lots are not available for sale in the Old cemetery unless family members own or are buried in that portion of the cemetery.

The fund balance at the end of the year in 2015 was \$10,825.68. Proposed levy for 2017 is \$5,000. Jon Steblay is the current Sexton for the cemetery and Justin Smith is the Record Keeper.

Jon Steblay informed the residents there was an issue this last fall regarding the maintenance of the cemetery because the person who does the lawn maintenance vacuum truck broke down. The clean up was not done until November. Jon had only one call that "burned" his ears. Jon asked those in attendance for their thoughts on the cemetery regarding maintenance. Sylvia Graff said she appreciated the signage at the cemetery entrance regarding Fall clean-up efforts.

Town Hall Report: Justin Smith reported to those in attendance the Township launched a new website this last year. The previous posting firm retired and the Township needed to find a new firm. A local gentleman in Crosby was hired by the Township to do the job. The website was reformatted and everything seems to be going well with it. The cemetery records on the website have been updated. There is now an accurate listing of cemetery plots. He will work on keeping it up to date. The thermostat was updated to be controlled remotely by a smart phone or computer. A new heater has been added to the clerk's office. A number of shrubs and trees were removed from the front entrance of the Town Hall along with updating the landscaping with new rock.

Jon Steblay updated everyone regarding a cartway appeal in District Court. This past year the Township was petitioned by a private party regarding a piece of land locked property for a cartway because they had been traveling on the road for a period of time. They asked the property owner for an easement to their property, but were refused. The private party then petitioned the Township to grant a cartway. The Township granted a petition for a cartway, but the owner of the property was not happy with the Townships decision regarding the decision or the damages awarded to the petitioner. So, the owner of the property is taking the Township to District Court. There was an appeal to the District Court by the property owner. The Township notified the Minnesota Association of Townships insurance trust and the insurance trust has retained an attorney to defend the Township. There is a scheduling conference with the judge on March 28th to discuss deadlines for developing the case. It will be six to twelve months before there is a decision in the case. The Township's attorney feels the judge will ultimately uphold the Township's decision. Because this matter is in litigation, the Township attorney is asking us not to discuss any details regarding the situation at this meeting. Questions can be asked, but, Jon will not be able to answer them. Ken Keilty asked where the cartway was located. Jon responded by saying on Crooked Lake off Dickey Road. Ken Kielty wanted to know if the owner of the property has an argument with the Township. Jon said, "no comment". The owner did not agree to the damages or decision the Township awarded the petitioner David Pundt wanted to know how the Township will be updating the Township residents. The response to his questions was that question would need to be discussed with the Township attorney. David Pundt made the statement maybe the only way for the residents to be updated would be by reading the final decision in the Dispatch. He was wondering if there would be some kind of updates regarding court appearances, etc. Again, Jon Steblay told the residents in attendance this would need to be discussed with the Township attorney.

Recycling Report: In 2015 \$16,492.50 was spent on the Township recycling program. The end of the year fund balance was \$5,047.74. The recycling program is funded by a SCORE grant of \$16,470.00. \$5,000 is being levied for 2017. The grant for 2017 is \$16,470. Each time Waste Management picks up the recycling the cost to the Township is \$376.00. Sometimes the pickup needs to be twice a week. The Township just received a new proposal from Waste Management whereby they would like to put the Township on a regular pickup with four 6 yard containers in the parking lot instead of one 20 yard container. This would increase the recycling disposal by 4 yards. The price per month for the regular scheduled pickup is \$478.00 which is considerably less than the Township is paying now. For each container there is an additional billing of \$120 a month. The Township would be paying about half the price of what has been paid in the past. A resident asked where would the containers go. Jon explained the containers would be placed about 1 foot apart, but the Township will need to do more research on spacing, accessibility, etc. There were concerns regarding access to the containers if a person needs to open them from the front (ie like a dumpster) which can be difficult to maneuver.

Sylvia Graff wanted to know if any of the Township supervisors have seen this style of container in use. Bay Lake Township would be the only business using this type of recycling container. The Township would be saving money along with the County if this approach is put to use. A concern was brought up by RaeJean Anderson regarding signage by the pickup area because the containers may look like regular garbage containers not recycling containers. Jon said, "that with the money saved maybe a letter could go out to Township residents regarding the new recycling containers". Waste Management allows for 10 - 20% garbage in the recycling containers. It all gets sorted out elsewhere.

Levy: The Township Board of Supervisors are requesting a the levy for \$471,000 for 2017 which is no increase from 2016. The only change is the Township is not levying for the cemetery fund, but the Township is levying for the recycling fund. The levy for the recycling fund was decided before the Township had the information regarding the new recycling container pickup contract information. The bulk of the levy monies is spent on the Township roads and fire fighting protection. David Pundt asked the Board if it was still necessary to levy for recycling. Jon Steblay said the Board has not approved the new recycling contract. Jon said, "yes, we still do need to levy". A motion was made by Meredith Poland seconded by Barb Kielty to approve the 2017 levy of \$471,000. 14 voted in favor of the motion. None opposed to the motion. Motion passed

A motion was made by Sylvia Graff and seconded by Barb Kielty to have the First National Bank of Deerwood be the depository for Bay Lake Township. Motion passed.

Currently the Supervisors of the Township are receiving \$100 per meeting (the chair person is receiving \$150 per meeting) and \$15 per hour. The Clerk's monthly fee is \$400. The Treasurer's monthly fee is \$220.

The posting sites in the Township will be the Town Hall and Hansen's store. The Township website also has public information postings, but, the website is not an official posting site. It is kept updated, but, there have situations in the past when the updates cannot be done in a timely manner.

A motion was made by James Bloedel and seconded by Sylvia Graff to keep the Crosby Courier and the News Hopper as the official publication sites for Bay Lake Township. The Brainerd Dispatch will be used for short term Public Notifications and the contract bidding process. All voted in favor of the motion.

The Monthly Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless posted otherwise.

A motion was made by Ken Keilty and seconded by Barb Kielty to have the poll hours for township elections from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Bay Lake Town Hall. Motion Passed

A motion was made by David Pundt and seconded by Meredith Poland to start the Bay Lake Township Annual Meeting at 8:30 P.M. following the Township election at the Bay Lake Town Hall. Motion passed.

Donations: All donation requests will be reviewed and discussed by the Township Board at the April meeting. There were no donation request from the people in attendance.

Ballot Question For the 2017 Election. A motion was made by Ken Kielty and seconded by Sylvia Graff to include on the 2017 ballot for the Township to allow Intoxicating Liquor Sunday sales at on-sale in restaurants, clubs, bowling centers or hotels with a seating capacity for at least 30 persons and which holds an on-sale intoxicating liquor license to sell intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises in conjunction with the sale of food between the hours of 8:00a.m. on Sundays and 2:00a.m. on Mondays per MN Statute 340A.504 Subd.2d. All voted in favor of the motion. Carol Pundt, Clerk, said explained to everyone in attendance an ordinance was established in the Township on May 12, 1994, but a ballot vote was never done. Putting this question on the ballot for the residents of the Township to vote on was recommended by our attorney at the Minnesota Township's Association.

The results for the election were read by Carol Pundt, Clerk –Supervisor 3/yr Term: Don Hales – 37 votes, Arnie Graff (Supervisor 3/yr Term) -1 vote; Clerk 2/yr Term: Carol Pundt – 37 votes. Forty people voted.

No other business was brought forth by the people in attendance.

A motion was made by Barb Kielty and seconded by Sylvia Graff to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Carol Pundt, Clerk, Bay Lake Township

Jon Steblay, Moderator