

Township Of Laketown
Annual Town Meeting Minutes
9350 Laketown Road - Chaska, Minnesota
March 8, 2022
Unapproved

Call to Order

The annual town meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on March 8, 2022 by Clerk/Treasurer Jean Moore.

Board members in attendance were: Board Chair Pete Parris, Supervisors Mike Klingelhutz and Cathy Nielsen, Clerk/Treasurer Jean Moore and Administrative Assistant Jan Held; Presenter Carver County Commissioner John Fahey and guest Commissioner Matt Udermann. There were 51 residents in attendance as listed on the sign-in sheet.

Pledge of Allegiance

Elect Moderator

Bryan Pawela was nominated by Troy Williams to moderate the meeting. Patrick Clay seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. The motion was carried unanimously. None opposed.

Order of Business

A motion by Troy Williams and was seconded by Patrick Clay to approve the order of business as presented. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Pete Parris introduced and welcomed the new Clerk/Treasurer Jean Moore and new Administrative Assistant Jan Held.

Carver County Commissioner Comments - Commissioner Fahey

There's not a high quantity of road construction projects in our District, but the one that's happening is the biggest project in the County's history in the Highway 212 Project. It continues to progress right on schedule. You can see the details in the handout I brought that our fine Public Works staff pulled together, but the first phase, between the Cities of Cologne and Carver, removes the existing bottleneck and expands the highway to a 4-lane expressway. We broke ground in May 2021 and that phase is on track for an August 2022 completion. We also received \$25 million from the State Legislature this past summer, allowing us to reach fully funded status on the project's second phase from Cologne to Norwood Young America. We continue to work on securing funds for a grade-separated interchange at the Highway 51 intersection just east of NYA, with the hope to construct that concurrently during the project's second phase. I encourage you to visit the Public Works' website to sign up for project email updates, as well as more information on this massive and important project.

The project details, plus smaller road projects such as resurfacing projects within our district, are on the handout I've brought for you along with a map of our 2022 road and bridge construction plan for the entire County.

Also in the handout is our updated spending of the County's Federal stimulus funds, driven first by the CARES Act and now through the American Recovery Plan Act. The County continues to work with staff on allocating these funds. You can see the breakdown on the handout, so I won't detail everything, but the one item on the list that we're considering is what we're calling the "Connect Up Carver" project. We've directed staff to look at expanding broadband access across the County, and we've set aside \$5.5 million for that. We learned during the pandemic how important fast, reliable internet access is for everyone for businesses, work, school, and social connection. This project would close the "last mile" of connectivity to homes and businesses by expanding the County's current CarverLink fiber ring network through a selected service provider to provide access to wired fiber connectivity.

Through our partnership with the County's Community Development Agency, we've also supported our small business community to the tune of \$3 million with our stimulus money. Further support for those residents impacted by this pandemic comes through our health and human services division, again in partnership with the CDA, for around \$3 million. We still have about \$9.9 million of remaining stimulus money to allocate.

I asked our finance department to pull together data related to property and average value homes in our district. We have 6,178 parcels and the average value home is worth \$314,500. Across the County, for all five districts, the average value home is \$374,000.

I also wanted to share with you some key dates regarding the County's redistricting process. Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts to ensure that the people of each district are equally represented. State Legislative and Federal Congressional boundaries are now set. The County passes that information on to municipal clerks for their use, which is happening right now. Then the County's process kicks in starting in early April, with it concluding by April 26. At the County level, this means the Commissioner districts, as well as the soil and water districts, likely will change. The County is required to publish a notice three weeks in advance of the Board meeting where we'd discuss our redistricting plans. There will also be an informational meeting for the public that will offer more details, if you're interested, in early April.

Finally, the County continues to rank highly in terms of healthiest, most educated, and more. We were 11th in the nation among healthiest counties by US News this past year, and first in Minnesota. US Census Data released last year shows we're the fastest growing county in Minnesota. Our Standard & Poor's Global Ratings places our credit at the highest level, "AAA," for more than a decade. We're proud of these rankings, and all of you play a part in making our County a great place to live, work, and play for a lifetime

MS4 Public Hearing (SWPPP)

Chair Pete Parris presented the MS4 SWPPP. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has mandated all cities, towns and municipalities comply with Environmental Laws and Requirements. The township must document compliance and report tangible requirements each year for the Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System permit, or MS4 permit.

One of the MS4 permit requirements is to have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The goal of the plan is to monitor and maintain stormwater sources such as ditches, culverts, drains, outfalls, stock piles and construction sites throughout the township in an effort to protect waterbodies.

In 2021, the township did the following to meet SWPPP requirements.

- Litter patrol – picked 12.5 miles of ditches, collected 56 bags of trash, 2 mattresses, 1 couch, 1 dresser and 1 elliptical machine.
- Completed and documented quarterly facility inspections of township properties.
- Inspected 9 outfalls for pollutants and serviceability
- Hosted a spring and fall composting event to recycle brush and yard waste, funded by grants.
- Attended Road Salt Reduction Training
- Completed a Spring and Fall Street Sweeping of all Paved roads

What can residents do to help?

- Properly recycle unwanted chemicals using Carver Cty Recycle Center or Demcon.
- Don't overfill trash cans and make sure the lid is closed on trash day to prevent wind from blowing trash around. Bagging trash is the best way to prevent it from blowing away.
- During a construction project, drainage areas must be protected from soil and silt runoff with erosion control measures.
- If something is out of place or suspected illegal dumping, call the township.
- For more information on the SWPPP and MS4 permit, visit the Township website.
- Last year, some residents walked their ditch lines and collected litter. If you choose to do this, please contact us to dispose of any litter you collect.

Litter patrol- picked up chairs, couch, water heater, treadmill and elliptical machine.

Township Update

Asphalt Road Improvement Plan/Policy

Chair Parris pointed out highlights of the current updated plan (hard copy provided) including:

Paved roadways will be swept twice per year

Paved roads will be considered for chip seal five years after construction and every five to seven years on going

Continue to have an annual road tour to ascertain conditions of both our paved and graveled roads

The Board established a township cost-share plan for major road improvements:

Cost Share by Road Classification:

Feeder Roads – 60% Property owners' cost / 40% Township cost

Neighborhood Roads – 85% Property owners' cost / 15% Township cost

Through Roads – 20% Property owners' cost / 80% Township cost

Residents must pay for the 1st application to be eligible for the 2nd application to be paid by the Township. Scandia Road counts were done twice last year and both times fell below the 200 cars per day. Scandia Road will **no longer** be paid in full by the Township.

Roads exceeding 200 cars per day will be considered for dust control treatment twice per year at the township's expense.

Attention was brought to the hard copy provided of the road classifications. Each road is identified as a through road, neighborhood, town line or feeder road.

The Road Policy Plan will be approved by the Board in May.

Phyllis (Schlichtenberg) had a concern regarding vehicles hauling boats near Reitz Lake. Chair Parris confirmed this is an ongoing concern for those roads leading to public lake accesses. The DNR will not contribute to maintenance of these roads, the responsibility remains with the township.

Kim Krueger had a question concerning the cost allocation for repairs of Augusta Road. Chair Parris identified Augusta is a town line road shared with Dahlgren Township. Laketown Township would have 40%, Dahlgren 40% and residents 20% cost allocation for improvements. Laketown recognizes the need for improvement and repairs. Currently the contract identifies Laketown Township is responsible for maintenance. The Board is willing to have continued conversations with Dahlgren Township to come to a fair and equitable agreement for the improvement and repair of Augusta Road.

Patrick Clay brought to the Board's attention an example of the asphalt debris that is currently being displaced in resident's yards.

Chair Parris referred to the paved road plan schedule provided in hard copy, identifying specific road improvements and repairs from 2022 to 2045

The current budget may be subject to change with the impact of fluctuating gas prices, Federal Transportation Bill and State allocations

Equipment

Supervisor Cathy Nielsen confirmed our equipment continues to be well maintained and in good operating order. Highlights include:

- \$8,000 cost repair for a grader leak

- \$6,000 for a tractor engine fire repair

- \$8,000 mower addition to the tractor

- The Board is looking at purchasing Waconia's dump truck to replace our dump truck

- The Township is in search for a sewer pumper truck

- The Township is also looking for a summer intern to help with mowing and tree trimming

201 Sewer System

Supervisor Mike Klingelhutz shared the 201 system continues to have its challenges. They are currently focusing on making proactive measures. Highlights include:

- Sealing lift stations and jetting out main streams

- Investigating thin pipe lines and need for repair

- Participating in a comprehensive plan with the help of a State Legislature bill to integrate the 201 systems into future area city sewer systems

Chad Sebold asked when the 201 systems are checked. Chair Parris confirmed they are checked by James Schilling every three years when septic tanks are pumped. Residents can refer to James' records for their property.

Dave Williams questioned if a higher price can be asked when parcels are annexed to offset some of these costs. Chair Parris confirmed a judge determines and approves the fair price for land annexation. The current acceptable price has been \$500 an acre.

Animal Control

Chair Parris acknowledged there has been an anonymous letter sent to residents in the Reitz Lake area. This letter is not from the Township. A letter from the Township would be signed and have a return address. Whoever initiated this letter should contact the Chair Parris.

American Rescue Plan Act

Chairman Parris confirmed \$121,313 was received in July 2021. At that time it was exclusively designated for public sewers and was used for the maintenance of our 201 system. In November the State allowed these funds to be used as needed. We will receive another check for a similar amount in July 2022.

Annexation

Supervisor Klingelhutz summarized six were annexed in 2021.

- Gestach/Vogel properties, 114.34 acres at the Intersection of Marsh Lake Road/Co Rd 11
- Meatcutters property 37.33 acres, at Co Rd 43/Marsh Lake Road
- Paradise Partners property 3.61 acres, Airport Road
- Helstrom property, 3 acres, Hwy 92
- Welter property, 57.16 acres on Co Rd 11
- Lovett Garden Center property 4.5 acres, on Hwy 10

Anticipated annexations for 2022

- Welter property, south of Co Rd 10 and west of Co Rd 11
- Vogel property near the intersection of Co Rd 10/11
- Kelzer property, 70 acres near Clover Ridge

Carver County is in discussions with residents bordering a road projected to run from Hwy 92 to Airport Road and onto Co Rd 10

Dave Williams asked what will happen to the annexed property west of County Road 11. Supervisor Klingelhutz identified Chaska had designated it as a green belt area many years ago. It may be subject to change currently.

Meeting Minutes

Troy Williams made a motion to approve the August 19, 2021 minutes as presented (hard copy was provided). The motion was seconded by Ross Hanson. Motion was carried unanimously. None opposed.

2021 Financials

Results of 2021 Clifton Larson Financial Audit

In accordance with MN state statute, the township is required to hire an external audit firm to conduct a yearly audit of the Township financials. This year the audit of the 2021 financials was conducted by Clifton

Larson Allen on January 28. The financial statements, including cash receipts, disbursements, fund transfers, fund balances and bond balances presented fairly with no findings of fraud or misappropriation. Final copies of the audit will be available by Clifton Larson Allen after March 30.

Review 2021 Actual Budget Report

Chair Parris summarized the specific funds are self-explanatory and gave a brief explanation of each. Money received from annexations are now put into the Long Range Fund. COVID fund was primarily used for our public elections. \$140,000 is currently put into a one year CD.

Reading of the Checks

A motion by Mike Hough was seconded by Dave Williams to waive the reading the checks. No one opposed, motion carried unanimously.

12/31/2021 Schedule 1 Treasurer Report

A motion by Trudy Vogel was seconded by Kim Krueger to approve the Treasurer Report as presented (hard copy provided). Motion carried unanimously, none opposed.

2023 Proposed Budget

Chair Parris pointed to the 2020 and 2021 actuals provided in hard copy. He identified we are required as a township to provide fire protection for nonprofits such as churches. Area city fire departments submit a bill to us for services provided. Nonprofit entities are not required to pay for these services. However, we do ask for reimbursement and all of them do provided reimbursement. This year the funds were not received until the following year. Also \$39,000 was rolled over for chip seal for Airport Road. Chairman Parris confirmed there would be no levy increase requested. The Board is comfortable with presented budget for unforeseen changes such as fluctuating gas prices.

Set 2023 Levy

A motion was made by Michelle Sandeen and seconded by Phyllis Schlichtenberg to accept the set levy at \$535,600.00 as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously, none opposed.

Leon Worm asked if the number of properties annexed will make an impact on tax revenues received. Supervisor Klingelhutz identified that most of the annexed properties are farmland with a couple of homesteads. The impact is probably not significant in his opinion, when you consider the new homes being added will offset the revenue lost.

Troy Williams asked if the 201 system completely failed and as a result the Township was forced to dissolve, what would happen to these reserves? Chairman Parris responded, he would assume the township would have a responsibility to provide a temporary fix until the corresponding city was able to incorporate them into their system. It is really unknown how it would be handled. Supervisor Klingelhutz explained they are making every effort to take proactive measures to enable the 201 system to gracefully be incorporated into area public sanitation systems.

Dan Roth inquired can a resident put in their own septic system? Chairman Parrish explained many properties do not have sufficient space for an individual septic system. Currently the agreement established in 1974

identified which areas would be annexed to which cities. The understanding from Carver County is that any further development will come from the area cities.

Troy Williams thanked the board for their civic duty and good job in all the different aspects of managing Laketown Township.

Open Forum

Phyllis Schlichtenberg inquired if more signs could be placed on Reitz Lake Road to slow down traffic. Supervisor Klingelhutz responded they will follow up and do the best they can

Ross Hanson asked if there is a subsidy available for homeowners who want to upgrade their private septic system. Supervisor Klingelhutz advised to check with the county for further information.

Ras Neuman asked if they have an estimate for repair of the 201 system. Supervisor Klingelhutz identified the estimated cost is about \$43,000 for each household with about four million dollar cost allocated to the public entity. The Board is trying to bring that cost down to be more manageable through building a broader base including residents, county, state and federal resources.

Dan Roth asked how long you think the 201 system will last. Chairman Parris speculated with the measures we are taking now, the system should be fine. We need to continue with our proactive measures to make sure the system can be incorporated into a sanitation system at some point.

Dave Williams asked will the 201 system be replaced by individual areas or all at once. Chairman Parris identified they won't know until a comprehensive study is done. Supervisor Klingelhutz added once a study is received it will become more evident the steps that will need to be taken.

Kim Krueger asked if the Township has a snow plow. Supervisor Nielsen confirmed we have a snow plow on the dump truck. Chairman Parris clarified a grader is used on gravel roads to plow snow. Chairman Parris and Supervisor Klingelhutz will work with Brian Lawrence to identify the best way to plow snow on Augusta Road.

Dan Roth asked if the sewer system task force is still meeting. Supervisor Nielsen clarified the task force had temporarily stopped meeting because of COVID but will now resume and can start meeting in the near future.

Set 2023 Annual Meeting

A motion by Dave Williams was seconded by Jeff Worth to set the next Township Annual Meeting date for March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Laketown Hall. Motion carried unanimously, none opposed.

Adjourn/Recess

A motion by Trudy Vogel was seconded by Kim Krueger to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Motion was unanimously carried, none opposed.

Submitted by:

Jan Noru 3/27/22
Clerk/Treasurer Date

Approved by:

Bryan Pawela 3/27/2022
Bryan Pawela, Moderator Date