

West Lakeland Township Annual Meeting

March 14, 2006

Oak-Land Jr. High School

Call to Order:

The Clerk of the Township, Ms. Agrimson, called to order the annual Town Meeting at 8:00 PM on March 14, 2006. The first order of business was to appoint the moderator for the evening. Ms. McPherson nominated Ms. Cheryl Talberg for moderator. Duly seconded, the motion carried.

Remarks from Rep Mike Charon:

Representative Mike Charon was invited to address the assembly. His comments addressed the bonding bill under discussion in the current session, upgrades proposed for the State Penitentiary, and a proposal to increase the traffic control on Highway 5.

Remarks from Senator Brian LeClair

Senator Brian LeClair was invited to address the assembly. His comments addressed the Governor's Supplemental Budget, and concerns for the Xcel Energy's search for a fly ash disposal site. Questions from the floor included the constitutional amendment on marriage, and potential increases in property taxes.

Introduction of the Board:

Ms. Talberg introduced the Township officers. Chairman John McPherson; Supervisor Jerry Peterson; Supervisor Dan Kylo, Mr. Ed Semrud, Treasurer; Ms. Sue Agrimson, Clerk; Mr. Scott McDonald, Attorney; Dr. Ray Swanson, Planning Commission Chair;

Supervisor's Report – Chairman John McPherson

Chairman John McPherson commented on the concept for the improvement to the Lake Elmo Regional Airport in the 2010 timeframe. At this time, it is a concept, with no funding, and no execution approvals. It would still need to be brought before the local governing bodies for review. Chairman McPherson also provided an update to the site search for a fly ash disposal site for Xcel Energy. The board has passed a resolution indicating the Township's disapproval for locating the site in West Lakeland Township. A site has not been determined, and Xcel has made no formal request for land zoning. Discussions continue to find a suitable site. Chairman McPherson also reviewed the local levy. Levy increases have been passed in previous years to allow the Township to qualify for Road and Bridge Assistance. This year, that is not part of the levy recommendation.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Jerry Peterson

Supervisor Peterson first expressed support to the volunteers on the Planning Commission for their efforts. Supervisor Peterson then noted that Clean Up Day is scheduled for May 20, 2006, and described some of the procedures and policies that can be expected. Fees will be charged for appliances, and tires. He asked that the township residents carefully secure the loads to keep the streets clean. Supervisor Peterson also discussed the fly ash disposal site selection. The board has been meeting with members of Xcel Energy, and will continue to voice opposition to a site selection in the Township.

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Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Dan Kylo

Supervisor Kylo thanked the residents for the opportunity to serve. Supervisor Kylo commented on the deer management program implemented in December of 2005. The hunt management estimated over 300 plus deer in the Township. This is three times higher than the DNR recommended limit for a manageable population. This same provision is likely to be included for next year's recreational deer season.

Clerk's Information

Ms. Agrimson, Clerk, noted that the Township is now maintaining a website for official information. The site is www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com. She also commented that burning permits can be obtained from Chairman McPherson and Supervisor Peterson, Monday through Friday, and should be requested ahead of the date of the desired burn.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Semrud presented the treasurer's report. Receipts exceeded disbursements by more than \$100,000. The Township retains a balance of \$1.3 million in assets.

Mr. Semrud explained the calculation for road and bridge assistance based upon the levied funds. The levy was increased in 2003 and 2004 to qualify for that assistance. It was determined that it would not be in the Township's interest to raise the levy to qualify for assistance in 2007.

Planning Commission Report

Dr. Ray Swanson reported on behalf of the Planning Commission. He thanked the volunteer members for their dedicated efforts. Dr. Swanson discussed the 2003 program for managing surface water runoff. This has been managed under local ordinances, with an additional requirement as well as the management. The township must have a system that controls the surface water runoff so that erosion is managed. Citizens can assist by notifying the township when drainage systems are not operating correctly, and controlling debris in the right of way.

Mr. Dale Schultz moved, seconded by Mr. Willie Talberg, to accept the reports as presented. The motion carried.

Old Business:

No old business was brought forward.

New business

Election Judge Compensation

The compensation for election judges was reviewed. Ms. Carol Swanson moved to retain the current compensation levels of \$7.50 per hour for judges and \$9.50 per hour for the head judge. Mr. Dale Borasch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Levy

Mr. Semrud presented the request for the supervisors for a levy of \$40,000. Mr. Loren Kalal moved, seconded by Mr. Dale Borasch, to set the 2007 levy to \$40,000.

Township Bank

Currently funds are retained in five banks – Central Bank, US Bank, First State Bank of Bayport, Jennings State Bank, and Lake Elmo State Bank. Funds are in CD's, money market accounts, and cash accounts. Mr. Magler moved to retain the current banking structure, at the discretion of the treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Kalal, the motion carried.

Legal Newspaper

Ms. Agrimson reported that the current official newspaper for publication of official notices has been the Stillwater Gazette. This provides a daily publication whereas other local newspapers publish only weekly. Mr. Dale Borasch moved to retain the Stillwater Gazette as the official publication newspaper. Seconded by Mr. Willie Talberg, the motion carried.

Holiday Station Stores

Chairman McPherson raised the issue of the requested conditional use request from Holiday Station stores for a station in the highway commercial area at the corner of Highway 94 and Manning Avenue. This area is zoned highway commercial by the Township, but residential by Washington County. The concept proposed by Holiday Station stores, and reviewed under a public hearing in May 2005, was approved as a concept use under the highway commercial zoning ordinances. The County planning commission recommended disapproval of that same request. After discussion, Mr. Peter Guenther moved, seconded by Mr. Dale Borasch, to authorize the Town Clerk to notify that County Board that the residents in attendance are in favor of the Holiday Station stores concept proposal, and recommend rezoning of the 7.3 acres before the County Board. All residents in attendance voted in favor of the motion.

Fly Ash Disposal:

Mr. Dave Schultz commented on the search for a fly ash disposal site for Xcel energy. He commented that the St Paul Pioneer Press carried an article on the increase in tipping fees in Wisconsin. This may cause waste management companies to press for in state disposal sites. Perhaps the fly ash is a better case than a landfill. Excel property would be on the tax rolls, a county landfill would not be.

Next Annual Meeting

The 2007 annual meeting is set for March 13, 2007/

Clean Up Day:

Clean up day is scheduled for May 20, 2006 at the Bryant Gravel Pit, from 8 AM to 3:30 PM

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Election Results:

Ms. Vance, head election judge, reported the results of the Township Election. 144 votes cast Supervisor Dan Kylo received 124 votes and Chairman John McPherson received 139 votes, retaining their seats. Mr. Dale Borasch received 3 votes, Mr. Tom Nacey received 1 votes, Ms. Rita Moosbrugger received 1 vote, and Mr. Michael Rufenacht received 4 votes.

Adjourn:

Mr. Schultz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Swanson. The motion carried. Ms. Talberg adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Elizabeth A. Vance
Recording Secretary