

WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP

2015 ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING

March 10, 2015

8:00 p.m.

Oak-Land Jr. High Cafeteria

Call to Order and Appointment of Moderator for the Meeting

The Clerk of the Township, Ms. Susan Agrimson, called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. The first order of business was to appoint the moderator for the evening. Mr. Gary Horning made a motion to nominate Mr. John McPherson as the moderator. Duly seconded by Carol Swanson. The motion carried.

Introduction of Town Board and Support Staff

Moderator McPherson began by introducing the Town Board Supervisors-Dan Kylo, Dave Schultz, Steve Ebner; Clerk Susan Agrimson; Deputy Clerk Mary Rinkenberger; Treasurer Marsha Olson; Planning Commission Chair, Dave Dupay and Attorney Scott McDonald. He complimented them on their work for the Township.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Bill Sanders made a motion to approve the agenda as presented by Clerk Agrimson. Mr. Gary Sanders seconded. The motion carried. It was noted by Mr. Vince Anderson by a Point of Order that the draft minutes need to be available within a couple days of the meeting which will be signed by Clerk and Moderator, marked draft and placed on the website within a couple of days of this meeting.

Reading of Minutes from Last Year's Annual Meeting

Reading of Board of Audit Report

The Clerk of the Township stated that the Board of Audit by the Town Board held on February 9, 2015 with 15% of the receipts and 15% of the disbursements audited between the Clerk's and Treasurer's ledgers showed these randomly selected claims, receipts and interest received were found to be accurate and true. Mr. Gary Horning made a motion to accept the Audit Report as posted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anne Salisbury. The motion carried.

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Introduction of the Evenings Guests by Moderator McPherson

Senator Karin Housley

She began by commenting on the Township website which she and Representative Lohmer find a valuable source of information. She said that they have been busy in the Legislature with the \$2 billion surplus available. Another issue at the Capital is education funding in the schools with no mandates. She has also worked with Commissioner Gary Kriesel on the Gateway Corridor with bus rapid transit proposal. She said that she and Representative Lohmer have proposed a veterans' family day the Friday after Thanksgiving which will honor spouses and families of our veterans.

Commissioner Gary Kriesel

He addressed the issues going on with the County with regard to upcoming road projects. The intersection at 10th and Manning will see construction begin this summer and it will be a signalized intersection with no round about. Other projects further in the future will include the Manning Avenue safety realignment, Oakgreen Avenue pavement preservation, Stagecoach Trail reclaim and 22nd Street possibly being turned back to the County some day in the future.

Sheriff Bill Hutton, Washington Co. Sheriff's Department

He said that the State of the State with the Department is doing very well. The Sheriff's office is promoting their drug take back program at the Law Enforcement Center but is seeing an uptick in drug investigations with heroin, methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs. He said that even though the crime rate has been going down since 2007, the quality of life crime is going up due to theft of various kinds by those doing these drugs such as theft of property as well as residential mailboxes. The increase of this type of crime is due to the fact that 99% of meth is coming out of Mexico. He indicated that his Department is working very diligently on this as it affects the residents of Washington County.

Mark Swenson, Fire Chief of City of Bayport

Chief Swenson said that he has high regard for the work of the Sheriff's Department and how well trained and dedicated they are as they do their jobs for the residents of Washington County.

He said they received 1214 calls to their 100% volunteer fire department in 2014 which is the highest amount in their history which is up by 1,202 calls from 2013. He read a breakdown of the different communities using their fire services and indicated that he would supply the Clerk with pdf of the Annual Report so that it could be placed on the West Lakeland website. He did say that it costs approximately \$900 for each time a vehicle goes out.

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Construction will soon begin on the new fire station to be located at 5th and Stagecoach Trail. He said that this will be a no frill station and working to keep cost below the projected \$6 mil. The station will be operated by the City of Bayport.

Chairman Kylo asked Chief Swenson on the advantage to the Township with this new station location. The Chief said that the ISO rating is going to be at class 7 or 8 as this fire station is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile closer that the old one for those under 10 miles away. He said that there are no plans for the old station at this time.

Board Reports

Supervisor Dave Schultz

Supervisor Schulz began by thanking everyone for attending and being involved and for the guests attending. He wished to recognize the staff - retiring Clerk Sue Agrimson and Deputy Clerks Mary Rinkenberger and Betsy Vance; Treasurer Marsha Olson; Attorney Scott McDonald; Engineer Ryan Stempski and Building Inspector Duane Stensland.

As in previous years, he said his responsibilities include anything related to transportation – Township roads and signs; the Lake Elmo Airport, the Manning Avenue Corridor upgrade and the Gateway Corridor Commission/TAC.

Supervisor Schultz said that he has partnered with Lake Elmo and Baytown for seal coating as well as 370' reconstruction on Manning Trail north of 18th Street in conjunction with Lake Elmo's project of reconstruction of their section of Manning Trail. Of the approximately 500 traffic and street signs, 21 were replaced this past year due to age and not meeting sign reflectivity criteria. He said that in 2016, Oakgreen Avenue will be undergoing a pavement preservation process referred to as "cold in place recycle". There will be no striping of turn lanes at 23rd, 26th and 30th.

He said that MAC approved their 2014-2020 Capital Improvement Plan last year and a major project that would impact the Township would be for replacing runway 14/32 which would result in the realignment of 30th Street. Environmental and financial concerns could sidetrack this proposal.

Supervisor Schultz keeps abreast of issues with the Manning Avenue corridor by attending all meetings which includes information on the reconstruction of the intersection on County Road 10 and Manning Avenue and the realignment of Highway 5.

Supervisor Steve Ebner

Supervisor Ebner thanked everyone for their attendance this evening and also thanking retiring Clerk Agrimson for her years of service to the community.

He said that he considers himself as the Township technical writer. He has completed the recycling RFP and the final contract with the new recycling vendor, Tennis Sanitation. Modifications to the Township ordinances were also part of his writing responsibility.

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The meetings that he attends: Board liaison for West Lakeland Planning Commission, Washington County Local Government Administrators Meeting, Lower St. Croix Management Partnership Team; Washington County Municipal Water Coalition; County Township Officers meetings; Washington County Recycling Coordinator meetings with Clerk Agrimson; the Alliance meeting and the Gateway Corridor Commission. He said that he continues on as the Weed Inspector for the Township by controlling noxious and invasive weeds and places information on the website in this effort.

The workshops he attends are the Minnesota Association Urban Short Courses, County Land Use Workshops and Valley Branch Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies.

Treasurer Marsha Olson

Treasurer Olson read the Treasurers Report:

During 2014 the Town of West Lakeland received \$800,110.64. Of this amount, \$542,639.90 was from the County in the form of Property Taxes and County Aids and Grants. \$129,840.0 was from Building Permits.

Expenditures during 2014 were \$627,975.18. Road & Bridge expenditures total \$257,754.78. Major expenditures in the General Fund were Fire Protection \$80,425.00, Recycling \$43,937.50 and Wages and Salaries \$451,010.24.

Ending balances in the three funds are:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| General | \$783,493.41 |
| Road & Bridge | 480,702.28 |
| Capital Projects | <u>148,949.25</u> |
| | \$1,413,144.94 |

Planning Commission Chair Dave Dupay

He said that the Planning Commission serves as an advisory to the Town Board on many issues that face them in their decision making process. Just recently, they completed their work on building permit fees which are now on the Township website. He indicated that they are now up to a full Commission with the necessary seven members.

Chairman Dan Kylo

Chairman Kylo directed the attention of the residents to three charts that he had put together showing property tax comparisons between communities, 2002-2016 Disbursements(expenses paid) and 2002-2016 receipts(revenue collected). He noted that the revenue trend has been slowing decreasing and increasing for disbursements. The Road and Bridge Account has more than tripled since 2002 due to the aging roads.

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Another example of increase is snow removal. In 2002, snow removal was \$28,415 and last year it was \$131,819.

Another major increase to the budget is the construction of a new Fire Hall in Bayport with a fifteen year financial commitment from West Lakeland.

In conclusion, Chairman Kylo indicated with the community comparison chart within the three categories of residential taxable value for 2015(w/homestead exclusion) for Stillwater Township, Lake Elmo, Lakeland and Newport, West Lakeland still comes in the lowest tax entity...but the Board is always looking for ways of cost savings within its operation.

He spoke of the great need to have central storage of equipment and files and getting them out of homes. The last several months of search, the Board found a suitable rental space(460 sq. feet) in the Joshua Taylor building on the main street of Lake Elmo. He said that they got free paint from the Environmental Center for the interior walls and got free carpet and padding. There is a room for storage and another for small meetings that the Board has need of from time to time. It is handicapped accessible. The move in date is very soon.

Election Results

Total votes cast - 297

Dave Schultz(incumbent) 237; Michael Graetz 57; 1 Andy Vagl; 2 no name.

Old Business - None

New Business –

Election Judge Salary

After some discussion, Ms. Anne Salisbury made a motion to keep the election judge pay at its current rate of \$8.50 and head judge at \$10.50. Seconded by Mr. Ray Stevens. The motion carried.

2016 Levy

With some discussion, Mr. Terry Spawn made a motion to approve the 2016 levy of \$552,640.00(which is a 4.47% increase from 2015) with \$194,040.00 in General Revenue and \$358,600.00 in Road and Bridge). Seconded by Mr. Joe Puppini. The motion carried.

Banks

Treasurer Olson indicated that the Township uses Lake Elmo Bank, First State Bank of Bayport, Central Bank, Lake Area Bank and US Bank. Mr. Gary Horning made a motion to continue using these banks for Township financial business. Seconded by Mr. Ed Marchan. Motion carried.

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Next Annual Town Board Election and Annual Meeting

Mr. Vince Anderson made a motion to conduct the next Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. at the Oak-Land Jr. High at 820 Manning Avenue with the Township election to be held March 8, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Carrie Brockman. The motion carried.

Clean Up Day 2015

The Board announced that the next clean up day for West Lakeland will be Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Bryan Gravel Pit from 8 a.m. – Noon.

General Discussion – Residents' Concerns

Resident Mr. Vince Anderson provided a copy of proposed additional agenda items for this 2015 annual Township meeting. The first item he wanted to recommend to the electors is to pass a resolution requiring the Town Clerk post all notices of all meetings, public hearings and other required postings on the Township website in addition to the Township posting board and newspaper. With discussion of this topic, Mr. Anderson made a motion for acceptance to put all meetings, public hearings and other required postings that appear on the Township posting board on Stagecoach Trail and 10th Street to go on the Township website. Seconded by Mr. Michael Graetz. At this point, Moderator McPherson called for a hand count of the electors on approval of the motion made by Mr. Vince Anderson ---aye 12 nay 19. Mr. Anderson then said that he would withdraw the other items for discussion he had presented in a document prior to the Annual Meeting.

Adjourn

Having no further business to discuss, Mr. Loren Kalal made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Gary Horning. Moderator McPherson adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Agrimson

Susan Agrimson
Town Clerk

John McPherson

Moderator of Annual Meeting 2015