

Annual Town Meeting
March 12, 2024, 8:15 p.m.

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Moderator: Liz Strohmayer nominated Ken Peterson as moderator of this meeting. It was seconded by Sherry Rovig. Ken Peterson accepted the nomination with no further nominations the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting: Sue Lawson moved to approve the minutes as presented. ArMand Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election Results:

- Write in: 26- Saprina Matheny
- 15- Andrew Aho
- 8- Bill Cox
- 2- Penny Morton
- 1- Liz Strohmayer
- 1- Robert Cox
- 1- Bob Engelson
- 1- Rodney Johnson
- 1- Paul Perlinger
- 1- No Name

Call for Bank of Deposit: Bob Engelson made a motion to continue using The Lake Bank “Park State Bank” as our bank of deposit Sherry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Call for Newspaper of Publication: ArMand made a motion to continue using the Duluth News Tribune as our newspaper of publication. Bob seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Sue asked about the North Shore Journal it was determined that not all residents receive that.

Call for Official Posting Places: Dan Olson moved to keep the same, the Town Hall, Fire Hall #1 and North Shore Community School, Sherry seconded. A vote on the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Budgets

Motion to approve the total levy of \$412,005.00: Sue Lawson made a motion to accept the levy of \$412,005.00 ArMand seconded. The Moderator explained that we would discuss the Department Budgets, and then call the question.

Police Department budget of \$67,600.00 was presented by Chief Mark Haselow. Mark reintroduces himself to those that have not met him yet. The Chief reviewed the calls they had in this previous year and provided a brief explanation of his budget.

Fire Department budget of \$83,000.00 was presented by Chief Robert Engelson: Bob informed the meeting that we are now a designated Fire Wise Community which opens the Township up to grant opportunities. He noted that there will be a Fire Wise event in the coming months. He discussed costs that are associated with outfitting a new fire fighter, which is approximately \$15,000.00 per fire fighter. The current radios are 12 years old and are now obsolete. It is approximately \$7,000.00 per new radio. Air packs were replaced in the 18th year of service, and they are normally replaced at the 10-year mark. They will also be needing to replace the masks for the air packs but will try to stretch that a few more years. The Fire Department received a grant in 2007 and outfitted Tender 1. There is a bid to replace that truck this year, that cost would be \$700,000.00. With that said, the department would have to budget \$35,000.00 for

the next 20 years but, by that time, the cost of the new truck would be over a million dollars. There are currently 25 active members of the Fire Department.

General Township budget of \$122,405 was presented by Board Chair Rolf Carlson. Rolf started out explaining how the meeting tonight works for the Town and how the levy was decided on.

Question: Sherry Rovig asked about the insurance premiums, I see we spent \$12,000.00 but we only budget \$4,500.00.

Answer: The Clerk explained that the Board was taking position of reducing the overall budget for the levy. So, they didn't raise all of the line item. With intent of spending some of the reserves.

Question: The Board still has a line item for the rink. Will the Town still be giving the rink the \$8?

Answer: This will be a future discussion with the Board and The Rink.

Planning and Zoning budget of \$37,000.00 was presented by Director Liz Strohmayer: Liz noted that she is requesting a smaller levy for 2025 due to the increase in the amount of permits the Town has accepted. Liz noted raises to line item for wages to account for the Clerk's office, Planning Secretary, Planning Secretary Assistant, and Planning Director.

Question: How much are the receipts for variance vs how many new builds.

Answer: I don't have the exact breakdown.

Cemetery budget of \$7500.00 was presented by Rolf Carlson. Rolf noted that the 2023 budget was kept the same.

Question: Is the wages salary or hourly?

Answer: Salary, there is a winter salary and summer salary.

Emergency Preparedness Budget of \$0

Road and Bridge budget of \$94,500.00 was presented by Supervisor Jim Ward. Jim noted that there are 11.3 miles of gravel roads in our Township. Jim discusses that the Town has a new vendor for the chloride. Which will reduce the overall cost to the Town.

Question: Has the ditching been done this past year?

Answer: Yes, in 2023 East Clover Valley, West Wildwood. In 2024 North Ryan will have ditching completed.

Question: Why do we have private plowing and not the county? Torgeson Road?

Answer: The county has bigger trucks and will not go down those roads. There are some landowners who do want to allow a turnaround to be built. As for the Torgeson, we are still working on that project. There has been a hold up due to legal paperwork for the Township and residents of that road.

Motion to approve the total levy for 2024 **\$412,005.00 Carolyn Marino motioned to approve. Bob seconded. Motion approved unanimously.**

Set time and date of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting: Liz made a motion to set the 2025 Annual Meeting date for March 11, 2025, at 8:15 p.m., ArMand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Concerns from the Audience:

Question: What was ARPA fund allocated for?

Answer: Windows, bathroom, ramp, HVAC, and fire truck.

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Sue wants to thank Penelope for her service. Sue also acknowledged the Police and Fire Departments and wanted to thank all who work for the Town.

The Clerk thanked Penelope Morton for everything she has done while in service to our community.

Adjournment: Sherry Rovig moved that this meeting be continued to Thursday August 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road Duluth, MN 55804, if deemed necessary and convened by the Town Board. If not, this meeting will automatically adjourn on that date and time without any further action. Dan seconded it. The motion passed unanimously at 9:02 p.m.

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