

Turtle Lake Annual Township Meeting
March 10, 2020 held at 19143 Lake Julia Drive NW, Bemidji, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 PM by township clerk Catherine Wingard. Handouts related to the annual meeting draft agenda were available. A request was made to attendees to sign the attendance roster and a reminder only registered township residents are eligible to vote on Annual Meeting motions. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendees Signed in: Suzanne Thomas, Don Thomas, Mark Haugen, Keni Johnson, Marc Anderson, Kelly Booge, Bill Dockendorf, Gail Mistic-Dockendorf, Daniel Lockard, Jason Keprios, Kari Keprios, Jerome Molacek, Bill Barthelemy, Cynthia Haskin, Charlotte Halle, Marcie Useldinger, Maria Kne, Mary Schmoker, Rod Anttila, Steven J. Quamme, Kathleen Quamme, Ryan Sorenson, Jayne Tolman, Dale Sorenson, Chris Holter, Glen Lindseth, Tanja Bennett.

Selection of Moderator: Clerk Wingard requested nominations for meeting moderator. Mark Haugen was nominated by a member of the audience. Eligible township voters were asked to raise their hands to vote yes and 21 hands were raised, a majority of all present. Mark Haugen accepted the nomination and took over the meeting as moderator.

Review and Approve Agenda: Moderator Haugen asked the electorate to review the agenda and present requests for additional topics. The topics of future planning to maintain and preserve the town hall facility with consideration of an alternate meeting facility, electorate approval for purchasing and sending sympathy cards from the town board for burials in the township cemetery, and road maintenance and repair planning were added to the agenda. Cynthia Haskin made a motion to approve the amended agenda with second by Marcie Useldinger. A vote to approve was called for and motion carried with a show of 26 hands yes, 0 no.

Reading of Board of Audit Report For Year Ending December 31, 2019: Clerk Wingard read the Board of Audit Report approved by the town board at the February 3, 2020 Board of Audit Meeting. The report was posted prior to the meeting according to statutory guidelines.

Review and Approve Annual Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2019: Moderator Haugen asked for review of and a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for the March 12, 2019 Annual Meeting. Cynthia Haskin made a motion to approve with second by Keni Johnson. Moderator Haugen called for discussion and there was none. He then called for a vote to approve and motion carried with a show of 26 hands yes, 0 no.

Discussion and Authorization of township picnic summer 2020: Moderator Haugen asked for discussion and possible authorization by the electorate for a Township Picnic Summer 2020.

Comments were made by the electorate regarding low attendance and decreased engagement of township residents in 2017 and 2018. There was no picnic held in 2019. Tanja Bennett stated she felt the township picnic in previous years was a great event enjoyed by all ages and certainly has value as an old time township tradition. Tanja Bennett made a motion for the electorate to approve the board to study the feasibility of organizing a township picnic in 2020. Second by Michelle Anderson. Moderator Haugen called a vote to approve and motion carried with a show of 23 hands yes, 0 no.

Set time and place for 2020 Annual Township Meeting: Moderator Haugen stated March 9, 2021 is the second Tuesday in March, the traditional township election and Annual Meeting Day. Lynn Johnson made a motion to approve the next Annual Meeting to be held on March 9, 2021 at 8:30 PM at Turtle Lake Township Hall. Second by Daniel Lockard. Motion carried with a show of 26 hands yes, 0 no.

Review prior years nonprofit contributions. Discuss and establish 2020 township donation amount: An attendee stated there is a large and often unrecognized need in the surrounding community for food shelf support. The Turtle River Watershed Association's role in maintaining water quality, AIS control and conservation education was discussed. Lynn Johnson made a motion to approve \$3,350, the same as last year, for township donations. Second by Keni Johnson. Moderator Haugen called for discussion. Bill Barthelemy made a suggestion to raise the total donation to \$3850. Lynn Johnson agreed to amend her initial motion to a donation of \$3850, with second by Keni Johnson. Moderator Haugen called for a vote and motion carried with a show of 25 hands yes, 0 no.

Treasurer Reports: Township Treasurer Gail Mistic Dockendorf presented and made available a printed Annual Account Summary for 2019 showing beginning fund balances, receipts, disbursements and ending fund balances. No questions were raised by the public in attendance.

General Levy 2021: The proposed 2021 Levy established by the town board at the February 3 Board of Audit Meeting was presented. Lynn Johnson made a motion to accept the proposed 2021 Levy with second Michelle Anderson. Moderator Haugen called for a vote and motion carried with a show of 25 hands yes, 0 no.

2021 Levy:	
General:	\$50,000
Road and Bridge:	\$105,000
Building:	\$5,000
Cemetery:	\$0
Fire:	\$70,000
Total Levy:	\$230,000

Township clerk will complete the Levy Certification document and file with Beltrami County.

Moderator Haugen then opened discussion of the additional topics added to the agenda.

Future planning to maintain and preserve the town hall facility with consideration of an alternate meeting facility: Cynthia Haskin raised the question of how much is the township willing to invest in maintaining the existing town hall structure and if there are known foreseeable issues with the structure. Keni Johnson stated the history of town hall in the community makes it invaluable and preserving the building is important. Gail Mistic-Dockendorf mentioned she has noticed other updated town hall facilities are used more by the public. Michelle Anderson said the Dickinson family should be involved with the decision-making process as they donated the land and building and have close ties with the history of the township. Jerome Molacek made a motion the town board establish a committee to discuss and develop a plan for town hall facilities with second by Gail Mistic-Dockendorf. Moderator Haugen called for a vote and motion carried with a show of 22 hands yes, 0 no.

Electorate approval for purchasing and sending sympathy cards from the town board for burials in the township cemetery: Michelle Anderson, township cemetery sexton, asked the electorate to approve a modest amount of money in order to purchase sympathy cards to be signed and sent to the families of people interred in the cemetery. Tanja Bennett made a motion to approve \$50 expenditure from the cemetery fund for sympathy recognition by the board. Second by Bill Barthelemy. Motion carried with a show of hands 24 hands yes.

Road maintenance and repair planning: Steven Quamme has lived on East Movil Lake Road for 26 years, and made a request for the board to inspect the road and determine what improvements can be made to widen the road to improve safety. Bill Barthelemy, board supervisor and road supervisor, advised the date of the Annual Road Tour will be set at the April 6, 2020 regular board meeting, and any member of the public is invited to attend and participate. There are plans for the board to establish long term goals for road maintenance and repair. The results of the Annual Road Tour are presented at the regular board meetings and open to discussion by the public also.

A resident on Shorewood Court described a drainage issue on her property. She was encouraged to contact the road supervisor to discuss this.


Moderator Haugen made the statement the last item on the agenda had been discussed. Lynn Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tanja Bennett stated she didn't want to adjourn without making a statement how this annual meeting was one of the best she has ever attended with township residents actively and respectfully sharing their thoughts and concerns. She then made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried with a show of hands 24 hands yes, 0 no.

Tanja Bennett and others in attendance also thanked Mark Haugen for his willingness to take on moderating the Annual Meeting and doing an excellent job.

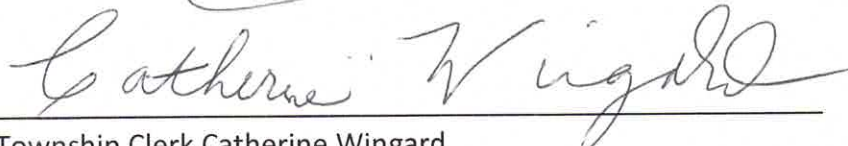
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Submitted By:

Date: 3-12-2020



2020 Annual Township Meeting Moderator Mark Haugen



Township Clerk Catherine Wingard