

2001 EUREKA TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Clerk Oliver Leine called the Annual Meeting of Eureka Township to order on March 13, 2001 at 8:00 PM.

Randy Wood nominated Bob Papke as Moderator and he was elected.

The minutes of the 2000 Annual Meeting were approved as read. Kenny Miller made a motion to approve, Randy Wood seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer Gary Schulz presented the Treasurer's report. A starting balance of \$309,937.93 and an ending balance of \$377,326.43 was reported. He handed out a copy of his report. He explained this report briefly to the attendees. This is a complete report of the year's inflows and outflows of the Township's accounts. It includes all checks written and deposits made. It also included a budget and actual comparison divided by categories. Don Storlie asked if it was possible for the Town Board to spend over the total budgeted amount approved at the Annual Meeting. It was decided to ask the Minnesota Assoc. of Township's attorney and report back. Cheryl Schindeldecker made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as read and Don Storlie seconded, motion carried.

Reports by the supervisors on several topics were presented.

Fire and Ambulance: Cheryl Schindeldecker first presented the ALF ambulance contract. She explained that it is a 3-year contract and is identical for all townships that are served and can't be changed. It was noted that a new ambulance that will be based out of Farmington may improve response times to parts of the township. The ambulance had been available for viewing before the annual meeting. Cheryl also reported on the 2 fire contracts. It was explained that both Farmington and Lakeville now use essentially the same formula. Because the west half of the township served by Lakeville has a higher tax valuation the bill from Lakeville has gone up and is now more than the Farmington bill. It was also reported that the township had received the overcharge money from Farmington for the years their formula was incorrectly applied to the whole township and not just Farmington's east half.

Bridges: Ray Kadlec stated that he had been working with Dakota County on getting deficient township bridges on the list of bridges available for county replacement funding. 2 bridges are still on the list. The township is only required to pay \$10,000 toward the bridge and also do the approach work. The bridges are Hamburg north of 240th for 2002 at a cost of \$100,000 and the wooden railroad bridge on 265th near Galaxy for 2003 at a cost of \$350,000. Mark Malecha asked about the bridge on Denmark Ave. north of 275th St. It was brought up that this is more of a concrete box culvert and doesn't fit the county's criteria. It was noted that there are 2 other of these box culverts on Highview Ave that need work. Kenny Miller stated that it would probably be best to remove these structures instead of trying to extend and repair them.

Don Storlie made a motion to direct the Town Board to prioritize and deal with the hazards of the concrete box culverts on township roads. Gary Schulz seconded and the motion carried.

Ordinance Updates: Donald Pflaum gave a report on the progress in updating the township ordinances. He outlined the 3 types of ordinances being worked on.

Mining Ordinance – Draft was completed a month ago. Moratorium still in effect until the new ordinance is adopted.

Commercial Ordinance – Needs to balance existing business, future business and homeowner requirements.

Misc. Ordinances – All others.

There will be public hearings before any board action to adopt the new ordinances.

Bev Topp then gave a presentation on the Gravel Mining Task Force, thanking them and giving members a plaque. The members were Kenny Miller, Glen Shirley, Gary Smith, Randy Wood, Patricia Stiege, Don Storlie and Sharon Buckley. Gary Smith talked about how the task force had worked and how he felt it builds a sense of township ownership among the participants.

Bev then presented the retiring town officials and thanked them for their years of service. They were Cheryl Schindeldecker, Ray Kadlec and Gary Schulz.

Newsletter: Bev discussed the possibility of starting a Township newsletter. Bob Papke has written some suggestions. Castle Rock Township currently has a newsletter that costs about \$300. Shelly Clubb made a motion to publish a quarterly township newsletter done by volunteers of the township. Randy Wood seconded and the motion carried.

Annexation: Bev next reported on the request to annex the Adelman property of approximately 156 acres in the extreme northeast corner of the township to the City of Farmington. The landowners requested this and she stated that according to lawyers we would lose any appeal to prevent this. The best course appears to be to object and meet with Farmington to get as much as possible according to the law.

Envisioning: Bev then presented a proposal from a group called 1000 Friends of Minnesota to participate in an envisioning process for the township's future. It should be made up of a citizen's task force or committee instead of the Planning Commission to prevent pressure to apply the recommendations. The 1000 Friends group is an anti sprawl planned growth group. It was decided to get further information on the group and let the board decide how to proceed.

Roads: Clark Smith and Donald Pflaum discussed the township road situation. Clark first reported on the reasons that no major projects were undertaken last year. The board had prioritized 4 projects: Highview Ave., 225th St, Denmark Ave. and 240th St. These projects were let for bids but due to unclear specification in the bid process it was decided to re-bid and by then it was too late in the construction season. A study was contracted with the firm of Bolton and Menk to determine the best way to upgrade these roads. The findings of this study indicated that many of the roads have only a minimal cover of gravel over dirt and that a major lift of several inches of material would be needed to make repairs last. Don then handed out a list of the proposed projects with estimates. He explained that the township would be aggressively pursuing improvements to the roads with the surplus funds available.

Clark and Bev then discussed the need to have the electors of the township pass a resolution authorizing the township to establish road right of ways. This may be needed to maintain or reconstruct ditches along several roads. There is a specific State statute that the township must adopt to allow this. Bev read this statute and after some discussion on the wording and its meaning Carolyn Papke made a motion to adopt State Statute 164.07 Authorizing the township to establish, alter or vacate township roads. The motion was seconded by John Strunk and after some discussion about requiring the board to consult with landowners first it passed.

Budget: Gary Schulz next presented the 2002 budget. A copy of the budget along with actual spending and revenue for the past 5 years was handed out to those present. Several areas were discussed including the legal fees. Bev stated that much of the amount this year was extraordinary due to the gravel mining issue and new ordinances. A discussion then ensued about the need for a new town hall. John Strunk described how Castle Rock had built theirs. It was then discussed as to whether a new town hall was really needed or if an alternate meeting space such as the Mt. Olivet Retreat Center or the extension office could be used for the few large meetings that are held.

Gene Dietz made a motion to remove the \$10,000 Town Hall escrow amount from the budget, Cheryl Schindeldecker seconded. The motion carried on a 16 to 13 vote.

Gary Gunderson made a motion to increase the Gravel/Gravel Hauling line in the budget by \$10,000, Don Storlie seconded and the motion carried.

Calvin Pflaum made a motion to approve the proposed budget of \$317,800, Earl Schindeldecker seconded and the motion carried.

Don Storlie made a motion to appoint a task force to research land, building options and alternatives for a possible new town hall. John Strunk seconded and motion carried. Carolyn Papke requested that all alternatives be considered. Don Pflaum requested that the town hall issue be discussed at the next annual meeting.

John Strunk made a motion to direct the town board to hold the next annual meeting on Tuesday the 12th of March at 8 PM and to hold it in a larger facility, Gene Dietz seconded and the motion carried.

Gary Gunderson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Francie Madden and approved.

2001 Eureka Township Election Summary

A total of 183 ballots were cast in the Town Election.

Connie Anderson, 98 votes for the 3-year Supervisor term

Mark Malecha, 84 votes

1 blank

Kenneth Miller, 107 votes for the 1-year Supervisor term

Bernadette Wood, 75 votes

1 blank

Gary Schulz, 2 write in votes for the 2-year Treasurer term

Mike Giles, 2 write in votes

John Curry, 1 write in vote

Carol Antonson, 1 write in vote

Vote on the question of making the Treasurer position appointed.

181 ballots for this question.

128 yes votes

41 no votes

12 blank

Bev Topp was elected Chairperson; Don Pflaum was elected Vice Chairperson of the Town Board at the organizational meeting held following the Annual Meeting.

Oliver Leine, Clerk