

Annual Township Meeting Minutes **Tuesday March 12, 2024**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Attendance: Clerk Ruggles called the 2024 Annual Township Meeting to order at 7:00pm. She welcomed the residents to the meeting and provided an overview on what was in their packets and what types of items they can authorize at this meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes and shows who signed in, but those residents in attendance included Greg Bennett, Bob Johnson, Greg Booth, Arlene Schmit, Lisa Fletcher, Jennifer Paananen (Pillager Fair Board), Jim & Sandy Anderson, Robert Hoover, Randy & Katie Lee, Jim Conklin, Brian Smith, Ryan Bodell, Sheriff Bryan Welk (Cass Co), Chief-Deputy Alger (Cass Co), & Chief Ringler (Pillager Fire).

Moderator: Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to nominate Mr. Greg Bennett as Moderator for the Annual Meeting.** As there were not any more nominations Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to cease nominations**, seconded by Mr. Randy Lee and the motion carried.

Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to install Mr. Greg Bennett as the moderator for the 2024 Annual Township Meeting**, seconded by Mr. Bob Johnson and the motion carried.

Mr. Greg Bennett came forward to review the agenda and asked for any amendments to the agenda. Mr. Greg Booth mentioned that the levy numbers on the agenda were last year's numbers and Clerk Ruggles provided correct numbers. Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to approve the agenda as amended**, seconded by Ms. Katie Lee and the motion carried.

Public Input: Mr. Smith addressed the room and let the residents know that he has been attempting to educate and hold the Town Board accountable for their actions this past year. He indicated that the Oath of Office that the Township Board and staff take is to the United States and not to America. He stated that The United States is a corporation, and we should not be loyal to it. He also stated that if they did not change to the other Oath of Office he would sue each one of them individually within 3 days.

Clerk/Treasurers Report:

- **2023 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Sandy Anderson **moved to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented**, seconded by Ms. Katie Lee and the motion carried.
- **2023 Annual Financial Statements and Audit Report** were available for review.

Town Status Reports for 2023:

- Sheriff Welk presented his year-end report and answered several questions. Discussions with Sheriff Welk included information regarding Cass County's newly proposed ATV Ordinance and when it will be presented; Take it to the Box; and if there was anything that our community members could do to help support the Sheriff's Department better.

- Chief Ringler provided a report from the Pillager Area Fire Association & Fire Department. He provided a few more details and numbers for the year and the start of 2024 and was available to answer questions.
- Pillager Park Board report was provided, and Supervisor Arlene Schmit provided extra details and answered questions. The Park is looking for a Park Host for 2024.
- Sylvan's Planning Commission and Sylvan Park reports were provided.
- Sylvan Township Road Report was provided and Supervisor Greg Bennett was available for questions.

Items to Consider:

- **Cass County Ag Society (Pillager Fair Board)** – Ms. Jennifer Paananen provided a brief description of what they are looking to do with any funds that they receive in 2024 which included doing some work on the iconic pillars at the front gate. Mr. Randy Lee **moved to donate \$7,000 to the Cass County Ag Society for 2024**, seconded by Ms. Katie Lee and the motion carried.
- **Cass County Historical Society & Museum** – Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to continue our membership with Cass County Historical Society at \$250**, seconded by Mr. Jim Anderson and the motion carried.
- **Cass County Ag Association (Cass Co Fair – Pine River)** – Mr. Brian Smith **moved to donate \$1,000 to the Cass County Ag Association for the Cass Co Fair in Pine River**, seconded by Mr. Jim Anderson and the motion carried.
- **Lakes Area Dive Team** – Mr. Jim Anderson **moved to donate \$1,200 to the Lakes Area Dive Team for 2024**, seconded by Mr. Greg Booth and the motion carried.
- **Pillager Area Food Shelf** – was new to the list this year. Ms. Sandy Anderson **moved to donate \$1,000 to the Pillager Area Food Shelf**, seconded by Ms. Lisa Fletcher and the motion carried.

Tax Levies for 2024:

- **General Fund** – Mr. Greg Booth discussed how the proposed levy amounts are created during a budget meeting and that they reflect the previous year's donations. He indicated that the residents may want to increase the General Fund by \$3,000 since they increased the donation amount that much tonight. Mr. Randy Lee **moved to approve \$144,830 for the General Fund Levy in 2025**, seconded by Mr. Jim Anderson and the motion carried.
- **Road & Bridge Fund** – Mr. Randy Lee **moved to approve \$450,000 for the Road & Bridge Fund Levy in 2025**, seconded by Ms. Arlene Schmit and the motion carried.
- **Fire Fund** – Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to approve \$110,000 for the Fire Fund Levy in 2025**, seconded by Mr. Bob Johnson and the motion carried.

The total for the 2025 Levy is set at \$704,830.

Set Annual Town Meeting for 2024: Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to set the Annual Town Meeting for 2025 on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 at 7pm**, seconded by Mr. Randy Lee and the motion carried.

Other Township Business: There was none at this time.

Adjournment: Ms. Arlene Schmit **moved to adjourn**, seconded by Mr. Randy Lee and the motion carried with the meeting adjourning at 8:09 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Jenna Ruggles, Clerk

Moderator – Greg Bennett

These minutes will be reviewed and approved by the Sylvan residents at their next Annual Meeting in 2025, but for now these minutes are available as a draft for review purposed only.

Date: 03.13.2024