

Draft Copy
BERGEN TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14th, 2017
8:00 pm

The Bergen Township Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Clerk, Tiffany Eggert. Aaron Eggert made a motion and seconded by Joel Tucholke to nominate Zach Woytcke as moderator. Motion carried.

At 8:05pm, Tiffany Eggert made a motion, seconded by Matt Tonn to accept the March 2016 annual minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

Ron Shimanski reported regarding McLeod Coutny. He stated for the record that the county board hired a consultant to update the job descriptions internally and they market study and compared to surrounding counties and made wage adjustments. The county is restructuring and consolidating the number of departments. Environment Services director retired in January and position is still open. The recycling program has increase significantly since going to single sort. The next step is to start to recycle seed bags, bail wrap etc... so they will be receiving a grant for a new machine to recycle these products. The Jail Project is a little over half done with the expansion which will be increasing the cell count from 35 to 55 cells to avoid out-housing out inmates. Road projects: county rd 3 north of Plato from county 1 towards Carver County will be realigned summer of 2017. County rd 15 from hwy 7 north to the town line road, will be straightened and widen. Energy: Other townships have had interest in solar fields recently. Dakota trail: legacy committee will put it in a form of a funding bill, and once it passes it will be sent to local government for approval. Highways: New process with the highway department are using a soybean oil based product that protects the asphalt and it should extend the life of blacktop 3-4 years before sealcoating.

The Board of Audit was read was read out loud by clerk Tiffany Eggert.

Treasurer Angela Leverich read the financial report for 2016 and recapped the year.

Glencoe Fire Department: Scott Mathewes and Jeremy Mattson reported. The 2017 fire contribution will be \$3,044.74. They are looking to replace their fire rescue truck and received three different quotes. Bergen will be asked to cover 9.81% of the cost in 2018. There was 1 fire call in 2016 in Bergen Twp and 116 total calls. Looking at fire hall expansion and is completed a feasibility study.

Plato Fire Department: Jay Wood reported. There were 41 total calls with no fire deaths or injuries as well as no firefighter injuries. Was awarded a grant to cover 22 sets of new turnout gear and airpacks. Record number of people attended the fish fry this year and served 2137

people. Looking to replace their fire rescue truck in 2018. Bergen will be asked for payment in 2019 once budgets are set later this year.

Lester Prairie Fire Department: Matt Tonn reported. There were 129 calls in 2016, down 29 from prior Year. Bergen Township had 23 of these calls. They are looking to replace their fire rescue truck in 2018. Bergen will be asked for payment in 2018 once budgets are set later this year

Road Report: Jeff Klehr was not able to attend. Tiffany Eggert read the road report from Mr. Klehr. It reminded residents that disposing snow across the road is illegal. Also, making sure there are no items such as fence or markers in the road right away, which is also illegal. He asked for residents to clearly mark their dust-coating with reflectors so they can see the coating after rain falls so they do not grade through them. Ryan Ide asked if the residents are pleased with the quality of the roads and the residents applauded in favor. There was a discussion of gravel quality for 2017. Discussed road rebuild 167th and Eagle Ave.

OLD BUSINESS:

The web page is www.bergentownship.com. Clerk reminded everyone to check the website for updates, notices, meeting minutes and agendas.

Town Hall – The Board is now renting for monthly meetings at the City of Lester Prairie City Hall the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Residents discussed the current state of the town hall and if the township should rebuild, add on or repair the existing structure. The majority was in favor of repairing/replacing the existing structure's siding and widows instead of building new or adding an addition. Residents asked about the lot that was purchased and what the board was going to do it. It was mentioned the board will keep the vacant lot for now and sell it when the time is right.

NEW BUSINESS:

2018 Newsletter: Clerk asked the residents how they would like to receive the 2018 Newsletter. The majority of the people requested it to be mailed through the Post Office.

General Discussion

Andrew Jackson addressed the residents regarding the Packer Cemetery. Mr. Jackson is looking to obtain his Eagle Scout badge and would like to refurbish the Packer Cemetery. Scope of work includes removing brush, fixing poles and fence caps, and adding a layer of landscaping fabric and river rock. The labor for the project would be at no charge from the Boy Scouts. There will also be a permanent sign created with all deceased names on it. At 9: 23pm, Kelly Machemehl made a motion to spend on or around \$2500 to refurbish the cemetery. Liz Schwarze 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Dakota Trail Project. : There was much discussion from residents regarding the trail. Some fear the fees would exceed the grant money and were opposed of the project. Others were in favor of the trail and discussed the maintenance would not exceed the grant. Adam Birkholz from City of Lester Prairie stated facts as it would relating the bill and mentioned there is no financial investment from Bergen Township if McLeod County accepts the grant. Also, he mentioned the grant can only be spent for trails such as the Dakota Trail and if McLeod County does not accept the money, it's not likely our county would ever receive another grant such as this. Last, he mentioned studies showed the use of trail attendance goes up once trails are made. The majority of the residents were in favor of the trail, with others opposing.

Nathan Ide brought forth that he feels citizens of Bergen are being singled out for issues that are related to Road Right of Way, etc... Michael Venero agreed with this statement. Tiffany Eggert made the recommendation to have The Bergen Board develop policies regarding these issues and how to handle them.

2018 Proposed Levy: at 10:09pm, Dave Thiede made a motion, seconded by Jesse Woytcke to accept the levy for 2018 as follows: Road and Bridge - \$130,000; General - \$48,000; Fire - \$25,000. For a total of \$203,000. Motion carried

At 10:15 pm, On a motion by Kelly Machemehl, seconded by Mike Venero, the next annual meeting will be the second Tuesday of March, 2018 at Bergen Town hall at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

At 10:18pm, On a motion by Francis Burch to continue the 2017 annual meeting at the Lester Prairie City Hall at the 7:00pm on September 13th 2017. Ryan Ide 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Zach Woytcke, Moderator

Tiffany Eggert, Clerk