

Draft Copy
BERGEN TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13th, 2018
7:00 pm

The Bergen Township Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Clerk, Tiffany Eggert. Mike Ide made a motion and seconded by Aaron Eggert to nominate Zach Woytcke as moderator. All in favor. There were 0 opposed. Motion carried.

There were 63 people in attendance, and 52 signed in.

At 7:08pm, Tiffany Eggert made a motion, seconded by Devan Stoltenow to accept the March 2017 annual minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

Ron Shimanski, McCloud Commissioner reported that a grant that was awarded to McLeod County regarding new election equipment. The poll books will now become electronic improving the system and streamlining processes. The County will be matching to help out the townships. The County Board is having great success on the ditch repair program. The County still has an opening for a new County Administrator. The County courthouse has a new entrance and the dedication will be on April 17th, 2018. There is a new LiDar topography mapping sensing over the county coming out in 2018. There is will be a new pavilion at the McLeod Fairgrounds in the near future. McLeod is working on consolidating depts. and having fewer department heads. Mr. Shimanski talked about many new roads that will be paved this year.

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

Beginning balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
General Fund: \$3,208.10	\$38,064.28	\$56,900.48	(\$15,628.10)
Road + Bridge: \$256,704.10	\$212,584.02	\$326,692.87	\$142,595.25
Fire: \$35,268.14	\$23,996.88	\$33,817.19	\$25,448.13

Road + Bridge Investment Balance was: \$364,239.75

Glencoe Fire Department: Scott Mathews read the report. 101 calls, 2 which were in Bergen Twp. Glencoe ordered a new Rosenbauer Resuce truck. It will arrive in October 2018. Total cost is \$422,259. City of Glencoe is purchasing the truck. Bergen's portion is \$9700. Glencoe told us that the Government is requiring them to replace their gear every 10 years. They are applying for a FIMA grant. There is a fire hall expansion will be in the next 2-5 years and it will be a city structure. As of right now, townships are not required to contribute. Coming up the next is a new Fire Engine and this will be in 5-6 years for delivery.

Plato Fire Department: Jamie Schlechter: 51 total calls, and Jay wood retired.

Lester Prairie Fire Department: Matt Tonn, assistant chief reported 145 calls in 2018. 97 in Lester Prairie.

Working on Grants with FIMA for new gear.

Discussion took place on the new Engine Replacement Truck. The cost of the truck will be \$557,531 and the specs include: 1000 gallon tank, 1500 gal / min pump, foam system, enclosed pump handle, ladder up hose bed, and numerous safety features. The fire dept. is still required to follow certain emission standards that are enforced by the EPA. These new trucks will follow these standards. They plan on replacing the rescue truck in 2024 or 2025.

Road Report: The Clerk read the roads are in good shape and the Board is happy with the current contractor. The clerk asked the residents if anyone had any issues with the roads and there were no comments. A resident asked what the next road is to be completed and Chairman, Ryan Ide stated it will be Eagle Ave, south of 167th street.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Andrew Jackson presented his Boy Scout project which was to refurbish and restore the Packer Piper Cemetery. He explained the details of the project and the successful ending. The Board of Bergen presented Mr. Jackson with an award and certificate of appreciation.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Clerk explained to the attendees that The Board now has a yearly planning meeting in December of each year. The meetings will look at the future year and 2-3 years beyond. This will result in planning for future expenses and budgeting accordingly so the Clerk can make an educated recommendation of the Levy each year. This also helps in making sure The Board does not go over budget. The Clerk also explained our Emergency Preparedness Plan which is to follow McLeod Counties' and which is recommended by Kevin Mathews, Emergency Plan Director of McLeod County. Last, the Clerk introduced 3 new Resolutions that were made earlier this year and are posted on the website: Dust Control, Road Right of Way and Approaches and Culverts.

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.

At 8:35 pm, on a motion made by Michael Bates, seconded by Devan Stoltenow , Bergen Twp will add a question on to the 2018 election ballot that asks the residents if the Treasurer position should be moved from an elected position to an appointed position. There was discussion and during the motion, since there was opposition, there was a hand vote. There were 29 YES (to add the question to the ballot) and 7-NO (not to add the question to the ballot). Motioned carried.

General Discussion

John Graupmann asked what we are doing with the land we own on Babcock. Right now only government entities can purchase the land unless we rezone.

2018 Proposed Levy:

Clerk explained to the residents, how Bergen Township will end 2018 financially and what the spending is planned for in 2019.

Discussion about why the need for a new truck. Back and forth discussion. Good topics of supporting the township. Many different views, for and against. All 3 departments brought forth factual information on why they need new equipment. Other questions included what else we can cut out of our budget to give towards the fire levy such as gravel reduction for 2019. The board expressed that if we cut out gravel or other items from our budget, it would result in future increase levies so we should keep going at the pace we are. Also, It was determined that it's in the towns best interests to keep our investments and cash on hand for emergency's and to continue with a Levy every year.

9:25pm, On a motion made by Dave Thiede, seconded by Jay Sheehan, the town is to move forward with their portion of the purchase of the Lester Prairie Fire Engine Truck as well as the Glencoe Fire Truck which will result in a Fire Levy of \$63,200 in 2019. The total purchase price of the Lester Prairie firetruck will be \$557,351 and Bergen Township will be responsible for 24.14% of this purchase over the next 7 years. There will be a one-time payment of \$10,000 made to Glencoe Fire Dept. All in favor was the majority. There were 0 opposed.

9: 27pm, On a motion made by Jay Sheehan, seconded by Clarence Ehrke, the 2019 Levy is approved as follows. All in favor was the majority. There was one opposed in the audience.

Road & Bridge: \$149,000
General : \$50,000
Fire : \$63,200

At 9:32 pm, On a motion by David Thiede, seconded by Michael Bates, the next annual meeting will be the second Tuesday of March, 2019 at Bergen Town hall at 7:00 pm lasting approximately 3 hours.

At 9:35, John Graupmann, made motion to adjourn the meeting, Josh Miller 2nd the motion. Motioned carried. All in favor was the majority. There were 0 opposed.

Zach Woytcke, Moderator

Tiffany Eggert, Clerk