

**Draft Copy**  
**BERGEN TOWNSHIP**  
**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**7:00 pm**

The Bergen Township Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Clerk, Tiffany Eggert. Francis Burch made a motion and seconded by Dave Hoernemann to nominate Charlie Wilkens as moderator. All in favor. There were 0 opposed. Motion carried.

There were 24 people in attendance, and 21 signed in, with 21 being registered voters.

At 7:03 pm, Tiffany Eggert made a motion, seconded by Dave Hoernemann to accept the March 2020 annual minutes as distributed. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ron Shimanski, McCloud Commissioner: sent a report for the following updates:

**McLeod County Commissioner's Report to Annual Township Meeting**  
**March 2020**

1. McLeod County Government Center under construction, to be completed early in 2021. Will include Health and Human Services, Public Health, Veteran's Services, Administration, Auditor/ Treasurer, Recorder, Assessor, SWCD, Information Technology, Commissioner's Board Room, public meeting rooms. One stop for most county government services. Courts, Sheriff's Office, Jail, Probation and County Attorney will remain in the Court House facility. New Court House Security checkpoint is installed in the Court House entrance.
2. Local Option Sales Tax, ½ % implemented to hold down substantial levy increase. Will be used for county roads (dedicated). \$6 million bonded for road construction in the next 2 years. It will be repaid by this sales tax. Future sales tax revenue will also be applied to road projects county wide.
3. County highway road tour this spring by the county board. Looking at future projects, working on design for Co. Rd. #5 extension from Co. Rd. #1 to Co. Rd. #9 with the city of Winsted.
4. Community recycling bins, working with cities to place our bins in fenced compost sites that will be open during monitored hours for area use. 4 county wide sites anticipated, plus facility in Hutch. This is necessary to control contamination and dumping of non-recyclable debris, furniture, and appliances.
5. Health and Human Services working to be prepared if Coronavirus comes to Minnesota. Plans and Equipment are being organized locally in cooperation with State and Federal agencies.
6. Elections, precincts are using "electronic poll books" county wide.
7. Recorder's office is digitally recording most of old and historic record books this year. Also acquiring finger printings services in compliance with Dept. of Humans Services requirements for our staff.
8. Many County Ditch systems in Hale, Winsted, and Bergen are undergoing "redetermination of benefits" to upgrade ditch benefit values as many ditched are in need of considerable repairs. This will also require acquisition of 16.5' buffer easements on open ditches in our systems, that have not been previously acquired.

9. McLeod County Jail has taken over the "Sentence To Service" obligations that had previously been done by the Mn Dept. of Corrections, who then billed that service back to the county. This will give the county better control of services provided throughout the county by individuals who would otherwise be inmates of our county jail.
10. There are many more moving parts around McLeod County. This summary gives you a snap shot of what is going on in several areas of county government

Ron Shimanski cell, 320-223-2355; e-mail [ron.shimanski@co.mcleod.mn.us](mailto:ron.shimanski@co.mcleod.mn.us)

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### **Fire Department Reports:**

Glencoe Fire Department: Scott Mathews represented the Glencoe Fire Dept. There were 124 calls. There were 2 calls for Bergen Township. Purchases in 2019 included were minimal: uniforms, necessary materials, etc... There will be a new Pumper purchase in 2023. Legislation: Hometowns hero's protection act has been passed at the State of MN for firefighters.

Lester Prairie Fire Department: Matt Tonn, Fire Chief spoke on the behalf of LFPD. There were 138 calls total. Bergen Township had 25 calls. There are 29 people on the roster. Highlights of 2019: took delivery of new engine, installed new breathing air compressor. Converted 2001 engine to respond to vehicle crashes. LFPD is accepting applications for new members. People age 18 and older and are in good physical condition are eligible to apply. CO2 calls Reminder. Applied for a FEMA grant for the SCBA for 2021.

Plato Fire Department Report: Jaimie Schlechter, Fire Chief reported: 53 calls this year, 3 were in Bergen. Total training hours 1504 hours. Roster of 23 but would like to have 25. Budget is the same as 2019 but one line was added was for turn out gear.

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### **Road Report: For 2020:**

#### **2019: Improvements made on roads:**

- Replaced 160<sup>th</sup>/Zero Ave culverts
- Cable Ave: added dirt in road ditch to eliminate slope
- Added Gravel to roads in need
- Over winter, evaluated salt/sand mixture as well as crush red rock mixture on icy roads
- Added crushed granite on 175<sup>th</sup> street to help maintain road and eliminate washboards for truck traffic.

Actual dollars spent:

Grading: \$51,209

Plowing: \$27,287

Gravel: \$27,438

Total: 105,934

2020: Improvements needed on roads:

- Adding gravel to roads in need
- Repairing cartway and adding a culvert on 14133 Bergen Road
- Tiling roads where needed
- Note: above all within levied budget for 2020
  - We did receive an additional \$14,000 from FEMA grants

2021 planned expenses

- \$70,000 operating (heavy snow?)
- \$20,000 road maintenance (culverts, etc.)
- \$40,000 road repairs (tiling + rock)
- \$2,500 Insurance
- \$2,500 Weed control
- \$75,000 Gravel
- \$0 -Emergency Fund (have investments & cash balance)
- \$210,000 TOTAL (expense)

Road Discussion: Clerk asked the residents if they had any feedback on the roads for 2019 and nobody had any comments. A few people commented on how great the road conditions are.

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

Bergen Township

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Balances (Schedule 1)

As on 12/31/2019

Fund	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Sale of Investments	Transfers In	Disbursements	Purchase of Investments	Transfers Out	Ending Balance	Investment Balance	Total Balance
General Fund	1,673.98	53,352.52	0.00	0.00	41,011.18	0.00	0.00	14,015.32	0.00	14,015.32
Road and Bridge	167,344.43	472,685.16	7,489.51	0.00	151,650.44	298,966.91	0.00	196,901.75	387,696.62	584,598.37
Fire Fund	(1,561.51)	60,867.04	0.00	0.00	37,478.68	0.00	0.00	21,826.85	0.00	21,826.85
Total :	167,456.90	586,904.72	7,489.51	0.00	230,140.30	298,966.91	0.00	232,743.92	387,696.62	620,440.54

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The web page is [www.bergentownship.com](http://www.bergentownship.com). Clerk reminded everyone to check the website for updates, notices, meeting minutes, treasurer reports and agendas.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Clerk explained to the attendees that The Board has a yearly planning meeting in early January 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.

2020 Newsletter: The majority of the people requested the newsletter to continue be mailed through the Post Office. Residents requested to have newsletter printed on brighter paper.

The Clerk asked the residents to start thinking if we wanted to move to mail in ballots for the 2022 elections. This would decrease the cost of each election by approximately half. This will be tabled to 2021 annual meeting.

## **General Discussion**

Dust control question was brought up by a resident and asked if the town board has thought of applying this township wide. The board explained that many times the roads with dust control turns mushy in the Spring and is very expensive to apply. The board mentioned we've worked with crushed granite the past year or so and its working good for high traffic truck roads.

Residents also inquired if we could pack or roll after grading. The board members advised the public if we went to this, the township would have to purchase the rollers.

## **2021 Proposed Levy:**

Clerk presented the *2021 Levy Packet* that detailed expected expenditures for 2021 as well as a 30-year future plan for the fire fund. After presenting, the residents did not have any questions.

At 8:04pm Dawn Jacques made a motion to accept the 2021 levy recommendations per below. Dave Hoernemann 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor. There was 0 opposed. Motion carried.

2020 Levy:

General Fund: \$44,500

Road + Bridge Fund: \$210,000

Fire Fund: \$89,000

**Total: \$343,500**

The residents set the 2021 meeting for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm at Bergen Town Hall. At 8:06pm, Francis Burch made a motion to set the 20201 meeting for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00pm. Ryan Ide 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor. There was 0 opposed. Motion carried.

At 8:07pm, Jason Jacques, made motion to adjourn the meeting, Larry Ide 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motioned carried. All in favor was the majority. There were 0 opposed. Motion carried.

Charlie Wilkens, Moderator

Tiffany Eggert, Clerk