

**DRAFT COPY  
BERGEN TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2016**

The Bergen Township Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:00pm by Clerk, Joann Feltmann. Dave Thiede made a motion and seconded by Jerry Rolf to nominate Gene Feltmann as moderator. Motion carried.

Ron Shimanski, County Commissioner, told about an upcoming McLeod County Agricultural Land informational meeting on March 29 at Hutchinson and Glencoe also on March 30 at Hutchinson and Winsted regarding new buffer law, conversion to crop production index and protecting our rural Road Right of Way. The County board has approved bid for jail project. The single sort recycling is working well. County will be doing reclassification of county employees. The Trail Blazer Transit with McLeod, Sibley and Wright counties are looking to build a new facility in Buffalo. A conditional use permit was issued for a Solar Garden on property located on Highway 7 and County Rd 9.

Francis Burch made a motion, seconded by DeVan Stoltenow to accept the March and September 2015 annual minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Charles Wilkens made a motion, seconded by Sam Lester to accept the treasurers report as presented, Motion carried.

Glencoe Fire Department reported that they had 2 calls to Bergen township. They are looking at building a new fire hall or adding onto existing building.

Plato Fire Department reported in 2015 they had a total of 50 calls. They have applied for grants to offset purchases of some small and large items.

Lester Prairie Fire Department reported they had 158 calls in 2015, majority being medical. They have completed an ISO audit to hopefully lower the insurance cost for parts of our rural area. They have applied for a grant to purchase new turn outs and SCBA Units.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The \$5.00 for the recycling shed was returned to McLeod County Solid Waste. The web page is [www.bergentownship.com](http://www.bergentownship.com). It was suggested to post older minutes and reports on the web. There was a suggestion to put the web address on everyones tax statements so residents know there is a web page.

On a motion by Pat Thiede, seconded by DeVan Stoltenow it was decided the township post notices on bulletin board at the townhall and in the Herald Journal newspaper. Motion carried. If someone is interested in still receiving the annual newsletter, they are to contact a supervisor or the clerk.

The new green road signs will be replaced this spring with the county picking up the cost.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The contract with Klehr Grading and Excavating will expire in April and will be reviewed by the board.

The board told the residents about applying chloride to 5 – 10 miles of roads this year. Some residents expressed concern that it would be harmful to plants and animals. After discussion and a show of hands, 23 were in favor of applying chloride to 5 – 10 miles of roads, 4 opposed. If any resident wishes not to have chloride on a road past their place, they are to let a supervisor know.

The rental of the county shed agreement ends on March 31, 2016. The board has received 2 certified appraisals to sell the 2000 truck and 2003 John Deere road grader. Fahey's appraisal for truck was \$31,000 and grader was \$77,000. Richie Brothers appraisal for truck was \$40,000 and grader was \$55,000. They both came in with \$500 for the V plow and \$2,300 for one way plow. A motion by Ken Gray, seconded by Doug Ehrke was to sell both the truck and grader. On a show of hands, 32 approved to sell and 6 apposed. It was suggested to sell the equipment at the highest appraisal and not go under the lowest. There was a recommendation to take the tool box, tools, oil, road reclaimer and any other small items to Fahey Auction Service, Glencoe MN.

Ryan Ide has met with Haugen about letting bids for 1. Complete townhall with insulated shop. 2. Complete townhall with cold storage shed. 3. Just a townhall 4. Addition to existing townhall to the north.

On a motion by Duncan Cameron, seconded by Elizabeth Schwarze, it was decided to proceed with the addition to the existing townhall which was presented by Ryan Ide. Motion carried. The prior property owner of the two acres of land on Babcock Avenue, previously purchased by Bergen Township, stated that he is not interested in buying the property back. The land could possibility be plotted and sold as a buildable site

Dave Mathowitz made a motion, seconded by Duane Mathews to accept the levy for 2017 as follows: Road and Bridge - \$130,000; General - \$33,000; Fire - \$25,000. Motion carried

On a motion by Ryan Ide, seconded by Dave Thiede, it was decided that Duncan Cameron draw up a resolution from Bergen Township supporting McLeod County in their support of the second amendment. (Right to Bear Arms). There was one resident apposed.

Duncan Cameron made a motion, seconded by Dennis Paulson for a resolution to recommend suspension of the McLeod County Trail Committee for a period of three years, until it can be re-evaluated for it's benefit to McLeod County Motion carried.

Dave Thiede made a motion, seconded by Dave Mathowitz to recommend the board return to a 3 year supervisors term and 2 years for clerk and treasurer and look at returning to March elections. Carried

Suggestion that the January reorganizational meeting be combined with the regular January meeting.

On a motion by Francie Burch, seconded by Ken Gray, the next annual meeting will be the second Tuesday of March, 2017 at the Bergen townhall at 8:00 pm. Motion carried.

On a motion by Sam Lester, seconded by Dave Thiede, the March 8, 2016 annual meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Eugene Feltmann, Moderator

Joann Feltmann, Clerk

