

2009 Eureka Township Annual Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2009
Eureka Town Hall

Call to Order

Township Clerk Nanett Sandstrom called the March 10, 2009, Eureka Township Annual Meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Moderator

The Clerk called for nominations for moderator. John Strunk was nominated as moderator. Carrie Jennings moved to close nominations; Brian Budenski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A motion by Ken Olstad: To elect John Strunk as moderator. Motion seconded by Brian Budenski. The motion carried. John Strunk was elected as moderator.

Approval of Minutes

Copies of the 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes were available for public review. A motion by Butch Hansen: To waive the reading of last year's minutes. Motion seconded by Bernie Woods. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Butch Hansen moved to approve the Annual Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dan Rogers. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer Report

A motion by Butch Hansen: To waive the reading of all the checks written and received and to read just a synopsis. The motion was seconded by Phil Cleminson. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Complete ledgers of Bills and Receipts were available for review.

Clerk Nanett Sandstrom presented the Treasurer's Report. Checking Account Balance as of December 31, 2008, was \$633.85. Savings Account Balance was \$241,699.57. CD Balance was \$162,885.47. Total Account Balances are \$405,218.89.

Total Bills paid in 2008 were \$586,037.67. Total Receipts were \$583,339.68.

A motion by Gary Smith: To approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ken Olstad. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Business

General Overview

Planning Commission Report

Planning Commission Chair, Sharon Buckley, made a short presentation. A handout titled "Planning Commission Report- Annual Town Meeting March 10, 2009" was available. *See attached report.*

There will be two openings for Planning Commission this year. Those interested in serving the Township as a Planning Commission member were encouraged to apply.

There will be a Commercial/Industrial Task Force formed in the near future. Information on the Task Force will be placed in the newsletter and on the website.

Town Board Report

Chair Jeff Otto acknowledged and thanked Planning Commission Chair Sharon Buckley and the rest of the Planning Commission for their work in processing the mining permit that was issued. Jeff thanked Planning Commission member Nancy Sauber for her services; she will be finishing her term next month. He acknowledged and recognized Cory Behrendt and Dan Rogers for serving on the Town Board. Their terms expire this month. Cory served on the Planning Commission before joining the Town Board. Dan Rogers has been on the Town Board for 6 years and is seeking re-election at this time.

Supervisor Jeff Otto presented a general overview of 2008.

With the endorsement of the citizens at last year's meeting, reserve road funds were used to help with graveling of the roads. In 2008, six miles of Township roads were graveled. Dust control amounts were increased. The additional dust control extends the life of the gravel by helping to hold it in place. The presentation included a graveling map showing what roads were graveled in the previous year of 2008 and plans for graveling in the future.

Jeff presented an update on his proposal to install paved apron approaches on gravel roads where they intersect paved County roads. The paved aprons would provide for extra safety when stopping and would reduce the wear and tear that takes place to the road when vehicles decelerate and accelerate. This proposal was on last year's agenda. The study has been completed and an inventory has been taken. There are quite a few aprons already in place in the key areas. These aprons are only twenty feet long, however, and are not as effective as they could be if they were longer. The study will continue to progress over the next year. As an alternative to installing aprons the Board will work with Progressive Rail on cooperative funding to look at rail crossings.

Jeff spoke on planning processes that the Township is involved in. The Metropolitan Council has jurisdiction over the Seven-County Metro Area, which includes Eureka Township. The Met Council mandated the updating of the Comprehensive Plan. Professional assistance was needed to update the Plan. When working on the Comp Plan, there were two initiatives identified that the Town Board would like to pursue further. One is a Commercial/ Industrial rezoning study. The Township lost land to annexation in 2008, due to the fact that Commercial/ Industrial Businesses are not allowed in the Township. The Metropolitan Airport Commission has allowed AirLake Airport to expand its hangar space on the south side of the airport. They have a plan for 2010 to blacktop 225th St. W. from the hangar access east to Cedar Ave. The runway expansion is 10 to 15 years in the future. Any zoning changes need to be approved by the Met Council. The Town Board is seeking Met Council advice before starting the study.

The second initiative is the transfer of building rights. This program is mentioned in the Comp Plan. It is a long-term planning program. There are potential benefits. Further study needs to take place to see if it can be done in a practical and safe way, in the sense of good for the environment and neighborhoods affected by it.

Jeff spoke on attorney services. The benefit of using legal services ensures that things are being done properly, that documents and ordinances are being worded properly. Ordinance language needs to be streamlined, simplified and corrected to meet legal precedence. Fees for legal services is money well-spent.

Jeff invited citizens to stay after the close of the Annual Meeting to further discuss Township business on a casual basis.

New Business

Move Township Election to November

The Clerk presented the citizens with information on moving Township elections to November. After discussion, a motion was made by Andre Stouvenel to vote if November elections should be placed on the ballot at the next Township election. Motion seconded by Gregg Adelman. Vote was taken on the motion; 10 voted in favor and 31 were opposed. The motion failed.

Ballot Questions

Butch Hansen asked if the Annual Meeting was the appropriate time to place questions on the ballot for the next Township election.

The Clerk commented that there are State Statutes that regulate placing questions on the ballot. The request needs to be made by petition and all procedures need to be followed as outlined in the State Statutes. This process does not need to be initiated at the Annual Meeting. This process will be researched and information will be placed in the newsletter.

Set Levy for 2010

The Clerk presented the proposed levy to the citizens. The proposed levy totaled \$480,000. There is no proposed increase over last year's levy.

A motion by Wendy Klager: To approve the levy as presented at \$480,000 for 2010. Motion seconded by Linda Otto.

Discussion followed. Citizens' questions were answered on the proposed levy. Hat Trick's Annexation payment was entered into "Professional Services." Hat Trick entered into negotiations with the Township on an annexation agreement under goodwill; by State Statute they were not obligated to give the Township any compensation for the annexed property. As part of the negotiations, Hat Trick asked that the money be used for a Commercial/ Industrial Study in the Township. The Township is not bound to using these funds for this use, but in good faith is planning on using the money for this study.

Levied funds that are not used in the calendar year are held in reserve in the fund from which they are issued. The Treasurer's Report shows fund balances for each account. These can be used by the Town Board as needed. They are not allowed to go into debt.

The Professional Services Escrow Balance, including 2009, is \$42,672.28. \$29,042.40 was spent in 2008. Most of these funds were used to update the Comprehensive Plan. This year's funds will be used on the Commercial/ Industrial Study and the Transfer of Building Rights Study.

Jerry Zimmer asked if the Met Council gives any funds to the Township towards planning and does the Township need to do what they say. He asked if we need to hire an outsider to oversee the decisions of the Township.

Jeff Otto commented that Lake Elmo wanted to deviate from the Comp Plan approved by the Met Council. They were sued by the Met Council for non-compliance. Lake Elmo fought it to the State Supreme Court and lost.

Butch Hansen commented that the Town Board is spending funds on consultant services. He felt that they need put issues to the citizens as a referendum vote, such as: Do you want a Commercial/ Industrial Zone, increase in taxes, or blacktop roads. He commented that we need to use professional services, but we are not getting anything for our dollar.

A citizen moved to call the question. Vote was taken on the motion. 31 citizens voted in favor of the motion. 3 opposed the motion. The motion carried.

Jeff Otto commented in response to Butch Hansen's questions. He commented that a referendum would be an interesting approach as long as we get enough advance information out with it. The question of adding a Commercial/ Industrial Zone in the Township is before the Met Council. The Met Council will give its response only when a complete submittal of the Plan has been presented. This complete plan will be submitted to the Met Council later this year.

Jerry Zimmer asked that the following was placed on the record: That the city fathers take a look in the next year at the antiquated ordinances we have and get some input on them and bring them up to date so they are to the good of all, not a select few, such as the feedlot ordinances.

Report of Annual Election

There were a total of 161 voters at the Annual Election. Supervisor Position #3- Nancy Sauber received 139 votes. Supervisor Position #4- Dan Rogers received 149 votes. Nancy Sauber was elected as Supervisor #3 and Dan Rogers as Supervisor #4. These are unofficial results until the Board of Canvass scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2009, at 8:00 pm at the Eureka Town Hall.

Time and Place for next year's Annual Meeting

A motion by Butch Hansen to set the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 8:15 pm, at the Eureka Town Hall. Motion seconded by Phil Cleminson. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Damages to Mailboxes on County Roads

Butch Hansen commented that the County plow has damaged many mailboxes along County roads. He asked the Town Board to call and talk to the County about this matter.

Call for Adjournment of the Annual Meeting

A motion by Jeff Otto: To adjourn. Motion seconded by Ken Olstad.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: 13 p.m.