

EUREKA TOWNSHIP
DAKOTA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2024

Call to Order

The 2024 Eureka Township Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:24 p.m. by Clerk Liz Atwater and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Residents Present: Kenneth Olstad, Deb Burkhardt, Melanie Storlie, Kendyl Storlie, Lu Barfknecht, Mark Pflaum, Mike Slavik, Glenn Benson, Nancy Sauber, Donovan Palmquist, Petet Storlie, Andre Stouvenel, Steven DeYoung, Bill Clancy, Lee Slavicek, Tim Pope, Charles & Kathleen Kauffman, Tim & Cindy Murphy, Gary Gunderson, Christy Stouvenel, Allen Novacek, Virginia Windescht, Gary Smith, Beth Eilers, Carrie Jennings, Collen Riley, Laura Adelman, Rise Thibodeau, Randy Wood, Dan Heyda, Mark Ceminsky,

Others Present: Liz Atwater, Amy Liberty.

Zoom Attendance: Jeff Otto, Julie Larson, Lynne Olson, Ralph Fredlund, Shelley C., Deb Burkhardt

Election of Moderator

The floor was opened for nominations for moderator. Lu Barfknecht moved to nominate Carrie Jennings. Kathleen Kaufmann seconded the nomination. Mark Ceminsky moved to nominate Ken Olstad. Allen Novacek seconded the nomination. The Clerk called for any other nominations, hearing none, the floor was closed. Carrie Jennings received 15 votes and Ken Olstad received 14 votes.

Motion to waive reading of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lu Barfknecht moved to waive the reading of the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes. Mark Pflaum seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lu Barfknecht moved to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes. Beth Eilers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk's Report

Deputy Clerk Amy Liberty introduced herself and Clerk Liz Atwater. Deputy Clerk Liberty gave a report explaining the four main categories of what the Clerks do for the Township. These included: Administration, Finance, Elections and Zoning.

Deputy Liberty reported the following:

2023 Eureka Township Permits

➤ New Residence	2	➤ Windows/Door	9
➤ Accessory Building	7	➤ Plumbing	18
➤ Ag-exempt Building	3	➤ Mechanical	24
➤ Fire-Rebuild	2	➤ Administrative Fence	1
➤ Remodel/Addition/Garage	9	➤ Swimming Pool	2
➤ Solar Energy	2	➤ Porch/Deck	4
➤ Roofing/Siding	34	➤ Right of Way	10
➤ Driveway	2		
Total Permits: 129			

Planning Commission Report

Commissioners Eilers and Palmquist gave the following report:

Planning Commission members 2023-2024

Bill Clancy, Chair (2025), Deb Burkhardt, Vice Chair (2024), Melanie Storlie (2024), Beth Eilers (2026), Donovan Palmquist (2026).

Planning Commission Research Conducted 2023-2024

- Mines: Ordinance review and revision continued, with a public hearing and ongoing communication with the mines. Recommendations made to the Town Board. Attendance at 2 Dakota County Model Mining Ordinance Workshops.
- Housing Rights / Subdivision Ordinance Review and Recommendations: Public Hearings held, and ordinance revisions implemented by Town Board.
- Township Road Improvements: Monitoring of local road conditions, and research into improved methods of gravel road maintenance to improve road surfaces and reduce costs. Staff attendance at U of MN Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) “Gravel Road Maintenance and Design” provided valuable information.
- Township Road Safety/Speed: Legal research into State regulatory laws concerning road speed. Ongoing technical research and documentation is required to identify qualifying residential township roads for posting of lowered speed limits. Results include improved road safety and lower maintenance costs.
- Broadband Expansion: Township citizen survey conducted. State funding used for implementation and expansion of High-Speed Internet availability in specific areas of Township.
- Night to Unite: Eureka’s 1st ever Public Safety community event organized and implemented by Township staff and sponsored by area businesses and donations. Food, games, prizes, along with emergency personnel, vehicles and demonstrations made it a very successful event.
- 2040 Comprehensive Plan: Ongoing compliance with plan.

Building and Land Use Permits 2023.

➤ Addition/Remodel	4	➤ Agricultural Exempt	4
➤ Pool	1	➤ Ground-Mounted Solar	1
➤ Accessory Building/Pole Shed	7	➤ Moving a Building	1
➤ Garage	1	➤ Lot-Splits	3
➤ Deck/Porch	4	➤ Housing Rights/Cluster	1
➤ New Construction	2		
Total: 29 permits presented to the Planning Commission for research, review and recommendation.			

Town Board Report

Chair Barfknecht gave the following report:

Town Board members 2023-2024

Lu Barfknecht, Chair (2025), Nancy Sauber, Vice Chair (2024), Randy Wood (2024), Tim Pope (2026), Allen Novacek (2026).

Town Board Accomplishments 2022-2023

- Hired Mining Superintendent: Carrie Jennings
- Broadband Grant \$266,152, cost to Township \$56,538 serve roughly 101 homes in Eureka Center and Eureka Estates
- Broadband expansion Project 2- 235th and Highview
- Broadband expansion Project 3- Eureka Estates South
- Insurance Claim- New Roof on Town Hall and Garage
- Ordinance Amendments:
 - 2023-01 amending Subdivision Ordinance
 - 2023-02 amending Housing Rights and Transfers
 - 2023-03 amending Mining Ordinance
 - 2023-04 amending Nuisance Ordinance
 - 2023-05 interim Ordinance- Moratorium on Cannabis Businesses
 - 2024-06 amending Fees Ordinance
- Approved CD purchases and Insured Cash Sweep (ICS)
 - Total interest for 2023 was \$6,500
- Researched outsourcing for Zoning Administration

Goals for 2023-2024

- Home Extended Business
- Begin Ditch Planning and Recovery
- Dust Control- Complete earlier in the season
- Communication and transparency

- Road Projects and Planning.

Attorneys for the Township
Couri & Ruppe: General Counsel

- Day-to-day questions
- Training workshops
- Litigation
- Ordinance Enforcement
- Ordinance Drafting and Review
- Vendor Contract Review

Kennedy & Graven: Special Counsel

- Mining Ordinance
- Cannabis Moratorium
- Administrative Hearing process
- Pending litigation

Road Report

Supervisors Wood and Novacek gave the following report:

2023 Road Work Completed

Limestone overlay and spot gravel \$188,045.37

Denmark:	2,956.02 ton	\$36,359.05
245 th (Denmark to Essex):	721.47 ton	\$ 8,874.08
225 th (Denmark to Cedar):	5,747.18 ton	\$73,853.22
225 th (Cedar to Highview):	1,244.51 ton	\$16,178.63
240 th (Cedar to Highview):	1,333.99 ton	\$17,342.47
240 th (Dodd to Highview):	1,352.47 ton	\$17,582.44
Spot Gravel		\$17,855.48

2024 Projected Road Projects

- Project #1 Hamburg Ave (225th to 240th) - COMPLETED
- Project #2 Fairgreen Ave (280th to 265th) - COMPLETED
- Project #3 257th (Highview to Cedar Ave)
- Project #4 Flagstaff (225th St to N Township Line)
- Project #5 225th (Dodd Blvd to Cedar Ave)
- Project #6 245th (Essex Ave to Denmark Ave)
- Project #7 Essex Avenue (235th St W to 245th St W)
- Project #8 247th (Cedar Ave to Essex Ave)
- Project #9 Iberia Ave (267th St to 280th St W)
- Project #10 Spot Gravel

Treasurer's Report

Motion to waive reading of the checks.

Lu Barfknecht moved to waive the reading the checks and instead received a written summary and synopsis. Ken Olstad seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Reading of the 2023 Treasurer’s Report

Clerk Atwater presented the Treasurer’s Report as of December 31, 2023:

2023	Beginning Balance	Total Receipts	Total Disbursed	Purchase of Investments	Ending Balance	Investment Balances	Total Balances
General Fund	\$ 347,293.67	\$ 341,375.30	\$ (322,358.57)	\$ (150,000.00)	\$ 216,310.40	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 366,310.40
Road and Bridge	\$ 369,298.89	\$ 460,834.22	\$ (482,486.88)	\$ (90,000.00)	\$ 257,646.23	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 347,646.23
Permit Escrow - General Fund	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,500.00)		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Permit Escrow - Road & Bridge	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -		\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Covid 19 - ARPA	\$ 158,312.57	\$ -	\$ (154,482.96)		\$ 3,829.61		\$ 3,829.61
Building Permits - Bldg Official	\$ 1,804.24	\$ 57,614.22	\$ (57,880.02)		\$ 1,538.44		\$ 1,538.44
Fire and Rescue	\$ 4,473.60	\$ 96,557.40	\$ (90,003.40)		\$ 11,027.60		\$ 11,027.60
Kelly Aggregate Engineering Fund	\$ 3,240.74	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 3,240.74		\$ 3,240.74
Professional Services	\$ 41,285.85	\$ 26,420.68	\$ (5,359.15)		\$ 62,347.38		\$ 62,347.38
Asphalt/Hard Surface Road	\$ 218,996.45	\$ 56,934.64	\$ -	\$ (150,000.00)	\$ 125,931.09	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 275,931.09
Road and Bridge CIP	\$ 20,600.00	\$ 5,885.72	\$ -		\$ 26,485.72		\$ 26,485.72
Town Hall CIP	\$ 23,721.22	\$ 77,771.91	\$ (50,189.42)	\$ (50,000.00)	\$ 1,303.71	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 51,303.71
Emergency Road	\$ 15,100.00	\$ 5,804.43	\$ -		\$ 20,904.43		\$ 20,904.43
Night to Unite	\$ -	\$ 565.00	\$ (478.28)		\$ 86.72		\$ 86.72
TOTAL	\$ 1,210,727.23	\$ 1,135,763.52	\$ (1,164,738.68)	\$ (440,000.00)	\$ 741,752.07	\$ 440,000.00	\$ 1,181,752.07

Bank Balances as on December 31, 2023

New Market Bank Checking Account	\$ 80,741.18
Outstanding Checks	\$ (19,162.52)
Genisys Credit Union Checking	\$ 5.00
New Market Savings - General Fund	\$ 25,013.42
General Fund ICS Funds	\$ 275,540.71
Petty Cash Balance	\$ 100.00
New Market Savings - Road & Bridge	\$ 25,257.74
Road and Bridge ICS Funds	\$ 354,256.54
Total Bank Balances	\$ 741,752.07
Investments:	\$ 440,000.00
Total:	\$1,181,752.07

Motion to approve the 2023 Treasurer’s Report

Bill Clancy moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Lu Barfknecht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 Financial Highlights

- 6/23/2023 started moving funds into an Insured Cash Sweep with New Market Bank getting 3.5% interest
- Purchased 6 CDs from General Funds from 4.5-5.2% interest
- Purchased 3 CDs from Road and Bridge from 5.1-5.2% interest
- Purchased 1 CD from the Town Hall Capital Improvement Fund 5.1%

- Purchased 1 CD from RB Asphalt/Hard Surfaces 5% interest
- Total CDs purchased: \$440,000
- Total Interest in 2023: \$6,500.64

2024-2025 Cheers

- Estimated Interest income in 2024 on CDs
 - General Fund: \$6,800
 - Road and Bridge: \$5,500
- Estimated Interest income in 2024 on ICS Funds
 - General Fund: \$6,000
 - Road and Bridge: \$4,500
- Signed 3-year contract with IT (Point North) to lock in rate.
- New Water Softener- No Rental fees
- Road Committee working Annual and Long-term planning for roads.

2024-2025 Challenges

- Farmington Fire Contract expired December 2023
 - New Contract increasing from \$40,077.40 in to \$67,351.28 2024 a 68% annual increase.
 - Estimating a 5% increase in 2025 to \$71,400
- Lakeville Fire Contract expiring December 2024
 - Estimating a 40% increase for 2025 to \$72,555
- Most other Vendors have increased 5-15%

Clerk Atwater explained that the Township was still in negotiations with Farmington Fire Department regarding the contract and the fees. Even though there is not a contract in place at this time, Farmington is still covering any fire calls while negotiations are going on.

2025 Proposed Levy and Budget

Clerk Atwater reported that the Statewide Township average levy increased by 6.8% in 2024, and that Eureka Township did not have an increase.

2025 Proposed Budget

General Fund	\$270,592
Professional Services Fund	\$5,000
Town Hall/Storage CIP Fund	\$15,000
Fire and Rescue Fund	\$144,655
Road & Bridge CIP Fund	\$5,500
Emergency Road Fund	\$5,500
<u>Asphalt/Hard Services Fund</u>	<u>\$55,000</u>
Total Budget Expense	\$907,497

Levy Category	Budget	Other Resources	Final Levy	% of Budget
General Fund	\$290,592.00	\$78,400.00	\$212,192.00	26%
Road and Bridge	\$472,250.00	\$23,750.00	\$448,500.00	56%
Fire Service	\$144,655.00	\$0.00	\$144,655.00	18%
Total Levy	\$907,497.00	\$102,150.00	\$805,347.00	

Motion: Pete Storlie moved to approve the 2025 Levy in the amount of \$764,329. Mark Ceminsky seconded the motion.

Kathleen Kauffman stated that gravel quotes are not in or selected which are a big part of the budget. There will also be a change in government, which can impact where funds are allocated. She thinks that there would be a lot more certain in July than we have right now. The new Board will be in place, they will be organized, and they will begin to take steps on what to do with the roads and the fire contracts. Even if I think the levy seems reasonable on it's face, but there are too many unknowns that I don't want to agree to the levy now, I would vote against it.

Beth Eilers questioned if we approve this levy, and our bills come in higher and we are short significantly, what would happen?

Carrie Jennings reply that the Township would need to cash in the CD's.

Clerk Atwater stated that the Township would have to use its reserved funds. She continued that if the Township would do this year after year, the Township would come to a point where they no longer have those reserves and loans would need to be taken out.

Lee Slavicek wants to vote on the levy tonight and not kick the can down the road. He stated he wants to take care of it tonight. The nice thing about Eureka is we come, we set our budget, and we live by our budget.

Pete Storlie added that the levy should be set tonight based on his motion. He pointed out that it is hard to get people to come back to the building and this is one of the best times to get people here.

Carrie Jennings asked Pete Storlie, how he came up with the number?

Pete Storlie replied it is the same as last year. Zero percent interest.

Chuck Kaufmann asked why in an era at 3-5% inflation, the budget would stay the same?

Pete Storlie replied that everyone has taken hits financially. The Township has money, and it needs to be managed and good things, and there is more that can be done. The new

Board should have the opportunity to manage it. These citizens keep having to pay more money. We have to be smart how we manage our money.

Ken Olstad stated he wanted to speak against the motion. He thinks we should go with what was recommended by our governing people, because they know their stuff and we elected them.

Bill Clancy commented he was trying to figure out the downside of kicking the can down the road and he appreciated Pete Storlie's comment about getting people back into the building. He doesn't know how many years it's reasonable to not expect to spend more than we are spending. We are already short of money.

Lu Barfknecht piggybacked on Bill Clancy and Ken Olstad's point that we are short money. She stated she is against the motion, due to the fact that last year the citizen stated they wanted more money to put towards the roads. You can't put more money on the road without more money. If we don't increase the levy, you will take funds from other places in the budget.

Beth Eilers recommended maybe meeting in the middle at 3% increase so that we don't tap into our funds. Yes, we need to be fiscally conservative, but we need to also be cautious.

Nancy Sauber pointed out that the increase 5.37% which is still significantly less than what the average was last year statewide. Costs are going up and nobody likes it. If we can fund what we need to do, then people are going to have suffer cutbacks.

Mark Ceminsky stated we need to be financially responsible to our citizens. There are areas in our budget that we are overspending. He believes there is money in the current budget to absorb some of these fees.

Gary Gunderson called for a vote or a question. Mark Ceminsky seconded.

Carrie Jennings asked all who want to end discussion now, vote now. The vote was unanimous to end the discussion.

Carrie Jennings asked for a vote for the motion on the floor which is a zero % increase, keeping the levy at \$764,329. Ayes- 14, Nays- 16, Motion Failed.

Motion: Lee Slavicek moved to go with the recommended amount of \$805,347 for the 2025 levy. Ken Olstad seconded the motion.

Kathleen Kaufmann called the question. Lu Barfknecht seconded. The vote was unanimous to end the discussion.

Carrie Jennings asked for a vote for the motion on the floor which is to accept the levy proposal at \$805,347. Ayes- 16, Nays -13. Motion Carried.

