

Milona Township Annual Meeting

March 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Tom Blank at 8:22 pm, 24 electors were present for the meeting. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bob Ebbenga made a motion to nominate Troy Dittberner for moderator and Jason Bous seconded the motion. Tom called for any more nominations three times and hearing none, vote was taken and motion passed.

The minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting of Milona Township was read, corrections made and a motion by Jerome Haggemiller and seconded by Bob Ebbenga to accept the minutes with the corrections, motion carried.

Gary Anderson gave a road report and identified the work that had been performed over the past 12 months and gave an update of the petition to pave the Vermont Access Road. This project may get delayed until next year in order to apply for funding through the DNR that might be available. Currently we are looking at a public hearing on the issue this summer. Projects coming up include a turnaround at the end of East Sandy Beach Road by Bob Larson's property. Gary recognized RBS for the work over the past year and gave them a thank you for such service. There is currently nothing in the budget to put an overlay on North Lake Milona Drive, but it is a concern and would like to look at in the next couple of years. It would be a compliment to the overlay that is scheduled for Hwy 29 in 2014 or 2015. The township did add the extension of Smokey Timbers Road to the inventory of township roads as well as Goldfinch Circle. The culvert on "Hamms Creek" not in good shape. Jerome has been helping the township work on finding money through grants to help with the improvement of this area. We have to follow DNR rules because of the water way and spawning area. Bob Ebbenga inquired about road restrictions on N Lake Milona Drive. It is currently a 7 ton road to the access and a 5 ton road after that. The township does need to purchase those sign now if we want the roads posted.

Fire Report was given by Doug Hunt. In 2011 there were 45 calls, 25 of which were in Milona Township and no fire related, all emergency services. The 2011 budget of \$80,000 has been increased by \$1,000 to a total of \$86,000, of which 72.77% is our share. We have been working with the city and fire department as well as Spruce Hill Township to rework this outdated contract we have with the fire department. This will take some time to figure out and create but are working on it. Coming up with alternative format to calculating percentages of cost allocation that may look at calls, population and market value is an alternative.

Weed Report was given by Gary. Paynesville Coop was used to spray the right-of-ways again this year. A different approach was taken to weed control this year. Gary personally visited sites that needed attention and discussed the situation with the property owners and let them know that they had 10 days to remedy the problem. If the problem wasn't rectified in the

timeframe their name would be turned over to the county. Andy expressed thanks to Rick Mittag for being a valuable source of information in helping him identify and share his knowledge of weed control. Andy reiterated that our jurisdiction is only in the right-of-way and not into and on personal property.

Matt Kugler gave the gopher report. Have seen an increase in number of gophers turned this past season. We have not levied over the past few years and continue with no levy this year, but are increasing the budget to 300.00. If you have any feet to turn in contact Tom Blank and he will verify the feet and fill out a claim form for payment at the next regular meeting.

Tom Blank reported on the balances of all funds and shared numbers associated with the bond retirement and how much we have saved in interest over the past two years and that a \$10,000 additional payment made this January will save almost \$1,000 alone over the next three years. We will run the fund balance down to just about zero in the 2014 and will have paid off the bond and still have close to \$60,000 to come in on special assessments. Tom has checked into the legality of what to do with the remaining money, and it can be put back into the general fund to reimburse it for money we used to pay down the CLRSB debt in the beginning. Tom explained the numbers associated with the 2013 budget and levy proposed to the electors.

Gary Anderson gave the Assessors report of the township. We are all going to see an increase in our property tax statement with the elimination of the homestead credit. We now will see an exclusion in its place. Bottom line is we will see our taxes raise, some more than others. The County will now be administrating the Board of Equalization for the township and you need to make an appointment with the Assessor's office if you wish to discuss your valuation.

The unofficial election results were read; for Supervisor 75 votes were cast, Matt Kugler received 47 votes and Jim Bous received 28. Matt Kugler remains on the board as Supervisor.

The position of Clerk was run unattested by Tom Blank, he received 71 votes with 4 ballots remained unmarked. Tom Blank retains position of Clerk,

The ballot question of whether to move our annual elections to November of even numbered years passed by a vote of 59 yes to 13 no, and 3 ballots were left unmarked. With the passing of this ballot question positions on the board become 4 year terms. Matt Kulger winning this year election becomes Supervisor A, who will sit on the board until the first Monday of the year 2017. The Clerk positions, Tom Blank will sit on the board until the first Monday of the year 2017. The position of Supervisor B, Gary Anderson, Supervisor C, Doug Hunt, and the Treasurers position, Connie Marshall, will remain in effect until the first Monday of the year 2014. Supervisor B, Supervisor C and the Treasurers position will be up for election in November 2013.

A question was raised about the road policy that was brought to the board by Keith Baldwin, and the status of such policy. Gary responded by stating that Douglas County is in the process of developing a universal policy for the county. The policy that Keith brought to the board was

a copy of Ottertail County and Gary felt it was more appropriate to use the guidelines and policy developed by our own county instead of one copied from another county.

Another question was raised to have the board make a motion at the next meeting to develop a plan to return the Board of Equalization to the township instead of having the County administer the process.

Budget Setting

General Fund \$ 40,000 M/S by Jerome Haggemiller and Matt Kugler, motion carried.
Road Fund \$125,000 M/S by Gary Anderson and Matt Kugler, motion carried.
Fire Fund \$ 58,305 M/S by Doug Hunt and Jim Bous, motion carried.
Chloride \$ 30,000 M/S by Gary Anderson and Matt Kugler, motion carried.
Gopher \$ 300 M/S by Matt Kugler and Jim Bous, motion carried.
CLRSD Interest \$ 11,300 M/S by Gary Anderson and Doug Hunt, motion carried.

A 2013 total Budget of \$ 264,905.

Levy Setting

General Fund \$ 50,000 M/S by Jerome Haggemiller and Gary Anderson, motion carried.
Road Fund \$ 135,000 M/S by Matt Kugler and Jason Bous, motion carried.
Fire Fund \$ 55,000 M/S by Jim Bous and Doug Hunt, motion carried.
Chloride \$ 32,000 M/S by Matt Kugler and Jerome Haggemiller, motion carried.
Gopher \$ 0 M/S by Tom Blank and Matt Kugler, motion carried.
CLRSD Interest \$ 11,300 M/S by Gary Anderson and Bob Upton, motion carried.

A 2013 total Levy of \$ 283,300.

The 2013 Miltona Township Annual Meeting is set for Tuesday, March 12th at the Miltona Community Center at 8 pm. A motion by Bob Ebbenga and seconded by Jim Bous, motion carried.

As there was no further business on the agenda, M/S by Bob Upton and Matt Kugler to adjourn the 2012 Miltona Township Annual Meeting, motion carried.

Tom Blank , Clerk

Troy Dittberner, Moderator