

## **Miltona Township Annual Meeting**

**March 8, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Tom Blank at 8:15 PM, 23 electors were present for the meeting and one guest, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutant Matt Kukel . The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutant Matt Kukel gave a presentation on the Yellow Ribbon Program, a program that gives the opportunity to the community to identify those family members of deployed service personnel, when they are in need of help. This is a program that Commissioner Bev Bales is in support of and would like someone from each township to be a part of it.

Jerome Haggemiller made motion to nominate Don Henning for moderator and Andy Anderson seconded. Motion Carried.

Bob Ebbenga made motion to accept last years minutes with two corrections, there were 2 fire and 29 medical calls, and add the words "to adjourn" in the final motion of the meeting, Gloria Stevenson seconded. Motion carried.

Andy Anderson gave a road report and recapped the expenditures of 2010 and discussed some of the projects that were completed this year. Cul-du-sac on south side of Irene, turnaround on the south side of Vermont. The culverts that were steammed this past year and look to keep on eye on these in the future as it makes a huge difference in runoff control. A thank you to RBS for the quality of the roads in the township, we have some of the best maintained roads in the county. M/S by Gene Rose and Tim Hagen to accept the report, motion carried.

Jerome Haggemiller gave a fire report; the call breakdown for the past year were not available, but Jerome discussed the shared cost of the fire department budget; Miltona Township pays 71.9%, City of Miltona 10.97% and Spruce Hill pays 17.06%. These numbers are calculated on the net tax capacity. The Fire budget for 2012 is increased \$5,000 to \$85,000. The increase was to add a line item for maintenance to the fire hall building. The department is looking at purchasing a new truck in 2011 and has the majority of the funds in hand and as this is the last year for payment on the previous purchased truck, there will not be two payments. Discussed the 800 MHZ radio system that is being implemented, and Douglas County did receive a grant for a portion of this. M/S by Bob Ebbenga and Brad Vogt to accept the report, motion carried.

Weed Report by Keith Baldwin. There were three inspection tours this year with 21 contact letters mailed out and a good response to these letters as no one was noticed to the County Weed Inspector. We had Paynesville Pro Ag spray the ditches at a cost \$3,055.00. M/S by Bob Edstrom and Lori Zmuda, to accept the report, motion carried.

Gopher report by Keith Baldwin, \$44 paid out in 2010. 22 Gophers were turned in. Our fund balance for gophers is \$2,166.47. M/S by Terry Marshall and Bob Upton, to accept the report, motion carried.

Tom Blank presented a power point presentation illustrating the past three years in budgeting, levies, disbursements, and our revenue. Tom also looked ahead for the 2011 and 2012 years and explained why we levy and budget what we do. Tom took 15 minutes to present the program, complete with graphics to better illustrate our position and where we should be in regards to our fund balances at the end of 2011 and 2012. M/S by Gloria Stevenson and Gene Rose, to accept the report, motion carried.

Andy Anderson gave an Assessors report of the township. The foreclosures keep on rising in Douglas County but to over 100 in 2010, this is up from 92 in 09, 64 in 08 and 30 in 07. Our valuation should see a slight decline, but tillable ground will stay level or see a slight increase. Ed Pollard, our township assessor is looking at retiring and Andy has been approached by the County to have them do the township assessing. Douglas County has own assessors that would contract out for the service. M/S by Tim Hagen and Troy Dittberner, to accept the report, motion carried.

### **New Business**

Jerome Haggemiller read an email from Bev Bales, she was unable to attend for personal reasons.

Unofficial Election Results-Doug Hunt received 56 votes, Bob Upton 43, Doug Hunt will serve as supervisor for the next three years. Connie Marshall received 92 votes, and 7 unmarked. Connie Marshall retains the position of Treasurer for the next two years. M/S by Gene Rose and Tim Hagen to accept the unofficial election results, motion passed.

Tom Blank presented information and the process for moving our March elections to November to coincide with the General Elections. The driving force is cost. The state is now mandating the use of automark equipment at our township elections, which requires ballots created through the county, public accuracy test, and now absentee ballot board meetings when an absentee ballot is received. These costs would only be incurred every other year instead of twice a year, as well as the cost of election judges themselves and the meals that go with them. Newly elected officials would then take office the first meeting that following January. Down side of November elections is the idea that the township would lose some of its identity by combining with the General Elections. Another downside pointed out, that we would get more people to vote that are uninformed of township issues and candidates running for office. The process gets initiated by a resolution from the Board or a petition by a number of electors equal to 15% of the number of electors that voted at the previous township elections. The questions would be put on the ballot before the electors to vote on at the next township elections. Tom also raised the idea of combining the Clerk and Treasurers position. This would be by the same procedure as described in changing to November elections. This option would require the Board to have an annual audit done each year at a cost of roughly \$3,000.00. An audit is something that the Tom is looking for, and deems necessary. An audit would independently verify the numbers and check our procedures as well as, as pointed out from Gloria Stevenson, improve our efficiency and make sure we are doing the best possible job we can with our available resources. The liability and responsibility that is put on the Clerks position, warrants such a procedure.

Jason Bous complimented Tom Blank on the job he has been doing as Clerk, Jason has been in attendance at monthly meetings as well, and has noticed that Tom is always looking out for the best interests of the township, saving money where possible and reducing taxes on all of us. His power point presentation is just one example of his dedication to the importance of the position.

**Budget Setting**

General Fund \$ 35,000.00 M/S by Doug Hunt and Jason Bous  
Road Fund \$125,000.00 M/S by Andy Anderson and Jerome Haggemiller  
Fire Fund \$ 61,173.00 M/S by Jason Bous and Bob Ebbenga to accept the budget for the General, Road, and Fire Fund, motion passed  
Chloride Fund \$ 30,000.00 M/S by Jason Bous and Andy Anderson, to accept budget, motion passed  
Gopher Fund \$ 100.00 M/S by Bob Edstrom and Doug Hunt, to accept budget, motion passed  
CLRSD Interest \$ 19,650.00 M/S by Andy Anderson and Ralph Beulke to accept the budget, motion passed

A 2012 total budget of \$270,923.00.

**Levy Setting**

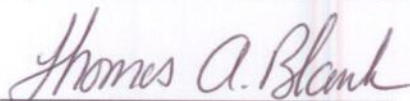
General Fund \$ 40,000.00 M/S by Jerome Haggemiller and Jason Bous to accept the levy, motion passed  
Road Fund \$130,000.00 M/S by Andy Anderson and Jerome Haggemiller to accept the levy, motion passed  
Fire Fund \$ 50,000.00 M/S by Jason Bous and Bob Ebbenga to accept the levy motion passed  
Chloride Fund \$ 25,000.00 M/S by Jason Bous and Andy Anderson, to accept the levy motion passed  
Gopher Fund \$ 0.00 M/S by Bob Edstrom and Doug Hunt to accept the levy, motion passed  
CLRSD Int \$ 19,650.00 M/S by Andy Anderson and Ralph Beulke to accept the levy, Motion passed

A 2012 total levy setting of \$ 264,650.00.

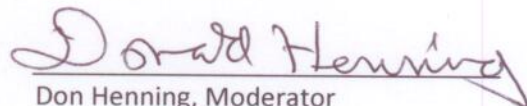
A plaque was presented to Jerome Haggemiller for his dedicated service of 21 years to the residents of Miltona Township.

The 2012 Annual Meeting set for March 13th at the Miltona Community Center, beginning at approximately 8:15pm following the election, M/S by Bob Ebbenga and Gene Rose, motion passed.

As there is no further business on the agenda a M/S by Andy Anderson and Troy Dittberner to adjourn the 2011 Annual Meeting, motion passed.



Thomas A Blank, Clerk



Don Henning, Moderator

