

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 12, 2013
Aurora, MN

IN ATTENDANCE: (28) Judith Belange, Roger Belange, Donna Meacham, Dagney Johnson, Robert Johnson, Gerry Kangas, Bill Maki, John Radtke, Faye Radtke, Betty Stende, Mike Kearney, Greg Hinsz, Mark Fredin, Donna Fredin, Bud Koskiniemi, Ellen Nygaard, Joe Nygaard, Nancy Spurlin, Shirley Heglund, Belle Storbeck, Mary Ann Helander, Karen Kiviluoma, Anita Alto, Ed Kippley, Jon Skelton, Craig Anttila, Julie Krikelas, Jodi Knaus

- 1.) The 2013 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of White was called to order by Clerk Jodi Knaus on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at 6:01 P.M., at the Loon Lake Community Center.
- 2.) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3.) Nominations for Moderator.

Mary Ann Helander nominated Ed Kippley to serve as moderator.

IT WAS MOVED BY NANCY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY MARY ANN HELANDER THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED. MOTION CARRIED

Ed Kippley took the chair as moderator.

IT WAS MOVED BY BILL MAKI, SUPPORTED BY NANCY SPURLIN TO ADJOURN THE 2012 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED BY NANCY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY GREG HINSZ TO OPEN AND CONDUCT THE 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED BY NANCY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY GREG HINSZ TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED

- 4.) Reading and approval of 2012 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED BY NANCY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY GREG HINSZ TO SKIP THE READING OF THE 2012 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED BY NANCY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY GREG HINSZ TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2012 AND SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 MEETINGS. MOTION CARRIED

- 5.) Set Date, Time and Place for the 2014 Annual Town Meeting

IT WAS MOVED BY MARY ANN HELANDER, SUPPORTED BY NANCY SPURLIN TO SET THE 2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR 6:00 P.M., ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 (BEING THE 2ND TUESDAY), AT THE LOON LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER. MOTION CARRIED

- 6.) Review of 2012 Activities and Proposed 2013 Activities – Moderator Kippley read the document titled Annual Meeting Review of 2012 Projects that was included in the meeting packets and expanded on the items listed as noted:

- Road Sign Inventory, retro-reflectivity compliance evaluation, and replacement policy project work took place in 2012 and will continue through December 31, 2013. This is necessary to get the township into compliance.
- Gardendale Project -
JPJ Engineering Project No. 2008-325/Jola & Sopp Excavating, Inc. Awarded Bid
Adjusted Bid Amount: \$295,677.50
Paid to Date (90%) \$253,156.95
Remaining on Contract: **\$ 42,520.55**

Pipe work was completed in November. Temporary mulch was put down – full seeding and restoration will be done in Spring 2013. Lift station complete.

Phase 1 – Received grant IRRRB \$200,000.00 – estimated cost \$353,385.50
Phase 2 – Awarded grant IRRRB \$175,000.00 – estimated cost \$255,600.00
Project will be five (5) phases.

Water/Wastewater Agreement in place with City of Aurora. Moderator Kippley stated “We are seeking legal counsel for the adoption of a water/wastewater ordinance. Once that is established, we will be implementing a rate structure and fees. The Town of White will be its own water company.”

- Stepetz Road Project:
Project awarded to Ulland Bros. \$205,495.20
Paid to Date: \$171,505.39
Remaining on contract \$ 33,989.63
Project still open – Nothing paid in 2012
Completed in 2012:
Straightened out guard rails to follow road
Seeding/blanket – continue work on slope/bank stabilization
- Annexation – Currently still in mediation with City of Biwabik. Because of the legal system this is a very slow moving project with lag time from court hearings etc. Hope to have a report back from the court system by the end of summer 2013.
- Equipment replacement – Truck Box (July - \$14,000) was replaced because the salt/sand ate it away and the hinges broke off; Tire Balancer (February - \$8,395) had to be purchased because the parts from the old one could not be replaced so we had to find a new one that met our needs; Volvo Loader (December - \$142,885/5 year loan) was purchased because the other loader was worn out and due to the number of hours logged on the machine we were having issues with the power and performance of the machine and the tires were also worn out. We traded it in for the new loader which was delivered in December and is working great.
- Fire Department – 800 MGH radios were purchased. The County purchased portable radios for our members and gave us a one – for – one deal on the radios which gave us an expanded area of coverage and allowed the combination of two systems. Cell phone towers are being added in the whiteface area. The radios have been intimidating to learn how to use, but we are learning and it is a good system. The dispatch center has been moved to Duluth from Virginia and this has caused “heartburn” due to miss-pronunciation of names and roads.
- June 14, 2012 FEMA Grant Awarded for repair of storm damage to roadways – repair of roadways, ditches etc. in the amount of \$76,513.49.
- Loon Lake Community Center – circulating pump was replaced.
- Gravel Crushing was completed for estimated next five years.

Moderator Kippley opened it up for questions and no questions were asked.

2013 Proposed Activities were discussed as follows:

- Continue with Gardendale:

Determine Utility Rates & Purchase Billing System
 Grant Application/Management/Reporting – for next three phases
 Equipment Needs/Grader

- Stepetz Road – Complete 1st Project; Secure Funding for 2nd Project – repair of roadway/bank from the storm last summer. The bank was washed out. We have it barricaded off for safety but because of protected waters we have to work with the DNR, Engineers etc.
- R100 Archery Event scheduled for June 29-30, 2013 – The Board was approached by Ken Corbett to sponsor this event which brings in anywhere from 400 to a couple thousand people. This two day event should be a good economic boost to the area and hopefully will become an annual event. There are volunteers needed and all campgrounds and hotels have been contacted.
- Road Sign Inventory continues through 12/31/2013 – we will ensure all have been installed and upgraded as necessary to be in compliance
- Technology Upgrades for Township – Utility Billing System; Phone System for Office; Server (split with ERJPB and City of Aurora); Website Development; We have a lot of technology needs for upgrading and remaining current.
- Continue negotiations with City of Biwabik re: Annexation; As stated earlier this is a long drawn out process –it would be nice to get this settled. We are exploring options with legal experts.
- Develop a Capital Project Plan (Five Year) – We need to establish what our goals are and what we are planning to do in the future. Years ago we had a capital project/strategic plan and it has been added to and things have come off – it is time to do a new one.
- Campground at Twin Lakes – People have been using the current camp sites for several years and we have had requests to bring in a 5th wheel from people who have rented the building. We are looking into this and hoping to get this going for this spring/summer.

Moderator Kippley asked those present if there were any questions. Gerry Kangas asked “Did you ever replace the crushed rock at the playground as I requested last year”? She stated the children have a hard time because the rocks are sharp and should have never been put there in the first place. Greg Hinsz responded that sand had been put on top of the rock. Gerry Kangas responded “I think the proper stuff needs to be put there – our children deserve it”.

7.) Clerk Knaus read the 2012 Clerk’s Financial Report:

General Fund			
12/31/2011	Balance		\$459,556.41
2012	Receipts:		
	Property Taxes	,327.22	
	State Aid Payments	179,514.33	
	Mis. Copies etc.	104.00	
	Fire Contracts/DNR	1,105.00	
	LLCC Rent	3,080.00	
	Pavilion Rent	1,250.00	
	Recreation Activity Fees	508.00	
	Fines	-	
	Interest Earnings	274.97	
	Private Contributions/Donations	200.00	
	Refunds/Reimbursements	18,967.92	
	Annexation Revenue	44,762.00	
	Total Receipts	\$572,093.44	
			\$1,031,649.85

2012 Disbursements:

Legislative (Town Board)	11,729.45
Clerk	30,305.24
Elections	6,843.56
Treasurer/Auditing	71,844.47
Assessing	24,931.42
Legal Services	15,067.37
City/Town Government Cntr.	37,355.86
Ambulance	4,200.00
Fire	61,980.84
Civil Defense	856.74
Animal Control	300.00
Recreation	22,001.87
Loon Lake Community Cntr	108,307.74
Liability Ins/Memberships Dues	13,273.70
Health Care Savings	24,208.45
Total Disbursements	533,206.71

12/31/2012 Fund Balance	\$498,443.14
Transfer Out	\$ 134,521.34
Adjusted Year End Balance	\$ 363,921.80

Road Fund

12/31/2011 Balance	\$81,800.63
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2012 Receipts:

General Property Taxes	385,757.94
State Aid Payments	415,946.84
Snowplowing	21,540.00
Road Maintenance	60,000.00
Sale of Garbage Bags	20,538.00
Cemetery Revenues	8,450.00
Sale of Materials/Supplies	49,952.10
Refunds/Reimbursements/Misc.	16,088.04
Annexation Revenues	47,143.00

Total Receipts 1,025,415.92

\$1,107,216.55

2012 Disbursements:

Highways, Streets, Roads	196,461.11
Ice and Snow Removal	132,664.23
Road & Bridge Equipment	167,443.95
Public Works	174,522.05
Street Lighting	2,332.79
Buildings/Grounds	64,463.92
Water/Wastewater	1,704.88
Garbage Collection/Disposal	134,495.09
Cemetery	594.00
Health Care Savings	36,066.93
Total Disbursements	910,748.95

12/31/11 Fund Balance \$196,467.60

Transfer Out \$ 10,059.06

Adjusted Year End Balance \$ 186,408.54

Debt Service

12/31/2011	Balance		0.00
2012	Receipts:		
	Taxes	61,321.74	
	State Grants & Aids	25,256.98	
	Annexation	8,095.00	
	Mining Effects	33,429.72	
	Total Receipts	128,103.44	
2012	Disbursements:		
	Palo Garage Expansion	55,000.00	
	2010 Tandem Truck	25,000.00	
	Water/Sewer Projects	40,000.00	
	Interest/WWW/Truck/Garage	17,312.50	
	Fiscal Agent Fees	850.00	
	Total Disbursements	138,162.50	
	12/31/12 Fund Balance		-10,059.06
	Transfer In		\$ 10,059.06
	Year End Balance		\$ -

Capital Projects

12/31/2011	Balance		\$0.00
2012	Receipts:		
	IRRRB Grant	200,000.00	
	Mining Effects 2+2 Tax	29,421.00	
	Annexation Payment	15,466.05	
	Misc./Refunds/Reimbursements	2,000.00	
	Total Receipts	246,887.05	
	Transfer In	134,521.34	381,408.39
2012	Disbursements:		
	Mining Effects	23,621.41	
	Lake Mine Road Project	29,767.43	
	Road and Bridge Equipment	39,621.00	
	Gardendale WWW Project	288,398.55	
	Total Disbursements	381,408.39	
	12/31/12 Fund Balance		\$0.00
	2012 Year End Balances		
	General Fund	363,921.80	
	Road Fund	186,408.54	
	Debt Service	0.00	
	Capital Projects	0.00	
	Total	550,330.34	
	2012 Investment Balance	613,888.30	
	Year End Balance	\$ 1,164,218.64	

IT WAS MOVED BY MARY ANN HELANDER, SUPPORTED BY NANCY SPURLIN TO ACCEPT THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT AS READ. MOTION CARRIED

8.) Treasurer Krikelas read the 2012 Treasurer's Receipts and Disbursements Report and the 2012 Treasurer's Financial Report and explained the Budget Balance Trend 2008-2012 graph and Disbursements vs. Receipts 2008-2012 graph prepared by Clerk Knaus that was included in the meeting packets.

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2012 \$541,357.04

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>
January	\$ 140,498.30	\$ 101,889.56
February	\$ 155,435.76	\$ 145,640.50
March	\$ 8,681.22	\$ 145,634.55
April	\$ 11,404.25	\$ 99,678.58
May	\$ 9,939.16	\$ 157,351.30
June	\$ 4,022.84	\$ 105,579.73
July	\$ 581,402.48	\$ 110,450.43
August	\$ 261,822.60	\$ 140,677.46
September	\$ 80,978.03	\$ 164,372.40
October	\$ 20,015.73	\$ 401,704.30
November	\$ 203,364.16	\$ 158,485.83
December	<u>\$ 494,935.32</u>	<u>\$ 232,061.91</u>
	\$ 1,972,499.85	\$ 1,963,526.55

Ending Balance - December 31, 2012 \$550,330.34

Beginning Balance – January 1, 2012	\$541,357.04
Receipts	\$1,972,499.85
Disbursements	\$1,963,526.55
Ending Balance – December 31, 2012	\$550,330.34

Funds

General	\$ 498,443.14
Road	196,467.60
Debt Service	(10,059.06)
Capital Projects	(134,521.34)

Transfers

Road Fund to Debt Service Fund	\$ 10,059.06
General Fund to Capital Projects	134,521.34

Fund Balances after Transfers

General	\$ 363,921.80
Road	186,408.54
Debt Service	Ø
Capital Projects	Ø

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2013	\$550,330.34
Investments	613,888.30
TOTAL Beginning Balance January 1, 2013	\$ 1,164,218.64

IT WAS MOVED BY NANCY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY GREG HINSZ TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS READ. MOTION CARRIED

9.) Proposed 2014 Budget & Levy

No action was taken on the 2014 budget and levy. The proposals will be presented to the public at a continuation of the annual meeting which will be scheduled in September as in years past when we have information on the levy.

IT WAS MOVED BY SPURLIN, SUPPORTED BY HELANDER TO POSTPONE THE 2014 BUDGET AND LEVY DISCUSSION UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2013. MOTION CARRIED.

10.) Other Business

- a.) Moderator Kippley read a report from the East Range Joint Powers Board Activity for 2012 -2013 prepared by Curt Anttila.
- b.) Moderator Kippley voiced support for the R100 event and hopes to have it come back every year.
- c.) Moderator Kippley updated the public about the East Range Sharing & Pairing meetings that have been taking place. Local officials have been meeting on projects and are looking for ways to coordinate and support each other by combining our resources to save resources in areas such as purchasing, technology, personnel, and securing funding/bidding on projects. "We can no longer stand alone. We need to cooperate with our neighbors. There is new/different leadership in these communities and we are hoping relations will continue to improve. "We have always worked well with Aurora – we used their sanders for Laskiainen and they used our jack hammer for a broken water line."
- d.) Betty Stende asked for clarification of the Resolution 2013-001 Designating Fund Balances which was included in the packets. Clerk Knaus explained the difference between restricted and unrestricted/committed fund balances and the unrestricted unassigned balance of 45%. No further questions were asked regarding the financial status of the township.
- e.) Gerry Kangas asked what has changed with the Clerk's position when Mary Ann Helander retired. She voiced hearing of concern from citizens and a possible petition being circulated. Moderator Kippley responded the needs of the township were evaluated relating to abilities and qualifications/needs of the position and it was decided to create an Office Manager position and appoint the hired Office Manager as Clerk. The duties and pay for the two positions are separate. There was no increase or decrease in wages with the split of the two positions. This was also done with the Treasurer position. Buddy Koskiniemi stated the Clerk is MaryAnn's niece regardless of qualifications. No further comments were made. Ms. Kangas voiced concerns about how a citizen was treated at a meeting last April and indicated she would not attend any more meetings. Moderator Kippley responded the Board makes decisions based on the information presented to us. Kearney responded the Board consists of elected officials and he was not directed to take action.
- f.) Buddy Koskiniemi asked what the township pays for ERJPB and when is the budget for this set? For 2013, the township pays \$12,500 and the IRR has been matching these funds. The budget is determined once the levy amount is known in late summer prior to the continuation meeting.
- g.) It was suggested the Annual Meeting packet be numbered.
- h.) It was asked if the Board would allow a citizen to pay for a one time pass for basketball versus the \$30 annual pass. Skelton reported the Board would consider this.

IT WAS MOVED BY KIPPLEY, SUPPORTED BY SPRULIN AND HINSZ TO KEEP THE ANNUAL MEETING OPEN AND RECESS THE MEETING AT 7:05 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Jodi Knaus, Clerk