Town of Embarrass

Annual Meeting

March 9, 2021

PENDING TOWN APPROVAL

Present: Bernie Mettler, Gene Wright, Bill Wright, Bonnie Davies, Roger Davies, Janine Patten, Roland Fowler, Roy Worsham, Debbie Nelson, Ericka LaMar, Jack LaMar

Clerk, Jennifer Boese called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance and asks if there is a volunteer to be moderator. Bernie Mettler nominates Bill Wright, denied by Wright. Gene Wright voted in as meeting moderator. *Vote 5-3.*

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed by those present. *Motion/Fowler:* *Second/Davies to accept the 2020 minutes. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.*

2020 Treasurers Report was reviewed by those present. Bill Wright asks why a certain sale of investment is not listed as a transfer. It was explained to Wright when entered into the CTAS program that is how it is to be listed for the MN State Auditor’s Office. *Motion/Davies: Second/Worsham to approve* *the 2020* *Treasurer’s Report.* *Unanimous vote. Motion carries.*

Road Report. Davies comments that the roads were very well maintained in 2020 by Frank Maki. Chloride was done previously and will be good for another two years.

**2021 Projects and Goals**

* Roadside garbage pick-up in mid-May.
* Finish grant work on the remaining 2-sided fire number signs requested to clerk by Fire Department.
* Continue with restroom project at the Visitor/Information Center. Clerk gives update and states that upcoming meetings with Commissioner McDonald to discuss more funding sources.
* More projects and goals for 2021 will be identified during the Property Inspection Meeting and monthly board meetings throughout the year.

**2021 Planned Events**

* Town Board meetings held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
* Local Board of Appeal April 15th
* Property Inspection Meeting, May?
* Memorial Day Service at Cemetery, May 31
* Holiday ice Candle Celebration, December 18
* SISU Meetings held monthly on every third Monday
* Sauna Day June 12
* Embarrass Regional Fair August 27th – 29th
* Community Night Out at the Seitaniemi September 12

**2020 Maintenance Report**

* 4-Wheeler – new battery, starter relay, starter, front and rear brakes, switch and wiring for winch and cutting edge for plow installed
* Grader – prepped for use if needed to plow township roads, new cutting edge installed, fuel leak found (repaired by Dave Bialke)
* Ford F150 – steering problem resolved, new rear tires
* GMC – rear shocks, stabilizer links, front end alignment – subsequent single vehicle accident and totaled by insurance company
* John Deere lawn tractor – starting problems over several months, to Five Seasons on several occasions for repairs
* Snow blower purchased
* Trailers – wiring and lights replaced as needed, wheel bearings repacked
* Town Hall – started off year with roof leaks (again), Office fax machine ruined; inspected later in season by Bill Wright, boots installed on vent pipes; gutters removed from front left side and rear; patch work and painting exterior trim and doors; stained steps; heated work area in pole barn completed
* Info Center – Town hall gutter repurposed and installed on rear of Info Center, stand and cover for garden Club water barrel fabricated
* Post Office – septic tank leaking water in, repairs effected via Wingers; furnace problem, clogged condensate drains, repaired by Iron Range Plumbing and Heating, requires annual maintenance by certified technician to maintain warranty
* Nelimark – sky light damaged and replaced on outhouse
* Rink Area – second outhouse completed; repairs made to heating shack roof
* Campground – leaks found during water system recharging freeze damage, repaired by Bill/Jared Wright; new gutter installed on shower house; ADA thresholds installed in showers; water leaks at sites 5 and 9 repaired; GFCI outlet site 5 replaced; 30 Amp breaker site 8 replaced, new heater installed in large shower room; light pole was repaired by Dean Boese
* Township Roads – limbing and brushing along roadways to clear signage and for plow height clearance
* All maintenance items on the 2020 Property and Roads Inspection completed

**2020 Board of Audit**

2020 Board of Audit was completed and approved by board. All quarterly audits completed and approved in 2020. Board of Audit in meeting packet and kept on record.

**2020 Fire Department Report**

Report was emailed to clerk due to Covid-19, unable to attend. Full report kept in files with minutes. 1,399 volunteer hours with no lost time accidents and 94 runs total. Few improvements were purchase of gas detection meter for detecting toxic gases. Purchase of six full sets turn out gear and three medical bags. Continuing all of training with restrictions and online. Installation of the 2-sided fire number signs is delayed till 2021 due to Covid shipping was delayed. In 2021 continuation of the installation of 2-sided fire number signs. Installation of a helicopter landing pad at the fire department. Possible installation of exhaust removal system in the engine bay areas to help eliminate one more cause of firefighter cancer. The department has determined that a 3% increase will continue for the 2022 contract.

**Embarrass Regional Fair Report**

Janine Patten, secretary for the fair board reports that the next meeting on March 18 will be discussing the fair taking place in August. Preparing for the fair has been ongoing. Volunteers needed. Bookings for the Timber Hall have been taking place. New LED lights were installed at the Timber Hall. The fair board is requesting for $500 of labor from the township employees as in previous years and the use of tables. Liquor license will be checked into by Patten, then to be approved by board and signed off by clerk. *Motion/Fowler: Second/Gene* *Wright* *to approve $500 in labor and use of tables* to the fair board. *Unanimous vote. Motion carries.* Volunteers and board members are needed. If interested to call Jerry Meier at 984-3506.

**2020 SISU Report**

Report was sent by SISU President, Marlin Bjornrud and included in the meeting packet. Report to be kept in records with the minutes. Covid has been the cause of events cancelled for SISU. Community Night out was held and the turnout was good. The Apostolic Lutheran Church was painted, and the process has begun for evaluation and nomination to get that structure placed on the National Register of Historic Places. East side of basement will be painted and new gutters around the building. Annual meeting will be planned in 2021. Museum will open tentatively in July. Sauna days will be held on June 12.

The agreement between SISU and the Township will need to be discussed at a future meeting and renewed.

**2020 Heritage Park Campground Report**

Clerk received a visit from the caretaker Lorrie before the meeting to inform that unfortunately she will not be returning as the caretaker this season as previously thought. Will be discussed at the March board meeting. 2020 was a busy year despite the Covid pandemic. Campground is booked for the August fair and reservations have been made for other dates.

**2020 Historical Tours**

Tours were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid. Embarrass Town Board will be meeting with SISU President Marlin Bjornrud in the upcoming months to discuss tours. Mike Salo was the tour guide in 2019 and at this time we are unsure if he will be returning as tour guide.

**Presentation and Proposal of the 2022 Levy ($162.500)**

2022 Proposed levy

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FUND** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| 100 – General | $93,000 | $87,000 | $93,000 | $93,000 |
| 225 – Road & Bridge | 2,500 | 2,500 | $8,500 | $6,000 |
| 226 – Fire | 26,500 | 28,000 | $29,000 | $28,000 |
| 227 – Town Hall | 5,000 | 5,000 | $8,000 | $8,000 |
| 230 – Recreation | 5,000 | 5,000 | $4,000 | $4,000 |
| 231 – PERA | 3,500 | 4,300 | $5,000 | $5,000 |
| 232 – Cemetery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 233 – Insurance | 8,500 | 9,500 | $9,500 | $9,500 |
| 401 – Capital | 4,000 | 6,000 | $5,000 | $7,000 |
| 260 – Historic Properties Fund | 6,000 | 6,000 | $4,000 | $2,000 |
| **TOTAL Levy** | **$154,000** | **$153,000** | **$166,000** | **$162,500** |

Discussion was had on the lowering of the levy. Concerns about rising costs of items for running the township, possible minimum wage increase, gas prices, transferring of funds in 2020 to cover costs, and preparing for future costs the township will have. Davies talks about some upcoming projects, that will be needed to be addressed soon, town hall roof, blacktop in front of hall, campground much needed water and electrical updates, Information/Visitor Center restroom project and other items that are going to have to be completed sometime in the future to keep up with maintenance on certain properties and feels we need to plan ahead not scramble for the funds. Several spoke up about the levy proposal presented and agreed with Davies stating it should at least be the same as 2021 not lowered. If the levy is lowered, the following year it will have to be raised much higher than the $3,500 being discussed now to cover costs that were a struggle to cover and try to catch up on unfinished projects. Several things have been put off because of low funds. Couple residents present were not in agreement with the increase that was being discussed, as all others want to at least hold the levy where it is. Was stated that the Township levy is a small portion of why resident’s property taxes go up, the county and school are a larger portion. Property tax increase was discussed further. Cemetery was brought up, in the near future another section will need to be cleared out, do we have enough for the cost? Clerk will look into what was surveyed. After much discussion, *Motion/LaMar: Second/Davies to keep the 2022 levy the same as 2021 and to put the extra $3,500 into the general fund which would keep the levy at $166,000. 2 - opposed, 10 – in favor. Motion carries*.

**2022 Approved Levy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FUND** | **2022** |
| 100 – General | $96,500 |
| 225 – Road & Bridge | $6,000 |
| 226 – Fire | $28,000 |
| 227 – Town Hall | $8,000 |
| 230 – Recreation | $4,000 |
| 231 – PERA | $5,000 |
| 232 – Cemetery | 0 |
| 233 – Insurance | $9,500 |
| 401 – Capital | $7,000 |
| 260 – Historic Properties Fund | $2,000 |
| **TOTAL Levy** | **$166,000** |

**The next Annual Meeting will be held on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

Moderator Gene Wright adjourns meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jennifer Boese