Tax Filing Deadline

April 21

Embarrass Town Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.

*Meetings for local groups are on the Page 2 Calendar*

Please submit materials for the May 2019 issue to the Embarrass Clerk’s Office by April 18, 2019.

218-984-2084, embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net
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Town of Embarrass  
Board Meeting  
March 13, 2019  

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL  
Present: Zane Beaton, Gary Rantala, Roy Worsham, Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese  
Visitors: Chris Dale, Rodney Dale, Jeremy Schwarze, Mickey White, Bill Wright, Paul Knuti, Robert Taylor, Bonnie Davies, Roger Davies  
Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Zane Beaton with the Pledge of Allegiance.  

After some discussion of the February minutes the decision was made by the board to have some comments removed. Northern State Bank was added to the motion to leave the two CD’s that are reaching maturity. Motion by Zane to accept the minutes after the changes have been made, supported by Roy. Carried 3-0.  

Motion by Zane to approve the Treasurer’s Report, supported by Roy. Carried 3-0. Was pointed out that the interest rate on Northern State Bank CD’s is now 0.70, higher than 0.55 as was previously.  

Maintenance Report was given by Roy. Moved lots of snow throughout the month. Skating rink cleared numerous times. Firewood for warming shack cut. Exhaust fans in town hall bathrooms were replaced. Camera at the Information Center after person identified was dumping household garbage. Sign was posted stating no dumping. Hall was set up for Quilts of Valor. Rink and sliding hill prepped for church group. New heater purchased for the maintenance building. Hall prepped for the SISU meeting. Cleared snow during the blizzard conditions.  

Jeremy Schwarze from Benchmark Engineering gave an updated report on where they are planning on putting the Kiosk for Mesabi Trail. The plan is to put the kiosk in the parking lot between the two baseball fields. It will be at the edge of the parking lot so people are able to park in the existing parking lot. Mesabi Trail will be doing an easement and start of construction will most likely be this spring, they wanted to start construction sooner but weather has not been cooperative. The kiosk will be put in toward the end of the construction. Motion by Gary to go with the proposal from Mesabi Trail and to approve the plan for the kiosk, supported by Roy. Carried 3-0. Paul Knuti states that when the project is completed it will have an impact on Nelmark and a greater use of the outhouses. Zane states that we will be putting up more outhouses.  

The Cemetery topic was tabled until it can be reviewed with Wally present.  

Mary Novak has attended some of the Iron Range Tourism Bureau Meetings and she shared a video about tourism in the Iron Range, with those present. She explained that the impact of tourism is more important than we realize. Mary would like to remind everyone that tourism brings money to the area. Mary explains that some of the state and county taxes we receive are from tourism. Bill says tourism doesn’t do anything for our township because we have no food or lodging tax. Mary explains that only 18% of resident’s taxes come back to the township. So some of tax money that is received from the state and county from tourism is portioned out to us. Paul wanted to state a key point saying that making and maintaining Embarrass as a desirable place to live and how nice it would be to get people back into the community and that the annual fair, sauna days, campground, historical sites and new bike trail that is coming are what people are coming for and we should make Embarrass an attractive place to live. Gary also points out with Polymet coming we need to keep people involved. Mickey asks about Iron Range Tourism giving awards and if so suggests Mike Salo be nominated to receive award for his great job of giving tours. Mary said yes and will look into it.  

The board came up with a wish list for the levy. Plow truck, chloride township roads, two tires for the grader, new computer for clerk’s office, security cameras for properties, culvert and septic at the Information Center and a heated work shop in the garage/pole barn for maintenance are all items that will be included on the 2020 levy. Paul mentions signage. Gary will look into what a billboard would cost. Roy expresses his concern on how expensive the signs are. Mickey asks if campground needs anything done to it. Roger asks about the bog walk. Zane says he would like to see it opened back up. Paul tells the board the windows at the Nelmark
need to be painted. Bonnie Davies asks what happened to the Welcome to Embarrass signs. Roy will be looking into it.

Paul says that May clean up need to be more of a priority to make Embarrass beautiful again. It takes a lot of planning to get the community going and along the way we have lost pizazz to keep it going. Gary wishes the public knew what has been done behind the scenes. He also states that if we delay maintenance on some items it will cost more and more. Bonnie comments about socializing with some in the community that people are seeing change but nobody wants to call or get involved.

Lawnmower was discussed. Bill believes bad boy riding lawnmowers are sold at Tractor Supply in Virginia. Bill says you will pay more but will save in the long run. Roy will go and get estimates. Lawnmower was levied for in 2019.

Paul would like a grant writer to work on grants for the Pyhala Homestead. He also suggests two architects for the work at the Pyhala. Mickey will email clerk with grant writer information to forward to Roy.

Mickey asks if a Property Inspection Meeting has been scheduled. Zane says no not until the snow is gone.

Motion by Roy to accept the claims and correspondence. Supported by Gary. Carried 3-0.

Yearly audit was conducted and all claims and disbursements were found accurate and in order.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Boese

Town of Embarrass
Annual Mtg.
March 12, 2019
7:00 pm
Embarrass Town Hall

PENDING TOWN APPROVAL

Present: Jennifer Boese, Mary Novak, Roy Worsham, Rodney Dale, Chris Dale, Gary Rantala, Jack LaMar, Mickey White, Roxanne Wright, Bill Wright, Jerry Meier, Gene Wright, Sue Beaton, Roland Fowler, Paul Knuti, Bonnie Davies, Roger Davies, Jared Wright, Zane Beaton

Town Clerk Jennifer Boese called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance, Gene Wright was voted in as the moderator by those present.

The March 13, 2018 minutes were reviewed. Roland Fowler moves to accept the March 13, 2018 minutes. Second by Roger Davies. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Gene asks questions about the Post Office funds and disbursements. Mary and clerk show Gene the disbursements for the year of 2018 for the disbursement for Post Office which was $53,301. Rodney Dale moves to accept the financial report for 2018. Second by Bonnie Davies. Unanimous vote, motion carried. Bill Wright asks about the maintenance hour’s report he asked for at last annual meeting. Gene tells Bill we have not gotten to that part yet and will be spoken about when we get there.

Roads Report was given by Roy. The roads are in pretty good shape at this time besides the ice. Culverts are good right now but that could change. Gene asks about the pricing on the chloride that the township will be purchasing. Mickey asks if the township is contracting with the county. Gene says no the county is doing the work but the township has to purchase the chloride. Roy explains the pricing on the chloride and few other things on the chloride. $0.89 a gallon and will be needing 2640 gallons per mile for a 18 ft. wide road and 1760 gallons per mile for a 12 ft. wide road. The roads will have to be graded nicely before they are sprayed. Prospectors will pay for the first ¼ mile on Hanka Nevala Road. The goal is to chloride at least two times a year. Money has been figured into the annual levy. Hanka Nevala road will be done for sure and also the best condition roads will get the chloride first.

Bill asks about a maintenance report. Clerk points out it is in the pamphlet that everyone has.

Maintenance projects completed in 2018:

**Town Hall**
- Floor mats replaced throughout the hall
- Front steps painted
- Large log replaced and stained in front of building
- Step walls pointed
- Face and planter painted

**Cemetery**
- Silhouette painted and put up that was donated
- Rock pile cleaned up by Rodney Dale
- Camera placed – nothing noted

**Info Center**
- Gravel was delivered and placed
- Rotted timbers were dug out and covered
- Doors repaired on outhouses
- Dead trees taken down along the building
- Rotted boards on bench replaced
- Brushing around planters and parking lot
- Treated for insect infestation (Powder post beetles)

**Nelimark Homestead**
- Front of outhouse facing replaced and corner cups installed and building painted
- Gutter on outhouse
- Steps painted
Paul disagrees. The topic is the Pyhala Homestead and mowing or burning the field. The topic needs repair on the foundation and restoration. Paul asks if we have money allocated for a grant writer. Paul asks if the board has done anything for the Pyhala to see if she wants to attempt another grant. Roland Fowler asks that the Information Center balsams be picked up that were cut, he feels it is a fire hazard and they should be chipped up. Paul Knuti says that some of the brushing was done at the Pyhala Homestead but not all. Paul would like to see signage put up for the tours and more brushing at the Pyhala around the buildings. Paul talks about the mowing at the Pyhala. Roger Davies tells Paul it is to be done every two years, Paul disagrees. Roger tells Paul he will find the paperwork that shows this. Gene asks if anyone got ahold of Lyle Hardy to hay the field. Clerk tells Gene she has in the past and has had no response back. It is hard to find anyone to mow or hay the field because it is rocky. Tom Martin, Embarrass Fire Department Fire Chief speaks and says mowing is preferable to burning. He is not willing to commit to burning, feels it is too much of a risk. Paul would like to see it look like a homestead and mowing or burning the field is a start but as a township we need to make sure there is money to do these things such as repairing the foundation of the hay barn. Roy explains that we hear a lot of we need you to do this and want this, but don’t feel the township should be doing it all. The township does a lot but it’s not ever enough and that someone else needs to step up. Plowing is not in our township does do a lot but it’s not ever enough and that we hear a lot of we need you to do this and want this, but don’t feel the township should be doing it all. The township does a lot but it’s not ever enough and that someone else needs to step up. Plowing is not in our budget. Roger feels there should be some sort of risk assessment on the properties to see what is a priority and feels Pyhala is low priority but if we are going to have the property then it should be maintained and if not maintained then get rid of it. Gene says the only way out of the lease is to sell it and that is up to the board. Zane says maybe we should have a vote to see if taxpayers want to put their tax dollars into the house and how much they want to spend. Question was asked if the house is historical. Some say yes and some say no it isn’t. Genes motions to have the town board get an estimate on what it would cost to restore the Pyhala house. Second by Mickey. Unanimous vote, Motion carried. 17–0. Paul would like to know what the townships responsibility is on the Pyhala Homestead and says it is nice history and a real asset for the community. Mickey speaks and says first let’s get the estimates then make decisions. Jack says it is important for the community to understand it’s the townships responsibility to manage the properties and make a plan for the public to outline their intentions and what is the best thing to do with the Pyhala. Roy explains that we hear a lot of we need you to do this and want this, but don’t feel the township should be doing it all. The township does a lot but it’s not ever enough and that someone else needs to step up. Plowing is not in our contract and we plow the Nelimark, along with many costly things that he doesn’t think we should be doing. They also should have a responsibility. Paul wants a motion to fix hay barn foundation and wants it a priority to the board. Zane says finding a contractor is difficult for this type of work. Paul says he will get some names and they should be chipped up. Roland Fowler asks that the Information Center balsams be picked up that were cut, he feels it is a fire hazard and they should be chipped up. 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Paul says he will get some names and that there is other funding resources. Motion by Paul that the township assume responsibility for the maintenance of the property and specifically to repair the foundation on the hay barn. Gene asks for a second. Roger speaks and says no I don’t like that motion there is too much gray area. No second, motion fails. Gene says the Pyhala house has been overkilled and that this can be carried on at a regular board meeting. Mickey asks about project and goals for 2019. Gene says that suggestions for projects and goals can be made at board meetings or leave with clerk at the office. Gene moves on to the fire department report. Fire Department Report was given by Tom Martin. See attached report. Tom expresses his gratitude for the volunteers that he has on the Fire Department. The topic
of Tower Ambulance service was brought up and the amount they are asking for the services provided. Roy would like Tom to attend board meeting if Tower Ambulance Service comes back. Tom will see if he is available when and if that time comes. Residential fire numbers were discussed and Tom is working with the DNR trying to get new fire number signs. They will be trying to do a public information meeting at some time. Tom says that the cost four years ago was $18 for the sign, post and bracket.

Embarrass Regional Fair Report was given by Jerry Meier. (Report is available in clerk’s office.) Last year was a good year. The new gate passes that last for the entire weekend seemed to work out great. Vendors have been basically filled for the upcoming fair. Fair board on the whole is doing well at this point. A CDBG grant was received to do part of the parking lot. A new grill was purchased for pancake breakfast which will be used the first Saturday of every month. It has become a popular thing so will continue. Last year there was no queens, fair board is going to give it another try but they are having a hard time finding kids that want to be involved. Was asked if the Viking Cheerleaders were going to be at the fair again. They are working on it. Looking forward to another great fair this year and trying to get new things going. Fair board is asking for the same amount of time and work of labor from the township employees. Two people for 2 ½ days of labor for 2020. They will request at the 2020 January meeting. Motion by Roy for the Fair Board to make a formal request form asking to use the walking trail for the 5k run and the baseball fields. Second by Zane. Unanimous vote, motion carries. 17-0.

SISU Report was given by Mickey. See attached report. Some big events last year with the National Sauna Day and Community Night Out were highly popular. This year will be June 8 for National Sauna Day and September 8 for Community Night Out. Sales at the Nelimark were up this year, it was a very good year. Work was done on the Apostolic Lutheran Church with money that was donated. Work will continue to be done to it and she says it can go back on the tours. SISU replaced the furnace with grant funds. Working on other grants for security systems. SISU would like to know what plans are for the township for security systems at other properties. Gene points out that people are not happy with the township doing all the maintenance at the Nelimark. Gene thinks the two boards need to get together and renegotiate the lease. Mickey will pass along the request. Jack states that SISU took care of the furnace issue and had it replaced with grant money and that SISU is pulling their own weight and it is benefitting the community. Gene says the furnace shouldn’t have been changed without the landlords (township) permission. The board had no idea until after the fact. Gene suggests working together. Bill says the money spent on tours comes out of our tax dollars.

Mickey says maybe there is something that can be done if we all work together so the tours are not losing money. Bill points out that the Information Center, and other properties that were given to SISU and the township has been taking care of them and maintaining them when we shouldn’t be. Roy speaks and says people calling, complaining or asking for things at the Nelimark. No communication has been between the two and it needs to be discussed.

Campground: Embarrass township is still looking for a campground caretaker for 2020. Bill asks if the caretaker’s site and electric is taken out of the campground funds. Clerk answers no, clerk can’t figure out who uses what electric. More discussion was had on prices, caretakers pay and site. Bill wants maintenance hours at campground on report. Report is done but waiting on few modifications.

Tours: Tours were low in 2018. Hoping Mike Salo comes back as tour guide but have not heard yet if he is. Paul asks if we can get some signage for the tours to let people know we have tours available. Board states they are working on it. Paul says that is why tours are low, nobody knows there is tours. Paul suggests changing the start of tours from the information center to the Nelimark. Gene says that is something that the board and SISU board will have to talk about. Gene says both SISU and the Embarrass board each need to make a list of who is expected to do what and maybe come up with an agreement.

2020 Levy: Mickey asks the board why they are thinking the levy should be the same as 2019. Gene asks what money needs to be spent on. Roy says one of the big purchases is a snow plow truck needs to be purchased. Gene states that needs to come out of the capital fund. Motion by Gene to have the board come back to come back with a realistic levy of where they want to spend the money and have funds in the accounts they need to be in. Continue this meeting to another night. Second by Paul, 16 – 1. Motion carries. Motion by Bill to continue the meeting on June 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., if regular board meeting is still going on it will have to be suspended for the annual meeting continuation of setting the 2020 levy. Second by Jared. Unanimous vote, motion carries.

Jack asks if there is a list of projects for 2019 that is available to the public. Gene says must go to a regular meeting and ask the board. The board will come up with projects after the property inspection meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Boese

*Copies of Sisu, Fire Department and Fair Association reports can be viewed at the Clerk’s Office.
ADS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
Suggested donation to The Flying Finn
1/4 Page = $8; 1/2 Page = $13;
Full Page = $22
To place an ad, write to:
The Flying Finn, 7503 Levander Rd
Embarrass MN 55732
Email embarrastownship@frontiernet.net
or call the Embarrass Town Clerk at 984-2084.

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Persons interested in subscribing to The Flying Finn may drop off or send a donation of $15 for one year, payable to the Town of Embarrass, 7503 Levander Road, Embarrass, MN 55732.
The Flying Finn makes a great gift for someone who has moved out of the community!

The Flying Finn and the Town of Embarrass welcome announcements about community events and community groups. These submitted announcements are printed here and on following pages. Neither the Town of Embarrass nor The Flying Finn necessarily endorses the viewpoints or ideology of these groups or their events. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any letter to the editor or submitted material.

Clerks Corner
Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting on March 12. The minutes are provided in this issue of the Flying Finn. PENDING TOWN APPROVAL.

With spring finally here it means the opening of the Heritage Campground in May. To make reservations call the Clerk's office. We are still looking for a Campground Caretaker. Please call Clerk's office if interested.

The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization (LBAE) meeting will be April 11 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the Embarrass Town Hall.

Roadside cleanup will be the entire month of May. Garbage bags can be picked up at the Town Hall. There will be a luncheon in May at the Town Hall for those who volunteer to help out. More information will be in next month's issue of the Flying Finn. Let's all pitch in to keep our roads clean!

Happy Easter to you all.

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk
218-984-2084
embarrastownship@frontiernet.net
Waasa Township
Reorganizational & Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, February 5, 2019

Board Members Present: Mitch Lind, Phil Hebl, Steven Sipola, Bonnie Keller and Sandra Gibson

Visitors: Dave Hess, Kevin Kappes and Jim Suihkonen

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Board Chair, Mitch Lind followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: Phil moved to approve the January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mitch supported. Carried (3-0).

Treasurer's Report: $498.04 was received from St. Louis County in 12/2018 Tax Apportionment, $500.00 from Twin Metals MN reimbursement for half of the attorney fees to have the Well Monitoring Agreement reviewed and $67.92 in Quarterly Dividends from Embarrass Vermilion Federal C.U. Total January Disbursements: $1,733.18. Steve accepted the report and Phil supported. Carried (3-0).

Approval to Pay Bills:
Lake Country Power, $90.45, Electricity for Town Hall
Lakes Gas Co. #45, $280.06, Propane for Heating Town Hall
MN Benefit Association, $405.00, Term Life Ins. For Board—Bronze Plan
Range Office Supply, $14.00, Tax Forms and Envelopes (Treasurer)
St. Louis County Association of Townships, $517.86, Dues to County: $173.30 & MN Assoc: $344.56

Mitch moved to approve payment of all bills listed on the agenda plus board payroll and PERA. Steve supported. Carried (3-0).

Visitors Addressed: Questions were asked about past minutes he read in the Flying Finn concerning Mail-in-Ballot Elections. The resident was assured that no change has been made yet. St. Louis County picks up all of the costs for Mail Ballot Elections. Waasa’s expense for both the 2018 Primary and General Elections was $3,194.12. This option will be discussed at the March 12, 2019 Annual Meeting and will be voted on by the eligible voting Waasa residents in attendance. The Clerk will be gathering more information on mail ballot elections pros & cons before the Annual Meeting.

Road Report: Township roads are frozen.

Old Business: The $5,000.00 Twin Metal MN initial payment was deposited in our savings account last month. Phil moved to invest the $5,000.00 at Members Cooperative Credit Union in Cloquet, MN at a rate of 2.23% for a 12 month CD. (Clerk’s note: A new account requires that a savings account be set-up for a $5.00 fee.) Steve supported the motion. Carried (3-0).

In an email received from Dean DeBelitz today, he stated that Twin Metals plans to move the drilling of the wells on township property sometime in March. Steel piping will be used rather than PVC, as planned earlier. Therefore, permits needed to be signed and re-submitted to MN Department of Health for this change.

New Business: Mitch moved to appoint Steve Sipola to be township Weed Control Person. Phil supported. Carried (3-0). Steve plans to take training at the Spring Short Course for this position.

The clerk will contact Dave Hatfield to get a price quote for lawn care of the cemetery for this year.

Correspondence: All mail was read and filed, including the poster & email received from St. Louis County looking for cities and townships to get the word out to the public about updating the FEMA Plan. The Clerk has put out posters on this around Embarrass, the town hall, as well as hand-outs to the people in attendance at the meeting tonight.

The yearly Audit of the Treasurer’s and Clerk’s records was performed by Mitch, Phil and Steve. All records were found to be accurate.

Adjournment: Mitch moved to close the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and was supported by Steve.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk; Mitch Lind, Waasa Board Chair
Waasa Township Annual Meeting
Waasa Town Hall
Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

These Minutes Are Pending Board Approval:

Present: Arlene Eckman, Carroll Eckman, Jim Suihkonen, Carole Marks, Steve Sipola, James Devine, Tom Martin, Ken Pulkinnen, Mitch Lind, Floyd Joki, Phil Hebl, Sandra Gibson, Bonnie Keller, Mitch Lind, Evelyn Esala, Linda Koskela, and Dave Hess

Town Clerk Sandra Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sandra asked for nominations from the floor for a meeting moderator. Bonnie Keller nominated Carroll Eckman and he accepted. Steve Sipola supported the motion. Carried (Unanimous). At that time Carroll assumed the position as moderator.

The 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes were read and Dave Hess motioned to approve them. Jim Suihkonen supported. Carried (Unanimous).

The 2018 Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. We currently have $112,169.42 in CD’s and $111,998.16 in available savings at EVFCU. Dave Hess motioned to approve the report and Steve Sipola supported. Carried (Unanimous).

The Embarrass Regional Volunteer Fire Department Report was given by the Fire Chief Tom Martin. Last year 83 total runs were made with the majority being EMS. 1747 hours were volunteered.

SOME OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN 2018 WERE: Gutters were installed and rain water plumbed into the static tank, construction was started on an addition to the out building, new extrication tools have been purchased, and with 2 grants awarded last year, 2 AEDs and a turn out gear washing machine was purchased.

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR 2019: Purchase newer, safer PPE to stay compliant and minimize exposure to carcinogens, continue to search for funding to replace all old 911 signs in our protection area, work on a Firewise Program and other public education programs, finish the addition to the out building, add another 10,000 gal. static tank to our rain water collection system and as always, continue to serve the community.

The Fire Department has increased the contract percentage by 3% to offset inflation and the rising cost of fire equipment. The Fire Department Board of Directors has increased the oversight of how expenses are distributed through more detailed budgeting.

Tom Martin was thanked for his service to the communities as well as all of members of the ERVFD’s. Tom left the meeting at this point, since he needed to give the same fire report to other townships that evening.

Representative from Twin Metals MN, James Devine, (in charge of Field Operations) was present to answer any questions about the lease agreement made between TMM and Waasa Township. After the document was signed, TMM presented us a check for $5,000.00. TMM will be using approximately one quarter of an acre near the Amanda Cemetery on Kaunonen Lake Road. Brushing has been done and gravel will be applied to the driveway. 2-3 wells will be drilled probably in June and will be made up of stainless-steel casing. Ground water will be monitored. A third-party company will do the testing under the requirements of MN Department of Health. The wells will be capped and locked also as required by state law.

The Roads Report: Supervisor Phil Hebl stated that when weather is favorable graveling of all township roads is planned, as well as roadside brushing. Barricades were professionally installed last summer on South Skarp Road for the closure of that road.

The Cemetery Report: Wally O’Farrell continues to serve as Waasa Sexton but was not present. The board will again check into getting a STS Crew this spring to do raking at the cemetery. Comments were in favor of the job for this year. The public is reminded to put flowers in a sturdy planter rather than a light weight styro-foam item anchored only by wire. This is one of the cemetery rules for Amanda Cemetery and will hopefully, keep the grounds looking neat. If any decorations or flowers are found to be blowing away, they may be disposed of by Mr. Hatfield or the Sexton.

Old Business: The Clerk reminded those present that renting the hall is free to residents but, non-residents are charged $50. Each renter is required by the state to provide proof of homeowners’ insurance and the board requires a $100 deposit check. Contact Sandra Gibson to reserve the hall for an event.

New Business: The town hall building was discussed. We have an old building with some problems but, it was agreed that the facility is sufficient for now with the exception of the lighting in the main room. It is difficult with the present fluorescent lights to read into the late-night during election counting. It was suggested to add another whole bank of lights. Linda Koskela motioned to have the town board check into LED lighting with Arlene Eckman supporting. Carried (Unanimous).

A letter was sent to the town board by Northwoods Partners seeking a donation. This is a non-profit organization based in Ely, MN. Board member, Carole Marks was present to explain the mission of the group and the services they provide which focuses on the elderly in our area. They are made up of a board of directors consisting of several people in the medical field and approximately 75 volunteers. Jim Suihkonen moved to
give Northwoods Partners a donation decided upon by the town board. Dave Hess supported. Carried (Unanimous).

Discussion took place on township funds being used for appreciation gifts, flowers and/or special cakes for town officers in recognition of service or illness. All residents present seemed to be in agreement that this was a good practice and did not see a need to limit on the spending. They felt it should be at the board’s discretion.

Mail Ballot Voting was explained by Clerk Sandra Gibson. If adopted by Waasa, St. Louis County would mail out ballots to all registered township voters 30-40 days in advance of the election. In 2018 the township spent a total of $3,194.12 for holding the primary and general elections. Having St. Louis County mail out ballots would be a free service but the town clerk would still administer the elections. No voting would take place at the town hall in this scenario. After much discussion, a hand count-vote was taken on the interest to switch to this way of voting (4). 10 people were against. No change will take place for Elections. Voting will continue at Waasa Town Hall.

The board recommended levy for 2020 was reviewed. It was felt no increase is needed. The residents of the township approved the levy as presented to them, keeping the levy the same as it has been since 2015.

**General Fund:** $15,000.00—Motion by Dave Hess, supported by Arlene Eckman

**Road & Bridge:** $8,000.00—Motion by Steve Sipola, supported by Dave Hess

**Fire Fund:** $11,000.00—Motion by Phil Hebl, supported by Mitch Lind

**Total 2020 Levy:** $34,000.00 (All 3 motions were carried unanimously)

**Set Time and Place for 2020 Annual Meeting:** Carroll moved to begin the 2020 Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Waasa Town Hall. Mitch Lind supported. Carried (Unanimous).

**Adjournment:** Carole Marks moved to close the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Mitch Lind supported. Carried (Unanimous).

Clerk’s Note: Carroll declined the $25 payment which has been approved by the town board for moderators.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk; Carroll Eckman, Meeting Moderator

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**PIKE SANDY WOMEN’S CLUB**

**Tuesday, April 2**

7:00 p.m. - Pike Town Hall
6862 Hwy 68, Embarrass, MN

*Hostesses: Sandy Stahl & Robin Laulunen*

We will be planning the 2019 Bingo-Bazaar-Bake Sale. New members are welcome. If interested, please contact Sandy Gorrill @ 749-2408.

**PIKE SANDY WOMEN’S CLUB 2019 BINGO BAZAAR**

**Wednesday, April 24 – 7-9 p.m.**

Bingo games will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. There will be 25 games. Each game wins a prize. The last cover-all game will win a super-prize.

50-50 Split the Pot Raffle tickets will be sold as a fundraiser which will benefit the Pike Sandy Britt Volunteer Fire Department. Drawing to take place on May 7 – Community Night.

**2019 COMMUNITY “POTLUCK” FAMILY NIGHT**

**Tuesday, May 7 – 7-9 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Pike Sandy Women’s Club

Featuring Music & Song by the HUTTER BUNCH!

Dancing by the Community!

50-50-Split the Pot Raffle Drawing.
Embarrass Region Fair  
Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2019  
Pending Approval

Present Board: Jerry Meier, Terri Joki, Janine Patten; 
Trustees: Rodney Dale and Paul Knuti; Members 
Present: Gustave Schroeder, Sue Beaton, Chris Dale, Pam 
Myre, Karla Montzka, Tom Helgerson, Kevin DiCastri

Call to Order
Jerry called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Minutes
The minutes of the February meeting were distributed for 
review. Sue moved to approve the minutes; Paul 
seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report
The financial report was distributed showing the P&L for 
2018. Terri explained that the Fair had a good year and 
was profitable notwithstanding major purchases in 2018. The 2018 P&L and financial records will be delivered to the Fair Boards’ accounting firm who will prepare 2018 informational return. Rodney moved to accept the treasurer’s report. Gus seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business
• Online calendar for Timber Hall (Jerry). Jerry is editing the calendar and creating links.
• Policy update. (Chris, Paul, Lisa). Jerry will meet with the policy committee and present at the April meeting.
• Building & Grounds Committee. Jerry stated that the committee should meet several times a year to research and create a budget for Timber Hall and fairgrounds improvements. Keven, Gus and Rodney volunteered for the committee. The committee will choose their own chairperson.
• 2019 Wish List. Gus suggested that a permanent stage with a front closure, so it could also function as a winter storage space, be added to the Wish List. Carts for tables and a riding lawn mower were also added. Jerry asked members to suggest five top improvement priorities; members suggested crossbars for Timber Hall doors, a riding lawn mower, bathroom updates including new changing tables, a new copier and filling the large pothole. Sue suggested that the Building/Grounds Committee research Wish List priorities and create a budget to present to the membership. Jerry will post the Wish List in Timber Hall so members can add to it. Once membership decides on improvements Paul will look for grants.

New Business
• Financial Committee/Audit. Jerry explained the need for a Financial Committee that would establish a budget for the Fair and its events/areas. Gus said he liked having a budget so he knows how much he can spend and try to stay under budget. Terri explained that if each area were to have its own budget, they’d have to track their own spending. Paul made motion to establish a Financial Committee and to look for members at the April meeting. Sue seconded. Motion carried.
• Marketing Committee. Paul said that the Fair needs more effective marketing especially for the entertainment. Gus said that bands haven’t been advertised or promoted as well as they should be and that not all bands appear in the Fair Book (due to the advertising deadline). He suggested putting inserts that advertise the bands in the Fair Book. Additional ways to promote the bands were suggested: handing out flyers at other events, newspaper advertising, the Fair’s website. Gus suggested that events that take place on the same day be grouped together in the Fair Book to make it easier for Fair patrons to see what events are taking place on any given day. Paul suggested asking the committee heads for their advertising and marketing ideas.

Miscellaneous
• Gus said that we should start using walkie talkies again during the Fair. Jerry suggested having walkie talkies at the entrance booths and that Rodney carry one. Gus also suggested that Fair Book contact information include email addresses. Chrissy has been in contact with people about walking at Timber Hall and she will take it up again in the Fall.

Next Mtg: Thursday, April 18  
6:30 p.m. @ Timber Hall.

New Members are Welcome!
Trapline Liquor
4897 Hwy 21
218-984-BYOB (2962)
traplineliquor@yahoo.com
Don’t limit happy to an hour
Open Mon-Sat, 8 am-10 pm
Sunday 11 am – 6 pm

Come see us for your Celebration Needs!
Embarrass Flower and Garden Club

Meeting: Monday, April 1, 2019
6:00 P.M.

EMBARRASS TOWN HALL

Our club is preparing to sponsor the MN 8th District Horticultural Society meeting on April 27, 2019, at Giant’s Ridge. This is the final meeting to discuss plans for the event. The Giants Ridge meeting will be a meeting for all gardeners, amateurs, hobbyists, or professionals. Come and meet enthusiasts from all of Northeastern MN: Duluth to International Falls and Grand Rapids to Silver Bay. The cost is $25.00 for the day, which includes lunch. Pre-registration is required by April 15, 2019. A registration form is available in the Flying Finn or upon request. The public is invited to join in the discussion. For more information please contact the club President, Linda Cox, 218-984-3002.

(Registration form is on following page.)

ALS BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

Visit your library on wheels, the Arrowhead Library System bookmobile. Local stops and times include:

**Wednesdays**
Four Corners: April 17, 5:15-6:30
Timber Hall: April 3 & 24, 4:30-5:15

For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, write or call the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768; (218) 741-3840 or check out our web site at [www.alslib.info](http://www.alslib.info).
The Embarrass Regional Flower & Garden Club hosts the 8th District MSHS Spring Meeting

Jackie Clay-Atkinson, Homesteading Expert presents “Growing Heirloom Varieties and Saving Seeds.”
Saturday, April 27 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Lodge at Giants Ridge, 6329 Wynne Creek Drive, Biwabik

Jackie Clay-Atkinson and her husband, Will, live off the grid on a diverse homestead in Angora, along with their cattle, goats, chickens, turkeys, and horses. They also grow a large variety of heirloom vegetables and specialize in saving seeds from year to year. Jackie will present tips and tricks to growing these cherished varieties, and how to save your own heirloom favorites. Jackie regularly writes for “Backwoods Home” magazine, and recently began publishing an heirloom seed catalogue, “Seed Treasures.” She will bring knowledge of how to raise tasty and beautiful crops, as well as seed samples. Wear your special spring/gardening hat, and win a prize!

Registration Form: Complete and mail in with payment by April 15

Name __________________________ Garden Club ______________________
Address ________________________ City __________ Zip Code ______

Phone __________________________ Email ______________________

# of Tickets @ $25 each ________ Total enclosed ________

Please make checks payable to Embarrass Garden Club. Send to: Bonnie Keller,
4510 Highway 21, Embarrass, MN 55732.

District meeting schedule:

9 a.m.: Registration, Coffee an’. Country Store

10 a.m.: 8th District Business Meeting

11 a.m.: Break — Country Store

11:15 a.m. — Scholarship Awards

Noon: Lunch by Giants Ridge

1 p.m.: “Growing Heirloom Varieties and Saving Seeds,” by guest presenter Jackie Clay-Atkinson

2:30 p.m.: Raffle prize drawings

Jackie with “Cherokee Purple” tomatoes
BABBITT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends of the Library have an ongoing book sale in the hall outside the library.

Friends of the Babbitt Library are looking for crafters and vendors for their upcoming Up North Craft and Vendor Extravaganza on Saturday, June 1 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Babbitt Municipal Library at 218-827-13345 or email babbittlibraryfriends@gmail.com to reserve your tables. This is a fundraiser to raise money for the library. This is the second annual craft sale which is also during the Babbitt City Wide Rummage Sales.

- **Monday, April 1**
  2:00 p.m. Book Club
  5:00 p.m. Library Board Meeting
  6:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting

- **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**
  Monday, April 8 – Coffee ‘n
  Tuesday, April 9 – 1:00-2:00 p.m.
    Adult Coloring Club: Fun...Free...Relaxing
  Wednesday, April 10 – 3:30 p.m.
    Wooden Tulip Craft
    Sponsored by the Friends of the Babbitt Library

- **Thursday, April 11 – 1:00 p.m.**
  “One Dog Canoe” with Mary Casanova
  You’re invited to meet beloved MN author Mary Casanova! In this 55-minute program. Mary will recount her childhood journey of discovering that books are a window into the world and writing is a way to “have a voice”. Geared towards grades K-5, but any age is welcome to attend! This program is funded with money from the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
  Bingo, 2:00 p.m.

- **Friday, April 12 – Fine Dining**

- **Wednesday, April 24**
  3:30 p.m. Decoupage a Fabric Bowl
  Sponsored by the Friends of the Babbitt Library

- **Thursday, April 25**
  2:00 p.m. Bingo
  Sponsored by the Friends of the Babbitt Library

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*** OBITUARIES ***

James L. Suihkonen, 76

James L. Suihkonen, 76, of Embarrass, passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at his home. Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 30 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Babbitt with Pastor Barnes officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church. Military rites will be accorded by the Babbitt Color Guard. Spring burial will be in the Embarrass Cemetery. Arrangements are with Landmark Funeral Home in Virginia.

Jim was born on May 18, 1942, in Two Harbors, to Leonard and Mary (Nefs) Suihkonen.

He graduated from Two Harbors High School in 1960 Jim was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He married Paulette M. Juenemann on Aug. 18, 1967, and they moved to Babbitt and later to Embarrass. He worked for Reserve Mining Company for 27 years as a welder and Mesabi Bituminous for 13 years as a heavy equipment operator.

Jim was a member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and a life member of VFW Post 1539, both of Babbitt. He was also retired from Embarrass Volunteer Fire Department, Jim was a caring, gentle-hearted man. He always had a smile, a joke or money for the kids to go to DQ. He loved his wife Paulette and family very much. Any waitress in any restaurant or any nurse in the hospital would remember him.

Survivors include his two children, Chad (Della) Suihkonen of Grand Rapids and Janelle (Eric) Wilhelm of Crystal; three grandchildren, Tyler and Saraphina Wilhelm and Avery (Kelderman) Jackson; sister, Catherine (Jim) Moore of San Antonio, Texas; half-sister, Irene Moore of Embarrass; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Mary Suihkonen; and wife, Paulette M. Suihkonen.
### OBITUARIES

**Paul V. Thesenvitz, 65**

Paul Vernon Thesenvitz, 65, of Embarrass, passed away on March 9, 2019. Paul’s family would like to thank the staff at Essentia Health St. Mary’s Hospital and Dr. James Montana of the Essentia Health Ely Clinic for their exceptional care and compassion. Paul will be laid to rest at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Duluth, and a memorial service will be held later this year. Please consider sending memorial donations to the KI Sawyer Heritage Air Museum in Marquette, Michigan. [https://www.kishamuseum.org/donate.php](https://www.kishamuseum.org/donate.php)

Paul was born in Grand Rapids, on April 1, 1953, to Vernon and Eileen (Heller) Thesenvitz. He graduated from Proctor High School in 1971 and joined the United States Air Force on Dec. 27, 1972. While in the Air Force he spent time in Michigan, South Korea, Idaho, and Las Vegas, Nevada. As luck would have it, he was stationed in Michigan with Tom Hampson. Tom’s sister liked to drive over from Sault St. Marie to visit. She and Paul met in 1973, and on Aug. 27, 1977, he married the love of his life, Dee Dee Hampson. Right after they got married, they drove out to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Paul spent two years stationed at Nellis Air Force Base. After Nellis, he spent a year at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea.

When he returned home after Kunsan, he and Dee Dee truly began their life together. They lived in Duluth for many years where Paul worked for the United States Post Office. They had two children, Laura and Danny. In 1993, Paul accepted a position as the Postmaster in Embarrass. He was Postmaster for 23 years and everyone knew Postmaster Paul.

He was also blessed with an entrepreneurial spirit and owned several businesses over the years, including BW Canoe Company where he handmade cedar strip canoes. He loved to learn and was always trying something new. He also had a sneaky sense of humor. You just never knew when something clever and hilarious would come out of his mouth.

Paul was a man of honor and integrity. He was steadfast in his belief that you should always do the right thing. He truly believed in the oath that he took when he joined the Air Force and carried that duty with him throughout his life.

He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Dee Dee; daughter, Laura (Jeff) Stella; grandsons, Paul and Jack; sister, Nancy (Jon) Kusler; brother, Dale (Judith) Thesenvitz; niece, Kitty (Brad) Hofman; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Paul was preceded in death by parents; son, Daniel Paul; sisters, Irene Scott and Ruth Foucault; and niece, Tammy Neuman.

**Robert J. Jorgenson, 88**

Robert James Jorgenson, 88, of Embarrass, died on Feb. 11, 2019, at his residence. A gathering of family and friends was on March 1 at Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home in Aurora. Inurnment will be in the Embarrass Cemetery.

He was born on March 5, 1930, in Grand Forks, N.D., to George and Cora Jorgenson. Robert was a graduate of East Grand Forks High School and farmed near Oklee. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served from 1952-1954 in Germany during the Korean Conflict.

On Oct. 27, 1956, he married Joyce Magnussen in Gonvick. Robert worked as a mechanic at Erie Mining Company and retired from LTV Steel with 31 years of service. He was a member of Steelworkers Union 4108.

Survivors include three children, Judy (Roger) Osborne of Stewartville, Debra (Butch) Pintar of Nashwauk and Lori (George) Nutt of Pine City; ten grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Randy; wife, Joyce; and eight siblings.
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
5088 Hwy 21, PO Box 1076, Embarrass
Pastor Evelyn Panula Weston
Office hours
Tues & Thurs 4:30-7 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
hopelutheranembarrass@gmail.com
218-984-2037

Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Coffee an’ follows worship every Sunday
Communion
April 14, 18 & 24
Other Events:
• Thursdays – Coffee & Crafts, 9 a.m.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday & Good Friday (April 18 & 19), worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Easter Breakfast will be served from 8:30-10:00 a.m. before worship. Pancakes, sausage links, juice and coffee. Freewill offering will support the ministry of Hope’s Altar Guild. All are welcome!

God welcomes all people! You are welcome here!

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF EMBARRASS
5606 E Taylor Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732
218-984-3402
Website: www.efreechurch.com
E-mail: embfree@frontier.com

Weekly Schedule:
Sunday
Family Bible classes: 9:00 a.m.
Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays
Women’s Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
Kids on the Rock, 4:00 p.m.
ENGAGE Youth Gathering, 6:30 p.m.

Special Events:
Ministries Team Meeting, Sunday, April 14, 12:15 p.m.
Good Friday Communion Service, Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
Teen Girls Fellowship, Saturday, April 20, 1:00 p.m.
Easter Worship Service, Sunday, April 21, 10:15 a.m.

Sunday Messages:
April 7 We Still Believe: “Jesus Christ”
April 14 “Despised and Rejected”
April 21 “Satisfied”
April 28 “Trouble in the Presence of Jesus”

PIKE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
6997 Oberg Rd (on Hwy 169)
www.apostoliclutheran.org
Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m.

April 7 Holy Communion, Jon Salo
April 14 Gerry Southerton
April 19 Good Friday, Jon Salo
April 21 Easter Service: Bob Tumberg
April 28 Jerry DeVries

“Treasure Hunt” in the tack shop – item or items marked free, discount coupons, and attractively prices horse products. Please come and have a little fun!
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