

ALBANY TOWNSHIP-ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 8, 2011

1. Opening The Annual Township Meeting was held on the Eighth day of March, 2011 at the Albany City Hall Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M by Town Clerk, Diane Noll.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A special presentation was made by Chair Tim Nierenhausen to Judy Fischer for her 29 years of service as Township Clerk. Thank you Judy for your many years of service.

2. **Introduction of Township and Planning Board Members**—Members present were Supervisors Tim Nierenhausen, John Kotzer and Dean Berckes. Commissioners present were Gary Bloch and Mike Noll.
3. **Nomination of Meeting Moderator**—A motion to have Gary Bloch be the meeting moderator was made by Mike Noll, seconded by Tim Nierenhausen and motion carried.
4. **Approval of Agenda**—Copies of the agenda were available to all present. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Mike Noll, seconded by Linda Kotzer, motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes**—The minutes from the 2010 annual meeting were read. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Loren Pelzer, seconded by Linda Kotzer, motion carried.
6. **Treasurers Report**—Copies of the 2010 Annual Financial Report were available to all present. The report was explained by Clerk Noll. A motion to accept the Annual Financial Report was made by Mike Noll seconded by Rick Rosen and motion carried.

REPORTS

7. **Planning Commission Supervisor Nierenhausen**

2010 saw a minimal amount of construction, a copy of all the permits issued in the Township and county was presented. We would appreciate if when you are planning to build you contact the Township for information on building permits.

This past year we have studied our Comprehensive Plan. Before we can complete the project, we need to discuss the Orderly Annexation with the City of Albany. We have started to work on the plan with the city. Also, because the county has changed their Planning and Zoning Ordinance, the township has started to work on changes to our Planning and Zoning to make it compliant with the County's. We will be meeting with the County in the upcoming months to work on the changes. We will be holding a Public Meeting before finalizing these items. This past year we also changed the By-Laws for the Planning Commission; it was a five member board and this has been reduced to a three member board. At this time there is an opening on the board and anyone interested should contact a board member.

8. **Road Report—Supervisor Kotzer**

The major project for the township was the tarring of Fifth Lake and Northwind roads along with two sections on Sand Lake Road.

The tarred northern section of 238 Avenue was crumbling and had to be repaired. The asphalt was ground off, removed, class Five was hauled in to improve the road. This road was not built to specifications and had a minimal amount of gravel under the tar.

219 Ave in the Peternell addition has numerous soft spots, six spots were cut out and filled with granite chips. This road will need to be re-evaluated in 2011. When cutting out the soft spots it was noted there was very little gravel under the tar.

This was the first year we used rubberized crack sealing. This product expands and contracts with the temperature change and is to hold up longer than our previous filler. We will notice the results after the spring thaw. The initial cost was more, but the product is to last three to seven years.

Dust suppressant was placed on the north side of the township, and the results were not as we expected. We did

receive a heavy rain after the application and the product did not hold as planned.

We started an extensive brush removal in our right-of-ways. Because of the construction on Northwind the majority of the funds when to cleaning up this area. We will continue on removing brush throughout the township this year.

This past year we past a Road right-of-way Ordinance and a Snow Removal ordinance. According to the ordinance we have a 33 foot right-of-way and no work is to be done in them. If you are plowing and planting in the right-of-way, it is suggested you discontinue this practice. Also, our ordinance states all culverts need to be a minimum of 18 inches and no plastic is allowed.

With the heavy snowfall we have had, there is a possibility of flooding on our roads. If roads are barricaded, please use a different route. The barricades are for your safety. If roads are closed we will notify KASM radio, Emergency Services and Albany Area Schools.

We have replaced 24 signs this past year. Within two weeks of replacement, we had eight damaged by gun shot and one stolen. The County Sheriff was contacted and a reward will be given for any information we receive on the offenders.

Also, we are charged for picking up debris in our road right-of-ways. If you see anyone throwing out their trash, please contact either a board member or the County Sheriff dept.

If any resident is interested in having dust suppressant placed, they are to contact the board. The Township will pay for 1/2 of the expense of having 300 feet of suppressant placed. When doing so, please mark the area with flags for the contractor to know where to place the suppressant.

Supervisor Kotzer stated this was his last meeting and it has been a pleasure working with the board and residents of the township.

9. Noxious Weeds-Supervisor Berckes

There was a great improvement in weed control from 2009 to 2010. We sent out 30% fewer notices and only required one visit from the sheriff. We continue to work with John Waldorf, the county weed man. Because we sprayed our right-of-ways late in the summer, there was a surplus of weeds in the right-of-ways during the summer months. With the spraying that occurred in the fall, we are hoping to see results this spring. We will again be broadcasting our right-of-ways in 2011 and hope to see a vast improvement. This type of spraying takes about three years to see permanent results. Because the weeds and brush have been neglected for a number of years, it will take some time to get it back under control. If you notice any weeds either in fields or in our right-of-way, please contact Supervisor Berckes to have them removed. At this time the county has concerns with wild parsnip and thistles; they are a very aggressive weed and need to be deleted.

Supervisor Berckes is our representative on the CAPX 2020 project. At this time the exact route has not been chosen. The original route going north of the City of Albany is still the preferred route, but no final decision has been made.

There are still plans for a Wind Energy Farm to be placed in the northern section of Albany Township. We have not heard anything further on this project for several months. Prior to any construction, we will need to have road agreements in place with the providing companies.

10. Township Levy Approval for 2012

For 2012 the Township Board is requesting the following for the annual levy:

General Revenue Fund-\$60,250, Road and Bridge Fund-\$263,950, Fire Fund-\$40,800 For a total of \$365,000.

A motion to approve \$60,200 for the General Fund was made by Loren Pelzer, seconded by Mike Noll and motion carried.

A motion to approve \$263,950 for our Road and Bridge Fund was make by Loren Pelzer and seconded by Linda Kotzer, motion carried

A motion to approve \$40,800 for our Fire Fund was made by Wade Schimmelpfennig and seconded by Gary Bloch, motion carried.

11. **Summer Recreation Program**—A motion to increase the payment to Albany Area Community Education from \$500 to \$750 was made by Loren Pelzer, seconded by Rick Rosen, motion carried.
12. **City Hall Room Rental**—A motion to pay \$50 per month for use of the City Hall Council Chambers was made by Wade Schimmelpfennig, seconded by Mike Noll, motion carried
13. **Legal Posting Places**—Our legal posting places are Stearns County Bank, Central Minnesota Credit Union—Albany Branch, and Albany City Hall. A motion to continue to post at these three locations was made by Loren Pelzer, seconded by Mary Rosen, motion carried.
14. **Legal Publishing News Paper**—The Albany Enterprise has been our legal paper for publishing notices. A motion to continue with the Albany Enterprise as our legal paper was made by Loren Pelzer, seconded by Mary Rosen and motion carried.
15. **Poll Hours for 2012**—March 13, 2012 will be the date for our next election and annual meeting. Because of the poor participation from two to four it was recommended we start the election at 4 P.M. instead of 2 P.M. A motion to have the polls open from 4–8 P.M. with the annual meeting to follow at 8:15 on March 13, 2012 at the Albany City Hall was made by Loren Pelzer and seconded by Linda Kotzer, motion carried.
16. **2010 Election Results**—Supervisor for a three year term. Mary Rosen 58votes, John Kotzer 21votes, Larry Mareck, 1vote. A total of 80 residents voted today.

17. Open Forum

Gary Bloch requests we thank Stearns Bank for the donation of the cookies.

Wade Schimmelpfennig— In past years there are always problems with certain culverts in the township during spring thaw. Could the Township establish a program to have these areas checked when thawing is occurring? Some of the major problems are located on 239th Street and 320th Street in the southwest section of the township.

Ryan Pratt states there is a culvert on Orchard Road that is also a problem, the school buses have trouble navigating the area.

Supervisor Kotzer realizes there are problems in these areas, this is the section of the township that is scheduled to be graveled in 2011. This should help some of these issues.

Rick Rosen, reports on 360th Street where they placed the oil pipeline, the road is sinking.

Supervisor Nierenhausen stated we would check all of these areas in the spring road tour.

18. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn to nights meeting was made by Mike Noll and seconded by Wade Schimmelpfennig, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane E Noll

Clerk/Treasurer, Albany Township

Approved minutes signed. _____

Meeting Moderator

Date

Approved minutes signed. _____

Township Chair

Date