

**ALBANY TOWNSHIP
MARCH 8, 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

Board of Canvas met at 8:25 P.M. The members approved the election results for the 2016 Township Election.

The Annual Township Meeting was held on March 8, 2016 at the Albany City Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M. By Town Clerk Diane Noll. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 17 Residents were in attendance.

Introduction of Township and Planning Board Members

Members present were Supervisors Tim Nierenhausen, Mary Rosen, and Loren Pelzer Commissioners Mike Noll, Gary Bloch and Ryan Pratt, and Zoning Administrator Jerry Forster.

Nomination of Meeting Moderator-

A motion to have Gary Bloch be Meeting Moderator was made by Mike Noll, seconded by Dean Berckes , motion carried.

Approval of Agenda-

Motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Rick Rosen , seconded by Mike Noll, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March 10, 2015 Annual Meeting were read by Clerk Noll. A request was made to add the write in candidates to the 2015 minutes A motion to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes as corrected was made by Ryan Pratt , seconded by Dean Berckes, motion carried.

Audit and Financial Report

The Township was Audited by Schlenner Wenner and reviewed by the Township Board, there were no outstanding issues on our financial statues

The Albany Township Annual Financial Statement ending on December 31, 2015 was reviewed by Clerk/Treasurer Noll. A motion to approve the 2015 Annual Financial report was made by Rick Rosen, seconded by Gary Bloch, motion carried.

Planning Commission Report-Chair Mike Noll

The Planning Commission had ten (10) meetings in 2016. The Commission worked to rezone the properties surrounding the city to make them in compliant with their tax status. Maps of the changes are available. A public hearing was held and residents had the right to accept or decline the changes.

The Planning Commission, at the request of the Township Board, is reviewing the Land use and Zoning Ordinance Number 6, Section 9.3.7 C through F. To decide if the township should allow the transfer of building credits from one contiguous 40 acre parcel of valuable farmland to another parcel of less valuable farmland. A public informational meeting will be held on March 29, 7:30 at the Albany City Hall.

John Kotzer, in 2013, the Township approved the current Land use and Zoning Ordinance. The notice

in the paper stated we were in “compliance” with the County Ordinance. Then why are we more strict than the County on some issues. We are then not in compliance.

Response: The Township is allowed to be more strict than the county if they choose and that still makes them in compliance.

John Kotzer-Made a motion to explore abolishing the Planning Commission and have a five (5) member Township board to handle all the business. A second to the motion was called for three (3) times and failed. The motion died for lack of a second.

Building permits Jerry Forster-Zoning Administrator

Building report was read, 22 building permits were issued, and 9 County permits, copies are available.

Paul Rushmeyer Questioned why do residents need to pay for 911 signs?

Response-the fee is just to cover the cost of the sign and pole.

Road Report-Supervisor Nierenhausen

The Township continues to replace all the township signs-with the high definition sign. Please contact a board member if you see any signs that need to be replaced.

Road projects-minimal damage to roads this spring.

Thank you to our contractors they have done a fine job this past year.

Soft spots that have been worked on are 245 Ave, 360 Street

Meadowview and Sandhill Circle were paved this past year.

Upcoming items-

325 Street-the rebuild of 325 Street is planned to be completed this summer. We have been working on the easements and have had meeting with the residents to have this completed.

Our goal is to have all roads bored to do preventive maintenance. We will then be able to locate trouble spots before they become major projects.

Cost of boring is approximately \$150 per boring. This may be a big expense but it will save us money in the future.

Gary Bloch-how far apart will the borings be done?

Response-ITT recommends every 500 feet.

Mike Noll-is there a three year, five year or ten year plan on file?

Response-we try to gravel and keep the work done by quarter, but because we have to fix the problem areas we keep getting behind.

Rick Rosen-365 Street on the west end needs some work and 251 Avenue/373 Street-this area keeps flooding because of the problem with draining.

Response, 365 Street was on our project plan for 2015, we are hoping to work on it in 2016. We will check the drainage issue on 251 Avenue.

Gary Bloch-Does the Township require street signs on every corner?

Response-there should be a sign on every corner, if you notice a missing sign, please contact a

supervisor.

Weed Report-Supervisor Pelzer

Bob Dunning and Supervisor Pelzer conducted the annual weed tour in the spring of 2015. Wild parsnip was still a problem in some areas, the county sprayed this. Three properties had major thistle problems, one complied with spraying the weeds, two received letters; All have complied with spraying their weeds.

Right-of-ways were sprayed on September 9

Right-of-ways were cut in June and September.

At the end of the year, the Right-of-ways were in good shape.

Fire Department-Supervisor Pelzer

The Albany Fire Department responded to a total of 37 calls in Albany Township: 14 fire calls and 23 medical. The budget for the Fire Department increased 2.5 percent.

The fire department has a new truck going in service this year. This will replace a pumper purchased in 1996.

Since the closing of the Albany Hospital, the Fire Department is noticing an increase in 911 calls. Residents are requesting transport to a hospital.

Tim Nierenhausen-some residents are concerned about the number of firemen that respond to a medical emergency. Some times there will be 10 members responding.

There is no increase in fees when additional members respond. As a taxpayer in the township of Albany, we are not billed for the response.

Appropriation of township Levy for 2017

General Revenue Fund \$56,400

Motion to approve the general fund made by Mike Noll, seconded by Paul Rushmeyer, motion carried.

Road and Bridge Fund \$282,500

Requesting additional \$20,000 to put in savings to assist in paving roads.

A motion to approve the Road and Bridge fund of \$282,500 was made by John Kotzer Jr, seconded by Jeff Schwinghammer, motion carried.

Fire Fund

\$50,550.00

A motion to approve the \$50,550 for the fire fund was made by Mike Noll, seconded by Ryan Pratt, motion carried.

The total levy for 2016 is \$389,450.00, this is a 1% increase over 2016.

Summer Recreation Program

A motion to approve \$1,000 to Albany Area Schools, Community Education for the assistance of the Summer Recreation Program was made by John Kotzer, seconded by Jerry Forster, motion carried.

City of Albany-Room Rental

A motion to approve payment to the City of Albany of \$700 for the use of their facilities for our meetings was made by John Kotzer, Jr, seconded by Mike Noll, motion carried.

Legal Posting Places

A motion to continue with the posting places of Stearns Bank, Albany Branch of the Credit Union and Albany City Hall was made by Ryan Pratt, seconded by Rick Rosen, motion carried.

Legal Newspaper

A motion to continue to have Albany Enterprise as our official newspaper was made by Paul Rushmeyer, seconded by John Kotzer Jr, motion carried.

March 2017 Annual Meeting

A motion for our 2017 meeting to be held on March 14, 2017 with the polls open from 2 P.M. To 8 P.M. With the board of canvass at 8:15 and the Annual Meeting to commence at 8:30 P.M. Was made by Jerry Forster, seconded by Paul Rushmeyer, motion carried.

New Business

Public Hearing will be held on March 29, 2016 7:30 P.M. This will be an informational meeting to allow residents to learn more about allowing the transfer of building credits from one contiguous 40 acre parcel of valuable farmland to another parcel of less valuable farmland.

2016 Election Results

Three year term for Supervisor: Tim Nierenhausen-43; John Christian-1; Diane Noll-1; Steve Watry-1; Ryan Pratt-2; Sheela Arceneau-1 for a total of 49 votes

Two year term for Clerk/Treasurer: Diane Noll 31; Mary Sauerer-2 for a total of 33 votes.

Total residents voting were 56.

Open Forum

Gary Bloch—A large auction is scheduled for farm equipment south of the City of Albany. Residents are concerned about parking.

A shuttle service is being planned to reduce the parking. Also, residents are allowed to place no parking signs on their private property.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Noll seconded by Ryan Pratt, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane E Noll
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved Minutes signed: Gary Bloch March 14, 2017
 Meeting Moderator Date

Approved Minutes signed: Tim Nierenhausen March 14, 2017
 Township Chair Date