

**2017 ALBANY TOWNSHIP  
MARCH 14, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

Board of Canvas met at 8:25 P.M. The members approved the election results for the 2017 Township Election.

The Annual Township Meeting was held on March 14, 2017 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. 18 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 Paul Rushmeyer, seconded by Rick Rosen , motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda-**

Motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Paul Rushmeyer, seconded by Dean Berckes, motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the March 8, 2016 Annual Meeting were read by Clerk Noll. A motion to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes as read was made by Rick Rosen , seconded by Mike Noll, 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, 2016 was reviewed by Clerk/Treasurer Noll. A motion to approve the 2016 Annual Financial report was made by Chris Kotzer, seconded by Paul Rushmeyer, motion carried.

**Planning Commission Report-Chair Ryan Pratt**

Chair Pratt-reviewed the year; Jennifer Buckentine from Stearns County Environmental Services attend the January meeting to inform the Commission on the County rules for Cluster Development and TDR's (Transfer of Developmental Rights). From this informational meeting the Commission moved forward with changing the Zoning Ordinance to include Clusters and TDR's. The Commission reviewed eight (8) administrative splits, two (2) variances, 1 (one) two-parcel split, a split of a trace and a proposed two-lot cluster development.

The Commission continues to work on the ordinance to keep it updated.

**Building permits-Zoning Administrator Jerry Forster**

Zoning Administrator Forster, reported signing off on 15 County permits and approving 22 Township permits.

### **Road Report-Supervisor, Chair Tim Nierenhausen**

Chair Nierenhausen reported that in 2016 we had numerous roads that developed soft spots needing repair. Sections of these roads were dug out, fabric placed and 24 inches of new gravel was placed. We have approved doing soil borings on all township roads to help plan for road projects. We continue to gravel and apply dust suppressant on a quarter of the township per year. This year the north-west quarter will be receiving the work. The south west quarter will be receiving a maintainer of calcium chloride.

Discussion was held on if we should straighten 251 Street. Bids came in at approximately \$350,000. Project was put on hold because of the expense.

A public meeting was held to decide if we should assess residents for the maintenance of existing paved roads. Residents were in favor of raising the levy rather than assessing the residents.

If you see any existing problems, or signs that need to be upgraded, please contact the supervisors.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

George Reber, 23247 350 Street, - the area on 350 street where the culvert was replaced is again a dip in the road, could this be repaired?

Chair Nierenhausen-we will review this area and have it built up.

Rick Rosen, 25426 375 Street,- The dust suppressant that was placed on 360 Street by the solar farm company, will the township be covering this expense this year?

Chair Nierenhausen-we have not heard from Aurora, we will decide after discussing with them.

Rick Rosen-Why aren't all the roads covered with dust suppressant, including all the dead ends? Grader still needs to come to these roads, we are tax payers too.

Chair Nierenhausen- we cover the roads that have high traffic. The product we are using now seems to be holding up. We will continue to use it on the high traffic roads.

Rick Rosen-the work done this past year on 251<sup>st</sup> Avenue was very good.

Chris Kotzer, 34026 207 Avenue- How much is dust suppressant?

Chair Nierenhausen-we just received a quote for 2017. The price of .59 per foot is the same as 2016. a mile of suppressant costs the township about \$3,000

Paul Rushmeyer, 19989 Rushmeyer Lake Road-why don't we stripe our paved roads?

Chair Nierenhausen-Cost is high and less liability for the township.

Robert Wittkopf, 37252 245 Avenue, we live at the end of a ¼ mile dead end road that never gets graveled. Will this be done this year?

Chair Nierenhausen- your road is located in the North west quarter and is scheduled for graveling in 2017.

### **Weed Control Report-Supervisor Pelzer**

Supervisor Pelzer was joined by County weed inspector Bob Dunning to do the annual weed inspection. There were about the same amount of thistles with two major problem spots. Letters were sent to the problem areas and all thistles were sprayed. We do have wild parsnip in the township on 330 and 350 Streets; these areas will be monitored this year. St. Martin Co-op did our

spraying this past year, they were about ½ the cost of our previous contractor and they did a great job. Matt Schmitz continues to cut our ditches and has done a good job. We are finding that cutting twice a year does not control the weeds. We are considering cutting three times a summer to keep the weeds under control.

### **Fire Department Report**

Supervisor Pelzer-There were three retirements on the Fire Department, seven applications were received to fill these positions.

1997 suburban is scheduled to be replaced, with a four door pickup with a long box. This would be paid with the gambling money received by the Fire Department. Also purchased in September with this fund was a new CPR machine, costing the department \$24,000. The Fire Department had their first save with this equipment in January.

The fire department had 207 calls in 2016. They believe the increase in calls is because of the hospital closing.

The Fire Department made \$49,000 from the non-profit gambling. They received a \$117,000 FEMA grant to purchase new turnout gear. Approximately 28% of the budget is paid by the Albany Township.

Paul Rushmeyer-with the closing of the hospital, have the boundaries for the ambulance response changed?

Supervisor Pelzer-Not at this time.

### **Appropriation of Township Levy for 2018**

#### General Revenue Fund - \$58,750

A motion to approve \$58,750 for the township General Revenue Fund was made by Chris Kotzer, seconded by Jeff Schwinghammer, motion carried, unanimously.

#### Road and Bridge Fund - \$293,300

A motion to approve \$293,300 for the township Road and Bridge Fund was made by Ryan Pratt, seconded by Paul Rushmeyer, motion carried, unanimously.

#### Fire Fund - \$50,550

A motion to approve \$50,550 for the township Fire Fund was made by Jeff Schwinghammer, seconded by Rick Rosen, motion carried, unanimously.

### **Summer Recreation**

The Township board is requesting this be a Community Education Program, not just for summer recreation, but all youth offerings. The Township would give a \$10 donation for the classes that student residents would be taking. Clerk Noll is working with Community Education to keep a list of students taking advantage of the scholarships. A motion to approve \$1,000 be used for Community Education Scholarships was made by Chris Kotzer, seconded by Jerry Forster, motion carried, unanimously.

### **Room Rental**

A motion to approve paying the City of Albany \$700 for the use of their rooms for our meeting was made by John Kotzer, seconded by Dean Berckes, motion carried.

### **Legal Posting Places**

