

2021 ALBANY TOWNSHIP
March 9, 2021
ANNUAL MEETING
“UNAPPROVED”

Thank you all for coming this evening.

The Annual Township Meeting was held on March 9, 2021 at the Albany City Fire Hall. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M. By Town Clerk Diane Noll. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 14 Residents were in attendance. 2 via Zoom for a total of 16

Introduction of Township and Planning Board Members

Supervisors; Tim Nierenhausen, Mary Rosen, and John Greer.

Commissioners; Gary Bloch and Joe Peterzell, Absent Michael Noll.

Zoning Administrator Jerry Forster.

Nomination of Meeting Moderator-

ACTION: A motion to have Gary Bloch be the meeting moderator was made by Tim Nierenhsusen, seconded by Rick Rosen, motion carried.

Approval of Agenda-

ACTION: A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by John Greer, seconded by Chris Kotzer, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March 10, 2020 Annual Meeting were read by Clerk Noll.

ACTION: A motion to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes as read was made by Chris Kotzer, seconded by Dean Berckes , motion carried.

Audit and Financial Report

The Township was Audited by Schlenner Wenner, Molly Thompson was the lead auditor. The audit reviewed by the Township Board, there were no outstanding issues on our financial statues.

The Albany Township Annual Financial Statement ending on December 31, 2020 was read by Clerk/Treasurer Noll.

ACTION: A motion to approve the 2020 Annual Financial report was made by Jerry Forster seconded by Johnny Kotzer , motion carried.

Time of motion: **8:48 P.M.**

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission report was given by Zoning Administrator Jerry Forster.

In 2020, The Planning Commission had 6 meetings and 2 public hearings.

Permits issued in the township:

25 township permits issued; 0 Permit Complaints; 5 County permits issued.

Road Report

The road report was given by Chair/Supervisor Tim Nierenhausen

The big project for 2021 was 360 Street by Pioneer Club. Improvements included upgrading to a 10 ton , updated culverts and added a 6 foot walking path on the north side.

PLANS FOR 2021/2022

- Replacing signs in the SW quarter
- Graveling the NW quarter with full dose of dust suppressant
- SW quarter will receive the maintainer for dust suppressant
- 2022 Local Road Improvement Plan, township has requested a \$1.25 million project on 251st Avenue. We will be notified of acceptance by June 1.
- Road restrictions are on, we will be planning a road tour this spring, we check for signs, drainage issues, spraying, brush removal. If you see anything, please call and let us know.
- If you see someone damaging a road sign, please notify a supervisor so we can follow up on getting it replaced.

Please call with any questions or attend a monthly meeting with any questions or concerns.

Weed Control

The weed report was given by Supervisor John Greer

With the help of Bob Dunning we targeted 5 properties.

Wild parsnip is what we really want to watch, it needs to be removed or sprayed to keep under control. There was good compliance with the residents we had to send letters to.

Fire Department

Fire Department Report was given by Supervisor John Greer.

The Fire Department received the following donations: \$62,000 in gambling, \$10,000 Albany Mutual Telephone, \$18,000 Fire men's dance

Calls for the year: 212 total calls 12 medical 4 fires 5 auto accident 1 gas leak

Albany Township pays 28% of the total cost, which is a good percentage for our township.

The fire department received \$13,000 from Albany township in CARES/COVID funding. The funds were used to purchased new radios.

A new fire truck is in process of being built, and should be completed in 2021. They are also investigating purchasing a used ladder truck at a reasonable price from the city of Sauk Rapids.

Appropriation of Township Levy for 2022

General Revenue Fund - \$68,600

ACTION: A motion to approve \$68,600 for the township General Revenue Fund was made by Jerry Forster seconded by Johnny Kotzer , motion carried, unanimously.

Road and Bridge Fund - \$352,050

The Township is requesting \$352,050 in the Road and Bridge fund. The Township has requested a \$1.25M Local Road Improvement Grant from the state of Minnesota. If we are allotted the grant the road would be built in 2022. This could cause additional funding needed for the year, because the grant would not cover engineering fees. We are requesting we extend this meeting to our July 26 regular monthly meeting to allow the township to raise an additional amount for the covering of additional expenses for the road improvement.

ACTION: A motion to extend the motion for the Road and Bridge Fund to the July 26, 7:30 pm meeting was made by Joe Peternell seconded by Ryan Pratt, motion carried.

Fire Fund - \$49,400

ACTION: A motion to approve \$49,400 for the township Fire Fund was made by Chris Kotzer, seconded by Gary Bloch, motion carried, unanimously.

The Total Levy for 2021 is \$470,050 a 1% increase over 2021

Time of motion: **9:19 P.M.**

Community Education \$1,000

2020 we were billed for \$40 in scholarships for students taking classes through Community Education. The requests were lower, because COVID restricted having classes.

ACTION: A motion to approve paying up to \$1,200 for scholarships in 2022 to Community Education was made by Joe Peternell, seconded by Johnny Kotzer, motion carried.

Time of motion: **9:21 P.M.**

Room Rental \$700

Request to pay the City of Albany \$700 for renting the Council Chambers for meetings.

ACTION: A motion to approve paying the City of Albany \$700 for room rental was made by Dean Berckes, seconded by Jerry Forster, motion carried.

Time of motion: **9:21 P.M.**

Posting Places

ACTION: A motion to approve having Stearns Bank, Albany Branch of the Central Minnesota Credit Union and Albany City Hall as our official posting places was made by Joe Peternell, seconded by Doug Kerfeld, motion carried.

Time of motion: **9:22 P.M.**

Official Newspaper

ACTION: A motion to continue having Albany Star Post as our official newspaper was made by Gary Bloch, seconded by Chris Kotzer, motion carried.

Time of motion: **9:22 P.M.**

Official Bank Depositories for the Township

ACTION: A motion to have Stearns Bank and Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union as our official depositories, was made by Doug Kerfeld, seconded by Johnny Kotzer, motion carried.

Time of motion: **9:24 P.M.**

Discussion on New Town Hall Proposal

The Township is proposing to look into building a new town hall. The question is should the supervisors move forward with this project? The land would need to be approved by the residents before we can move forward with a building. At this time we are looking at a 30 x 50 foot building. Tonight is informational, a year from now we would take a vote on location and cost.

ACTION: A motion to table for a year was made by Chris Kotzer, seconded by Dean Berckes, motion carried.

The suggestion was made to research for a lot if there are any available in the township.

Decision on poll hours

Date 2022 election and annual meeting- Date March 8, 2022 Election 4-8 P.M., Board of Canvass 8:15, Meeting to follow at 8:30.

ACTION: A motion to have the 2022 Election and Annual Meeting on March 8, 2022, with elections from 4-8 pm, Board of Canvas at 8:15 and the Annual Meeting to follow at 8:30 pm. was made by Jerry Forster, seconded by Diane Meier, motion carried.

Decision of Election

Voters today 16 total
3 Year term for Supervisor, John Greer 14 votes
2 write in

Open Forum

2020 Election were held at the Stearns County Pioneer Grounds at Arban Church. Cleaning and training was completed and paid for by the Corona Virus fund. We had 13 election judges trained for these elections. 640 electors voted in the annual election, which is a 94 % turn out.

A Farm Safety Event sponsored by local Fire Departments is in the planning stages, please watch your local newspaper and listen to KASM for information.

County park fund- suggested to build a parking area for Wobeggan Trail by 380 St. Purchase the land, take down trees, small shelter. At this time the road is being used for parking, this would get the cars off the road.

Adjournment

ACTION: There being no further business to come before this meeting a motion to continue to July 26, 7:30 pm at Albany city hall was made by Jerry Forster, seconded by Ryan Pratt, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane E Noll

Diane E Noll
Clerk/Treasurer
Albany Township

Approved Minutes Signed: *Gary Bloch* March 15, 2021
Meeting Moderator Date

Approved Minutes signed: *Tim Nierenhausen* March 15, 2021
Township Chair Date