

UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MINUTES

2020

2020 Stanton Township Annual Meeting

March 10th, 2020

31186 40th Avenue Way

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Clerk Cheryle Peters called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. (note: 12 signed the attendance roster.)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Jeremy Lorfald attended. Cheryle invited him to give an address. He introduced himself and thanked the audience for the opportunity to speak. He spoke briefly about the department's efforts regarding the many transitions, due to retirements, 30 years plus of experience. Promotions have been made from within; they are at full staff.

Chief Deputy Lorfald informed the audience that the year 2020 has come in 13.6 million under budget; staffing changes were stated as the cause for the budget savings. He reported that Sheriff Kelly has a goal to institute and develop a Community Engagement Team, with a Coordinator position. Staff has not, yet, been of the level to implement such a program; currently, four deputies patrol the entire county. With or without a grant from the Department of Justice, the transition will take place, at some level. Local Police Departments could participate, as they do with the "Coffee With a Cop" campaign; car seat clinics, at car dealerships are a possibility, as well. The department does use social media to try to penetrate the community. Sheriff Kelly would, also, like to create a "Peer Support Group" for those involved in various aspects of law enforcement. This would be a type of mentoring within the profession of law enforcement. PTSD was noted as a realistic phenomenon among some, within the law enforcement profession.

Chief Deputy Lorfald reported that 6-7 officers had taken 8 hours of training to learn about mental health issues, in the community at large.

Chief Deputy Lorfald reported that, at the time, there was still a missing person last seen near Highway 19 and 40th Avenue Way. The family would be conducting a search, on Sunday.

Chief Deputy Lorfald invited any additional questions. Some discussion ensued regarding the geography of patrols. Chief Deputy Lorfald invited any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked the audience for their hospitality. The audience thanked the deputy for attending.

Cheryle called for a motion, from the floor, to nominate a moderator for the evening. Ken Burns made a motion to nominate Jack Schlichting to serve as moderator. Dave Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting

Clerk Cheryle Peters read the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting, 2019.

Ken Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of 2019, as read. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jack Schlichting called for a motion to suspend reading of the details of "Checks and Deposits."

Dave Garner made a motion to suspend the reading of the details of "Checks and Deposits."

Karen Slininger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Road Report for the Year of 2019

Ken Burns, offered the report as Chairman. Chairman Burns began by stating that Stanton Township was responsible for about 36 miles of roadways, 2/3rds gravel 1/3rd paved. The largest road expenses are snow removal and summer time maintenance. Summer grading, with the additions of gravel, have helped to re-build Stanton Township gravel roads, to appropriate levels of crowning. Watershed, from the roads, has been much improved. Gravel expenses have been reduced to approximately \$45,000, per year. Ken thanked Danny. Mr. David Pagel was hired last May, as a part-time second road man, supporting Danny Lundell. Woodland Heights and a quarter mile of the paved portions of Sciota Trail was chip sealed, extending wear 5-7 years. Chairman Burns reported that Oxford Mill Road might be due for a chip seal soon, as well.

The one ton truck has proven to be useful, for snow removal, in the smaller areas of the township. The township agreed to purchase a Peterbilt plow truck for about \$60,000. The township was to take possession in December, however, the owner had to retain the truck through the snow plow season. Acquisition is expected in April; the \$60,000 price will likely be renegotiated.

Ken reported that the township had applied, to FEMA, for some public assistance in the amount of approximately \$23,000. SEMA, a State administrated Emergency Management Agency, reimbursed the township for tornado damage that occurred on September 20th, 2018, in the amount of \$38,500.44. The Minnesota Department of Transportation reimbursed the township, in the amount of \$7,777.90 for damage sustained due to an "unofficial detour". Gravel road in Stanton Township had been severely damaged by semi truck traffic and excessive use, after a road closure for a bridge project over Prairie Creek, on Highway 19. Chairman Burns thanked Cheryle and Danny for their extended work on these three claims.

Chairman Burns reported that gravel expenses were \$44,609.11, for the year. Dust control expenses were \$16,898.10. Residents contributed \$3,974.75 toward dust control, \$100 less than last year. Repair to the ditch mower was \$8,076.90. Brush/ tree/ removal and \$10,150.00; \$34,225.00 was spent on seal coating and some black top repairs. Fire protection expenses were reported as \$36,071.60. Randolph/Hampton invoiced for \$21,654.56; Cannon Falls Rural Fire Association invoiced \$14,417.04. Chairman Burns invited any questions; none were heard.

Reading of the Board of Audit Report for the Year of 2019- Clerk Cheryle Peters offered two different financial reports. The mandated CTAS report Schedule 1 was read aloud. The reading of Schedule 9 was suspended. The Treasurer's Report was posted on the bulletin board and was available in copy.

Questions: Interaction Between Board and Citizens: Moderator, Jack Schlichting invited Goodhue County Commissioner, Brad Anderson, to address the electorate. Commissioner Anderson came from the audience and stated that he would be leaving some literature regarding Covid-19 virus and Goodhue County policy. He briefly explained the content of the papers and provided business cards as contact information.

Dave Garner inquired about the Cascade neighborhood and the proposed Canoe Landing near his property. Commissioner Anderson stated that the plans were, indeed, preliminary; probably no parking lot plan will be implemented for this current year.

Ken Burns inquired about the Covid-19 virus situation. Commissioner Anderson replied that no confirmed cases had been reported in Goodhue County. He explained that the Minnesota Department of Health would be taking its cues from the Center for Disease Control. Goodhue County would likely not be involved with quarantines or policy guidelines. Those in need of services, while quarantined, would be served by Goodhue County in some way, at their home address.

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Some discussion ensued regarding Highway 52 and the roundabouts. Jack Schlichting complimented the commissioner on Goodhue County's efforts to make land acquisitions along County Road 24. Jack stated his disappointment in the State of Minnesota's style, for making land acquisitions.

Some discussion ensued regarding revenue streams, specifically, for roads.

Solar and feedlot issues seem to be the most discussed land use categories. Commissioner Anderson stated that Utility grade solar energy systems can operate only where Excel Energy is the electricity provider. He also expressed some concern over land use for raising livestock in Goodhue County.

Some discussion ensued regarding land values for taxation purposes. Some reporting ensued regarding 2nd Amendment protections. Mental health issues and the broader need for more practitioners in the field were discussed, as well; wait times for services are relatively long, for someone having a crisis.

The commissioner thanked the audience and said goodnight.

Rosie Schluter stated her appreciation for the fact that Stanton Township had attracted two qualified candidates for the Township Supervisor's race. She encouraged participation in the process and encouraged each candidate to run again, even though they might not achieve victory.

Cheryle Peters offered some discussion regarding a \$200 donation from the township, to the Goodhue County Historical Society. Goodhue County Historical Society had sent a letter requesting a donation. She read the letter out loud. Dave Garner made a motion recommending, to the Town Board, a \$200 donation to the Goodhue County Historical Society. Mary Lundell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Review of the Levy and Budget From the Year 2020:

Board Treasurer, Mary Lundell, summarized and recommended changes within the funds as shown in the electorate vote.

Vote on Levy- Payable For the Year 2021:

Karen Slininger made a motion to levy \$36,000 for the **General Fund**. Dave Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dave Garner made a motion to levy \$130,000 in the Road and Bridge Fund. Crystal Burns seconded the motion to levy \$130,000 in the **Road and Bridge Fund**. The motion passed.

Karen Slininger made a motion to levy \$34,000 for the **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund**. Dave Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mark Slininger made a motion to levy \$38,000 for the **Fire Fund**. Dave Garner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dave Garner made a motion to levy \$2,000 for the **Building Fund**. Hannah Regenscheid seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mary summarized the total 2021 Stanton Township Levy as \$240,000; no net change in the total; the recommended inter fund changes were approved. Ken Burns made a motion to accept the total Levy to remain, as \$240,000. Crystal Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dave Garner made a motion to appoint the Beacon as the official newspaper. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dave Garner made a motion to appoint the town hall as the official posting place. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dave Garner made a motion to approve the next Annual Town Meeting, 8:10, at the town hall, March 9th, 2021. Bob Benson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Call for the Election Results of Three Races:

Three Year Term Supervisor-Bob Benson- 29

Write Ins- 02

Blank Ballot 02

Total Voters 33

***For Two Year Term Supervisor-** Karen Slininger 23
Hannah Regenscheid 10

Write Ins 00

Blank Ballot 00