

# UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MINUTES

2021

## 2021 Stanton Township Annual Meeting

March 9th, 2021

31186 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue Way

Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Clerk Cheryle Peters called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. (note: 6 signed the attendance roster. Residents, Jenelle Sternitzky and Danny Lundell, attended via Zoom. Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Jeremy Lerfald attended on line; Superintendent, Jeff Sampson, representing Cannon Falls ISD 252 attended on line; Morris Ellin, on behalf of U.S. Representative Angie Craig, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, attended on line; Larry T. attended on line.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Zoom attendees were acknowledged.

Clerk, Cheryle Peters called for a motion to nominate a moderator for the evening. Ken Burns made a motion to nominate Jack Schlichting as moderator for the evening. Indications of support were sought from those online, using the Zoom technology. The motion passed 6/0; 4 roster, 2 on line.

Goodhue County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Jeremy Lerfald attended. Moderator, Jack Schlichting 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 a variety of topics.

Chief Deputy Lerfald informed the audience that the year 2020 has come in \$876,000 under budget; no particular changes were stated as the cause for the budget savings.

He reported that Sheriff Kelly's goal to institute and develop a Community Engagement Team, with a Coordinator position, has been implemented to a degree. With a grant from the Department of Justice, a Community Engagement Coordinator has been hired to associate law enforcement personnel with community activities such as skating, fishing and trap shooting.

Chief Deputy Lerfald reported emergency response is prepared for seasonal flooding events.

Chief Deputy Lerfald reported that the Code Red notification system has been upgraded with a feature called a GEO Fence; the feature is a GPS enhancement intended for the precision and fine tuning of area notifications.

Chief Deputy Lerfald reported that Covid cases had been in decline. Video visits had been established as a way to facilitate distancing. Staff? Quarantines were instituted as 14 days.

Chief Deputy Lerfald reported that officers had been given life saving training. ?

Chief Deputy Lerfald reported that one K-9 Officer had retired after 44 years of service.

Chief Deputy Lerfald reported that the Sheriff's Office assisted with SWAT Team activities in St. Paul, last summer. Statistically speaking, there was one homicide and one drowning last summer.

# UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MINUTES 2021

Chief Deputy Lorfald invited questions. Hearing none, he thanked the audience for their hospitality. The audience thanked the deputy for attending.

## Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting

Clerk Cheryle Peters read the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting, 2020.

Ken Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of 2020, as read. Karen Slininger seconded the motion. The motion passed 6/0; 4 roster, 2 online.

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

Karen Slininger made a motion to suspend the reading of the details of "Checks and Deposits."

Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed 6/0; 4 roster, 2 on line.

## Road Report for the Year of 2020

Ken Burns, offered the report as Chairman. Chairman Burns began by stating that Stanton Township was responsible for about 36 miles of roadways. The largest two 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 generally reducing, the last three years. This year the gravel expenses were App. \$35,763.85. Ken thanked Danny and the road crew for their consistent diligence in stabilizing the gravel roads.

The township purchased a 2009 Peterbilt plow truck, over the summer, for about \$52,000. The acquisition was made using cash saved, year over year, within the Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund, #204. This was the largest capital outlay for the year 2020.

The township expensed \$18,024 .96 for chloride; reimbursements in the amount of \$6, 569.04 were received from residents and property owners, including Premium Quality Trees in the west end of the township, Sciota Trail area. PQT, the Christmas Tree farm in the Hampton area, also, sent an additional reimbursement amount of \$1404, for chloride, applied in 2019.

Also, regarding township Rights of Way, Ken reported that the township had expensed \$12,560 for Brush Removals near the township roadsides. This includes tree trimmings, removals and chemical burnings, including Buckthorn. A boom mower was rented, for one week, and used every day of that week to trim back encroaching wood, dead or alive. The cost of the mower for the week was \$3,560.

For equipment repairs, the township expensed \$4,700.34. For black top repairs, the township expensed \$1,100.00.

Ken reported that the Fire Fund # 225, expensed \$36,359.93; Randolph/Hampton Fire District, in the amount of \$21,654.56; Cannon Falls Rural Fire Association, in the amount of \$14,705.37.

In July, 2020 the township received \$23,127.01 from FEMA, for reimbursement of flood damage expenses; damages were incurred to Stanton Township roads in 2019.

Ken reported that the township had received \$27,700 as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act legislation. The township allocated \$9,489.79 for extra election expenses: cleaning supplies, services and personnel; small amenities used to facilitate additional voter stations i.e., tables, Plexiglas screens and modest threefold screens, for voter privacy; amenities used to provide an additional exit from the Town

# UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MINUTES 2021

Hall; purchases of audio visual equipment, facilitating remote attendance for a variety of official township meetings: cameras, speakers, dedicated lap top, public address system and Zoom subscription expenses.

The township directed CARES funds to: Cannon Falls ISD 252, in the amount of \$10,062.73; Randolph ISD 195 in the amount of \$6,147.48 and the City of Cannon Falls Ambulance Service in the amount of \$2,000, mostly for their extra cleaning and sterilizing expenses. Both school districts and the ambulance unit serve residents within Stanton Township jurisdiction.

Ken reported that the township had applied, to FEMA, for some public assistance in the amount of approximately \$23,000. The township received those funds in 2020.

**Reading of the Board of Audit Report for the Year of 2020-** 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, Residents and Guests:** Moderator, Jack Schlichting invited Jeff Sampson, Superintendent of Cannon Falls ISD 252 to speak. Mr. Sampson attended via Zoom. He addressed the electorate on 4 categories of concern regarding Cannon Falls Area Schools. The following subject areas will appear on the ballot for the May 11<sup>th</sup>, Referendum:

\*Technology Expenses

\*Heating and Ventilation

\*Renovations of the Gymnasiums

\*Outdoor Activity Areas- Sod, Artificial Turf

Mr. Sampson reported that a consultant issued survey results as: 30% surveyed responded yes; 30% responded no; 40% wanted more information.

Mr. Schlichting invited questions from the audience; none were heard. Jack thanked Mr. Sampson for his appearance.

Mr. Schlichting invited a third guest to speak to the electorate, Mr. Morris Ellin. Mr. Ellin attended via Zoom on behalf of U.S. Representative Angie Craig, 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. Mr. Ellin described the \$9 million American Rescue Plan. The Township would qualify for \$127,000 for use until 2024. The three areas for expensing funds would be infrastructure including water and sewer, broad band and Covid related increased expenses. Moderator, Jack Schlichting invited questions from the audience. Mr. Ellin addressed questions and thanked the township.

Cheryle Peters reported that the township had received a letter from the Goodhue County Fair, requesting a monetary donation. She stated that the letter did not state an amount.

Cheryle noted that the Goodhue County Historical Society usually sends a letter making a monetary request. The Society had not sent one this year. Some discussion ensued regarding the effects of Covid-19 and protocol on their meetings. Mary Lundell made a motion to donate \$200 to the Goodhue County Historical Society. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation vote.

UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MINUTES  
2021

**Review of the Levy and Budget From the Year 2020:**

Board Treasurer, Mary Lundell, summarized and described options.

**Vote on Levy- Payble in the Year 2022:**

Ken Burns made a motion to levy \$36,000 for the **General Fund**. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed; five in the house, two online.

Ken Burns made a motion to levy \$130,000 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Mark Anderson seconded the motion to levy \$130,000 in the **Road and Bridge Fund**. Jack Schlichting amended the motion to levy \$210,000 in the Road and Bridge Fund, allowing for an additional \$80,000 for outlay on the Oxford Mill Road Improvement Project, with the contingency of an award from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$878, 516. Mark Anderson seconded the motion, as amended, \$210,000. Some discussion ensued; the Levy Certification on the Road and Bridge Fund amount is pending, for later in the year. The motion passed, as amended; five in the house, two online.

Karen Slininger made a motion to levy \$34,000 for the **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund**. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed; five in the house, two online.

Mark Anderson made a motion to levy \$38,000 for the **Fire Fund**. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed; five in the house, two online.

Ken Burns made a motion to levy \$2,000 for the **Building Fund**. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed; four in the house, two online.

Mary summarized the total 2022 Stanton Township Levy as \$320,000; \$80,000 net increase in the total; Karen Slininger made a motion to accept the total Levy, as \$320,000, pending certification. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed; four in the house, 2 online.

Ken Burns made a motion to appoint the Beacon as the official newspaper, the Town Hall as the official posting place, Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Annual Meeting date and time. Mary Lundell seconded the motion. The motion passed; five in the house, 2 online.

**Call for the Election Results of Three Races:**

<b><u>Three Year Term Supervisor-Ken Burns -</u></b>	<b><u>22</u></b>
<b><u>Write Ins- Danny Lundell</u></b>	<b><u>04</u></b>
<b><u>Blank Ballot</u></b>	<b><u>00</u></b>
<b><u>Total Voters</u></b>	<b><u>26</u></b>

**UNOFFICIAL STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MINUTES  
2021**

<u>*For <i>Treasurer Mary Lundell</i></u>	26
<u>Write Ins</u>	0
<u>Blank Ballot</u>	0
<u>Total Voters</u>	<b>26</b>

**New Business:** The Local Road Improvement Program was described as a grant program managed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Ken Burns reported that the township had engaged an engineer and subsequently applied for a grant in the amount of \$878, 516. Awards announcements were slated for May or June, 2021.

**Adjournment:**

Jack Schlichting made a motion to adjourn. Mark Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed; five in the house. Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Jack Schlichting announced that the Board of Canvas would meet immediately to verify election counts. (Note: This is considered a paid board meeting.)

Respectfully Submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Stanton Township