

APPROVED STANTON TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 12th, 2024

31186 40th Avenue Way
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Clerk Cheryle Peters called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. (note: 25 residents signed the attendance roster.) The Zoom feature was available. Four viewers were addressed as attending.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The call for a motion to nominate a moderator, for the evening, went out. Nora Bryson Felton made a motion to nominate Jack Schlichting as moderator, for the meeting. Phil Muehring seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Minutes of March 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting

Cheryle read aloud the 2023 Unapproved Stanton Township Annual Meeting Minutes; Mark Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from March 14th, 2023. Ken Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. No opposition was heard.

Guest Speakers:

Moderator, Jack Schlichting invited Goodhue County Commissioner, Brad Anderson, to the podium to speak; Commissioner Anderson briefly discussed several items concerning residents and taxpayers. Commissioner Anderson offered to answer questions; Jack Schlichting inquired about the jail situation. Commissioner Anderson commented that \$55.00 per day to house inmates from other jurisdictions is not a money maker. He highlighted the goal of rehabilitation.

Other noted subjects included :

- ❖ Goodhue County Commissioners' Committee Appointments
- ❖ Highway user Tax Distribution Fund (gas tax and others)
- ❖ Funding For Bridges Located in Township Jurisdictions
- ❖ Goodhue County Adopted Five Year Road Plan-\$68 Million Represented
- ❖ Goodhue County Highest Pavement Rating in MnDot District 6/About 20 Counties
- ❖ Broadband Infrastructure Costs Still Prohibitive; \$1.75 Million in ARPA Funds Dedicated
- ❖ Veterans Services Office and Staff -Assistance With Submitted Claims and Delays
- ❖ 4-H Extension Educators-Two U of M Employees and an Administrator
- ❖ Demolition Landfill Closed in Anticipation of New MPCA Decommissioning Rules
- ❖ Private Construction Project Encroaching Upon Lake Byllesby Park Property-Corrections Will be
- ❖ Meshing of Authorizing Jurisdictions
- ❖ Unfunded Mandates
- ❖ Public Health Insurance

Salutations were given.

Moderator, Jack Schlichting invited Goodhue County Sheriff 's Office, Deputy Mychal Johnson, to address the audience. Deputy Johnson introduced himself and thanked the audience for the opportunity to speak. He offered two documents for reference: The Stanton Township Top 10 Types of Calls For Service and The 2023 Goodhue County Sheriff's Office Annual Report.

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He spoke briefly about the department's efforts regarding a variety of topics including:

- ❖ Weekly Hiring and Promotions of Officers-About One Half of Patrol Officers Are New This Year
- ❖ Township Meeting Attendance By Patrol Officers
- ❖ New Employee Training in a Difficult Recruiting Market-Short Only One Officer For Patrols
- ❖ Shift Assignments: Minimum of 4 Daily, 5 Nightly
- ❖ Contract Jurisdictions Are Five in Number, Bellchester, Dennison, Wanamingo, Goodhue and Pine Island
- ❖ Routing of Dispatched Calls For Service: 911 or Non-Emergency Number
- ❖ Suspicious Activity Ranked Most Numerous Calls For Service

Officer Johnson was thanked for his service and he spoke briefly about the "Protect and Serve" attitude.

Danny and Mary Lundell noted that many people walk their dogs on narrow township roads, (Oxford Mill Road), creating a potential hazard; Officer Johnson suggested possibly a Facebook post on the subject.

Jenelle Sternitsky used a photo to demonstrate to the officer the use of mini bikes, also, on Oxford Mill Road.

Jack Schlichting expressed appreciation for the Sheriff's Department attendance at monthly meetings; salutations were made.

Bob Benson made a motion to suspend the reading of the Details of Checks and Deposits; Nora Felton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Phil Muehring, Oxford Mill Road, made a motion to combine all motions for: selection of official newspaper, posting place, date, time and place of 2025 Annual meeting, Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 @ 8:10pm; Nora Felton seconded the motion; The motion passed.

Moderator, Jack Schlichting, asked the township supervisors and town board officers to introduce themselves to the audience: Retiring Supervisor, Ken Burns; Supervisor, Bob Benson and Supervisor, Karen Slininger; Treasurer, Mary Lundell and Clerk, Cheryle Peters.

Town Board Chair, Ken Burns, gave the Road Report for the Year 2023:

Kan Burns addressed the audience stating that Stanton Township roadway is MOL 36 miles, mostly gravel; Wages for Road Crew were increased; ads for help were placed; two applications were submitted for hire. One additional plow operator was hired. Four plow operators are currently employed by the township, allowing for a second shift during a bad storm, this season being an exception. Danny Lundell, Larry Jensen and Bob Benson do most of the plowing for the township; Tom Kurtz assists when needed.

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The costs of major expenses, mostly road related, were reported as follows:

- ❖ The cost of gravel purchased, in 2023, was \$60, 636.11.
- ❖ Chloride purchased was applied at a cost of \$22, 406.25 less reimbursements \$6,150 for a net of \$16, 256.25.
- ❖ Also received \$1622.40 from Christmas Tree Farm to assist with Chloride expenses and received \$1,000.00 from Boy Scouts, Northern Star Council, to assist with Chloride expenses on 310th Street.
- ❖ Seal Coating and Black Top Repair-\$11, 300.00 for Black top repair.
- ❖ Tree/Brush/Noxious Weed Removal-\$7,800.00 for tree and brush removal and stump grinding in ROW.

Danny Lundell was complimented on his efforts to keep the ROW areas cleared.

Chairman Burns reported that the township had, again, applied for a MNDot “Local Road Improvement Program” grant. The intent of the project would be to widen the portion of Oxford Mill Road, north of Stanton Trail, about 7,130 feet; the proposed widening would provide 2 feet of shoulder on either side of a 24 foot road width.

The amount of the LRIP grant request was stated as \$1.271 million for value. The township’s obligation would be \$111,645.00 if awarded; announcements are expected within approximately three weeks. Ken Burns reported that it was unlikely that Stanton Township would receive a grant because of intense competition.

Fire Protection was stated as a Major expense in the amount of \$37, 566.05 Randolph Hampton \$21, 654.56 and Cannon Valley Rural Fire Association \$15,911.45.

Ken Burns invite questions; brief discussion ensued regarding the expense of black top on the entire length of Oxford Mill Road.

Moderator, Jack Schlichting announced that residents of Stanton Township are given a residents’ price of \$12.25 per ton, delivered by Anderson Rock and Lime. Please note, to Anderson’s, that you are a Stanton Township resident to receive the \$12.25 per ton rate; Anderson Rock and Lime can be reached at: 507-263-3526.

2024 Reading of the Board of Audit Report, Prepared by Treasurer Mary Lundell, for the Year of 2023-

Clerk, Cheryle Peters read aloud

the mandated CTAS report, Schedule 1. The Treasurer’s written Report was posted on the bulletin board and was available in copy.

Proposed Levy Payable 2025 Treasurer, Mary Lundell:

Review of the Levy and Budget:

Mary Lundell noted that the township has not raised the levy since 2016; she reported that the Town Board had recommended a 3% levy increase, representing \$7,200. She noted that the electorate is allowed to vote, by statute, to raise the levy. Mary informed the electorate that the Covid Fund has been exhausted. Each Levy Fund must be voted on individually. Jack Schlichting opened the floor for discussion. Mary noted that the township has very few delinquent taxes. Some discussion ensued regarding some higher expenses. Discussion ensued regarding fire protection entities, Randolph Hampton and Cannon Valley Rural Fire and possible increases to townships. Discussion ensued regarding gradual increases for levy amounts. Road maintenance

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equipment (grader) was noted as a possible future acquisition, as well. Some breakdown population figures were discussed.

2024 Vote on Levy- Payble in the Year 2025:

Karen Slininger made a motion to levy \$39,200 for the **General Fund**. Nora Felton seconded the motion to levy \$39,200 in the **General Fund**. Discussion ensued; Mary Lundell made a motion to amendment, increasing the amount to \$42,000 for General Fund. Karen Slininger seconded the motion to amend, increasing the amount in the General Fund to \$42,000. The amendment failed, 12 opposed-7 in favor.

The original motion to levy \$39,200 for the **General Fund** prevailed on the vote; 13 in favor-9 opposed.

Ken Burns made a motion to levy \$130,000 for the **Road and Bridge Fund** with a contingency to raise the levy by \$111,645.00, in the event of an LRIP award, for the Oxford Mill Road project. Bob Benson seconded the motion to **levy \$130,000 with a** contingency to raise the levy by \$111,645.00, in the event of an LRIP award, for the Oxford Mill Road project. The motion passed with one nay.

Karen Slininger made a motion to levy \$40,000 for the **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund**. Bob Benson seconded the motion to levy \$40,000 in the **Heavy Equipment Fund**. The motion vote was deemed to be a tie. Jack Schlichting voted opposed, for the sake of discussion. Discussion ensued. Contracting was discussed. Borrowing was discussed.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$ 34,000 in the **Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund**. Nora Felton seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. It was asserted that the acquisition of Heavy Equipment needed a more complete plan before committing the levy amount. 16 in favor; 7 against the motion. The motion passed.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$38,000 for the **Fire Fund**. Mark Anderson seconded the motion to levy \$38,000 in the **Fire Fund**. The motion passed by a voice vote. No opposition was heard.

Phil Muehring made a motion to levy \$2,000 for the **Building Fund**. Karen Slininger seconded the motion to levy \$2,000 for the **Building Fund**. The motion passed by voice vote.

Treasurer, Mary Lundell, summarized the **total** 2025 Stanton Township Levy as \$243,200 representing 1.25% increase in the total; Ken Burns made a motion to accept the **total** 2025 levy, as \$243,200. Nora Felton seconded the motion to accept the total 2025 levy, as \$243,200. The motion passed.

The township had received a letter from Bob Gonsior and Bart Hoven representing the Goodhue County Fair; as Goodhue County Fair Officers, they had requested a monetary donation for facility improvements. Jack Schlichting read highlights, of the letter aloud. Mary Lundell made a motion to donate \$200 to the Goodhue County Fair. The motion passed; no opposition was heard.

Jack Schlichting read aloud a letter from the Goodhue County Historical Society. Mary Lundell made a motion to contribute \$200 to the Goodhue County Historical Society. Karen Slininger seconded the motion to donate \$200. The motion passed; no opposition was heard.

Josh Banks, a resident of Stanton Township, requested a monetary donation on behalf of the Cannon Valley Fair Board; the Cannon Valley Fair carries an arm of Goodhue County, by way of an agricultural society

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membership. Ken Burns made a motion to contribute \$200 to the Cannon Valley Fair. Scott Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed. No opposition was heard.

Ordinance Review:

Cheryle Peters handed out documents on the subjects of:

- ❖ Section Density Controls
- ❖ A-2 Setback Reductions
- ❖ R-1 Setback Reductions
- ❖ Comparisons to Goodhue County Zoning
- ❖ The Stanton Township Re-Zone Project

Cheryle advised the audience that no official action was being proposed. The hand outs were intended to provide some discussion points and considerations for future Ordinance proposed changes. No changes would be legal until after a public hearing could be held; published notice of any hearings would be required.

Planning Commission Chair, Hannah Regenscheid, was invited to describe a handout titled: The Stanton Township Re-Zone Project Report; the report covers Stanton Township research conducted Zoning Section by Section by the Planning Commission; of particular interest noted were areas in the northwest portions of the township that had been re-zoned to R-1 some time ago, to the surprise of some property owners.

Some discussion ensued regarding a mirroring of Goodhue County Zoning controls for the sake of more uniformity and fairness. Support was, also, given to the township's autonomy, for county situations not suited to the township. Comment ensued regarding the honest integrity of the Ordinance and undue restrictions to property owners.

Call for the Election Results of Two Races:

Three Year Term Supervisor-Bruce Ohmann	51
Write Ins- Sue Mieska	01
Write Ins- Danny Lundell	06
Write Ins- Chris Peters	01
Blank Ballot	03
Total Voters	62

Two Year Term Clerk- Cheryle Peters	55
Write Ins- Ken Burns	4
Blank Ballot	03
Total Voters	62

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Old Business:

America Rescue Plan Act Funds

Balance of ARPA Funds expensed as:

❖ Technology Updates	\$4, 673.72
❖ General Fund	\$20,000.00
❖ Fire Fund	\$9,339.80
❖ Heavy Equipment Replacement Fund	\$9, 339.80

New Business:

Ruth Sternitsky commented on the value of the Zoom meeting option. Rosie Schluter expressed her appreciation, as well. Others on line agreed.

Adjournment:

Phil Muehring made a motion to adjourn. Nora Felton seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted _____
Cheryle A. Peters,
Clerk, Stanton Township

Jack Schlichting, Moderator