

Annual Town Meeting
March 9, 2010

Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nomination of Moderator

- Seth Levanan nominated George Sundstrom, George declined
- George Sundstrom nominated Corlis West, Corlis Accepted

Approval of Minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting

- Dave Mount made a motion to accept the minutes, Mary Ann Sironen Seconded. Dave Mount would like to amend the minutes to reflect the following: at the bottom of page iii there was discussion of a \$20,000.00 reduction to the general budget. Clarify the discussion by adding "\$20,000.00 of the taconite production tax money to offset that reduction". Motion to accept amended minutes passed.

Call for Bank of Deposit: Currently The Lake Bank and North Shore Bank of Commerce

- Danny Tanner made a motion to maintain our current banks, Stephen Dahl seconded. Motion passed

Call for Newspaper of Publication: Currently Duluth News Tribune

- Bill Cox made a motion to continue with the Duluth News Tribune Don McTavish seconded. Motion passed.

Call for Official Posting Places: Currently the Town Hall, Scenic Café, Fire Hall #1, The Lighthouse on Homestead, North Shore Community School

- Jeff Cook made a motion to continue with the current posting places Sherry Camper, motion passed.

Presentation of Budgets

Dave Mount gave a presentation of the budget as a whole.

Police Department presented by Chief Shawn Padden **\$47,395.00**. The budget will stay the same; there was a small carryover from 2009 which will absorb any increase in spending. We applied for and received a \$5000.00 grant for equipment updating. There was an increase in liability insurance which is reflected in the new budget.

Fire Department presented by Chief Robert Engelson **\$64,550.00**. We applied for and received an Enbridge, DNR and FEMA grants.

Question: is the \$3000.00 you said was in professional services included in the total amount?

Answer: Yes it is included.

Question: What is the difference between fire equipment and fire apparatus?

Answer: Fire equipment is axes, hose, etc. Fire apparatus is anything related to trucks.

Question: Why is there nothing proposed for Relief and insurance

Answer: Relief is paid by 3% of what we charge Alden for fire coverage of their township. This line item is a paper trail showing what was done with those funds. Insurance is an interim policy on new vehicles until it is added to the Townships general policy.

General Township presented by Dave Mount **\$138,730.00**. \$12,000.00 increase is of the taconite tax money which was added to the books. Because of financial concerns work was not completed on the Town Hall. Both the fire hall and town hall need painting, the town hall badly needs insulation. We have a water problem between the Fire Hall and the Town Hall which needs to be moved away from the buildings with more contouring. With a few exceptions most categories stayed the same or went down slightly. We have created a fund for major town hall maintenance which will include energy efficiency upgrades.

Questions: Will money be kept aside for landscaping to move water?

Answer: We plan on setting aside funding to fix the problem.

Jody Anderson was acknowledged for her hard work and volunteerism.

Planning and Zoning presented by Sue Lawson **\$18,590.00**. Planning works as well as it does because of its people. John Kessler is our point person, Beth Mullan our secretary, and the Planning commission members themselves Dave Chura, Michael Kahl, Barb Crow, Seth Levanen, Janet Green, Yvonne Rufford and Bill Lannon. Our accomplishments for this year included the Stoney Point development, 2 conditional use permits and 3 variances, one of which was Stoney Point. We had one issue which went to Court, an application was made to the town which did not meet our ordinance requirements to build so it went to court. The Court has just remanded it back to the town to rehear under a different rule. We had 30 total permits: 9 single family homes, 3 single family alterations, 3, decks, 7 garages, 5 accessory structures, 1 sign, 1 commercial accessory structure and 1 school accessory structure. Total estimated construction 1.61 million. Sue then discussed the Planning budget, please see the errata sheet for corrections.

Questions: Hopefully you will have carryover to make up the \$11,000?

Answer: that was the assumption

Question: when there are two separate things, was the levy request last year \$25,050.00?

Answer: it was \$25,050.00.

Dave Made a motion that the levy for the Planning and Zoning department be increased by \$3000.00 to reflect a more typical level of permit fee income. The revised levied amount would be **\$21,590.00**. This does not change the department budget, it only changes the portion of that budget incorporated into the levy. This revised amount represents a 14% reduction from 2010 Danny Tanner seconded. Motion carries.

Question: what figure was sent to the figure to the County

Answer: \$25,050.00.

Question: Could a new line item be created such as permit fluctuation?

Answer: Next year we plan on inserting a permit assumption line item.

Question: Why does this budget have a total levy request

Answer: Because they receive funds from permits and levy combined.

Question: But the fire department has a line item for charges for services

Answer: That is what Alden pays for their service.

Cemetery presented by Danny Tanner **\$3,000.00**. We have a new lawn service which is saving us about \$1000.00. We receive some funding through burials which left us with a surplus so we dropped our budget and will use our surplus to absorb any increase in spending.

Road and Bridge presented by Danny Tanner **\$70,000.00**. We will need a great deal of culvert steaming, major flooding is starting to happen. Our Road Contractor, Bob Rodda, is doing a great job. We still apply a large amount of chloride on the roads. As part of our MS4 (Stormwater) it is critical we manage our ditches to keep silt from running down hill to the Knife River. Our intent is to apply for Gas funding every other year.

Question: How is the culvert inspection going?

Answer by Valerie Brady: We are working towards a digital photo of every culvert, as of right now we are still relying on visual inspection in the spring. We are also continuing to work on a map and grant funding.

Valerie Brady was acknowledged for all of the volunteer time she has put into helping the township with the MS4 and Stormwater.

Motion to approve the Total Budget.

Community Education is not a levied fund at this time.

Question: Aren't there receipts for that funding?

Answer: The seed money originally came from General Fund, Community Education is now self funding through education fees.

Discussion: We are considering levying for a Community Education Coordinator.

Question: If there is going to be a recommendation to change the Community education levy it would have to be the amount from General Fund?

Ray Sundberg: I would like to levy funds to cover the cost of a Community Education Coordinator, 12 hours per week \$12.00 per hour. We need a water supply for rink flooding, new hockey boards and improved lighting and staying within a \$15,000.00 operating budget. I don't anticipate receiving the full \$15,000.00 every year and we are looking at a large number of volunteer efforts to complete the projects. The first year would be improving the ice rink with \$1,000.00 for maintenance.

Corlis West: How does the \$12.00 hourly wage compare to other township employees

Clerk: The flat rate township wage is \$10.00 per hour.

Valerie Brady: Haven't we tried this before? Haven't we had this discussion at previous Annual Meetings?

Stephen Dahl: That was more for an Educational Coordinator; this is more like a Recreational Facilities Coordinator.

Sue Lawson: The Town has Statute Authority to create a recreational board.

Mary Ann Sironen: I see Community Education as being very important to the Community.

Ron Sundberg: I would like to put in for support not only for the Coordinator but also for materials and for maintenance.

Valerie Brady: The rest of the funding was for?

Ron Sundberg: Materials.

Sherry Rovig: Isn't there another source for funding?

Stephen Dahl: The Town Board has done a number of things, we received a grant for \$10,000.00, we also kicked in \$6,000.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Corlis West: The Capital Improvement Fund report is on page 15 of your handout.

George Sundstrom: is there a Motion on the floor?

Sue Lawson: This is \$15,000.00 from levied funds? The School also uses the facilities? Is there responsibility for the town to levy \$15,000.00 when the school gets . . .

Unknown: The school does not feel they should contribute to the fund.

Motion: Ray Sundberg made a motion for \$15,000.00 to be added to the General Operating Levy, Sue Lawson Seconded for discussion.

Sherry Rovig: Why shouldn't this come out of the Capital Improvement Fund?

Seth Levanen: That is generally reserved for the sprinkler system and stuff.

Corlis West: The money for the Capital Improvement Fund was to be used for the Community Center and however the Town Board sees fit to use that money.

Stephen Dahl: That is correct; we want to make sure the money is focused on taking care of the building and grounds.

Corlis West: The Town Board made a concerted effort to make sure that fund was set aside for the whole facility. I believe that was my understanding.

George Sundstrom: It certainly wouldn't be administratively, the Community Education Administrator could not be paid from that account.

Lars Fladmark: The funds were to be set aside so that the facility would not be a financial burden to the Township

Valerie Brady: It would be appropriate to consider the supplies and material from that fund but not the person.

Jeff Cook: I would like to see this a bit more organized before funds should be dedicated to this project.

Ray Sundberg: We do have a volunteer list.

Janet Johansen: I would like to see that Coordinator position put in place, people will want to use the pavilion. It would be used better with fewer problems with someone overseeing its rental.

Seth Levanen: This could evolve, we want to get an initial budget, some line items to think about such as the rink, nature trail upkeep, a whole variety of things the Community uses. It would be nice to get someone on the ground floor to organize.

Bill Cox: If you want to reserve the grounds and structure why don't you call the town hall?

Janet Johansen: Because I think it is a big job and that is a lot to put on the clerk.

Ray Sundberg: It is already something that is taxed, those moneys are put into coffers, this is excess

lease aid which is put aside for an eventual addition. We would like to request the \$15,000.00 to be levied and not take the money from the Community Center Capital Improvement funds.

Motion Amendment: Dave Chura would like to amend the motion to take \$7500.00 from the Community Center fund and levy \$7500.00 for the coordinator. Sherry Camper seconded.

Stephen Dahl: I am slightly uncomfortable with the part of the amendment that says we are taking \$7500.00 from the Community Center fund.

Dave Mount: Though the Town Board is always interested in what the Town suggests, it is not binding on the Town Board to take \$7500.00 from the Community Center, however it is legal for the residents to levy \$7500.00 to the General Budget.

Dave Chura: that was the part of my levy, correct the amendment to read:

Amendment Correction: Dave Chura corrected his amendment to read: increase the levy by \$7500.00 for the Coordinator, Sherry Camper accepted the amendment change.

George Sundstrom: Question on the Motion

Vote on the Amendment: Amendment passes

Vote on the Amended Motion: Which states we will now be voting on a \$7500.00 levy increase instead of a \$15,000.00 increase. Amended motion passed.

Beth Mullan: 12 hours per week is a lot of time for a Coordinator, I was wondering what else the Coordinator would do?

Corlis West: It will be up to the Board of Supervisors to decide what will be done.

Mary Ann Sironen: Coordinator of the Recreation Board.

Dave Mount: This change will go into effect in 2011.

Motion to approve total budget:

- George Sundstrom made a motion to approve the **\$352,765.00** budget Jeff Cook seconded. Motion passed.

Set time and date of the 2011 Annual Town Meeting

- Dave Mount made a motion to hold the 2011 Annual Town Meeting March 8, 2011 at 8:15 p.m. Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed.

Continuation of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting in the even such a meeting is necessary.

- Janet Johansen made a motion to hold a continuation of the 2010 Annual Town Meeting the second Thursday in August (8/12/2010) 7:15 p.m. Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed.

Election results

Stephen Dahl 55

David Mount 54

Write In 0

Concerns from the Audience

- George Sundstrom: Leo Babeu School Board member from district 381 requested informational pages be handed out at this meeting.
- George Sundstrom: I have attended quite a few Town Board meetings, we have a great Town Board. These people put in more time than any other Town Board. They are diligent we need to recognize these people, they do a great job for the township.
- John Green: congratulations to the winners of the election.

Meeting is closed not adjourned in the event this meeting will need to be reconvened.

- Dan Tanner made a motion to close the meeting, John Kessler seconded. Motion passed. 10:20 p.m.