

Duluth Township
Annual Meeting
Tuesday March 12, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nomination of Moderator:

- Phil Strom nominated Lars Fladmark, Mary Ann Sironen seconded
- Lars Fladmark nominated Phil Strom, Phil Strom declined
- Lars Fladmark declined
- Dave Mount nominated Corlis West, Mary Ann Sironen seconded, Corlis accepted

Approval of Minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting:

- Lars Fladmark made a motion to accept the 2012 Annual Meeting minutes as presented, Dave Chura seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

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

- Phil Strom made a motion for the Lake Bank and North Shore Bank of Commerce to remain the Townships Banks of Deposit, Lars Fladmark seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Call for Newspaper of Publication: Currently the Duluth News Tribune

- Mark Helmer made a motion the Duluth News Tribune remain as our newspaper of publication, Dave Mount seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Call for Official Posting Places: Currently the Town Hall, New Scenic Café, Fire Hall #1 and the North Shore Community School

- Danny Tanner made a motion to retain the current posting places, Dave Mount seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Presentation of Budgets

Dave Mount presented an overview of the Town Finances and Budget which included background information, levy approval, non-levied funds and budgeting.

Phil Strom made a motion to approve the total budget of **\$387,616.00**, Val Brady seconded.

Police Department budget of **\$53,555.00** was presented by Shawn Padden. There is a change for 2014 of +\$960.00.

Question: Fuel cost is higher than budgeted will you go over that fuel cost again?

Answer: Uniforms and ammo were only \$29.13 we can make up the overage of fuel cost by using the excess in other departments.

Fire Department budget of **\$56,000.00** was presented by Robert Engelson. There is a change for 2014 of -\$8,250.00. We maintain 3 fire halls which each hold one tanker and one engine along with one rescue rig for a total of 7 rigs. We have 22 members on the roster, 15 of which are first responders. We had set aside funds to purchase new radios when the County switched to wide band but were able to receive our radios through a County awarded FEMA grant.

General Township budget of **\$133,711.00** was presented by David Mount. There is a change for 2014 of +\$6,610.00. The Town Hall and Fire Hall were painted; 2011 drainage improvement project withstood the 2012 flood with flying colors and the town hall floor was again buffed and finished. The Cabinet from Clover Valley School was moved to the Town Hall and the well was brought up to State standards. The more notable increases were: Insurance, floor maintenance and elections. Notable decreases were: Town Hall repairs and

computers. We maintained the lawnmowing and snowplowing at the Community Center. The Town does not have an explicit contingency fund. Many Thanks to Dave Mount for his 6 years on the Town Board.

Planning and Zoning budget of **\$21,550.00** was presented by Sue Lawson. There is a change for 2014 of +\$1000.00. Thank you to Planning Commission members for all of their hard work: John Schifsky, Paul Voge, Jo Thompson, Don Sitter, Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Brigid Pajunen and Secretary Beth Mullan. Major accomplishments for the year 2012: the Planning Commission reviewed the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for areas needing updating or revision; the Zoning Ordinance had some statute, short term rental and other previously noted updates made. The Town hall is a WIFI hot spot, if the town hall is open you are welcome to come in, if not you may sit in the parking lot and surf the net. Lakenet provided the hot spot at no additional cost to the township.

Question: why are you proposing an increase in wages?

Answer: in 2012 John Kessler didn't work the entire year and the planning commission had a number of vacancies so the full amounts of possible wages were not distributed.

Question: Withholdings are expenditures that are listed, if they are expenditures why are they not shown as they are in the police budget.

Answer: This is the township portion not the employee portion.

Question: Are assumed receipts half of what you project for this year?

Answer: No this is the weak link we are hopeful this increases but we don't know. This is one of the slowest years we have ever had.

Cemetery budget of **\$7,000.00** was presented by Mary Anne Daniel. There is a change for 2014 of +\$2,000.00. We would like to begin the major project of resetting monuments that have toppled over or are tipped. At this time we are researching the best way to handle the project, whether we dig and install a heavier more stable cement pad or go with a simple cement pad on top of the ground. Norms' service will be increasing his charges due to fuel costs.

Questions: Why didn't you list the budget the same as the other budgets of the town?

Answer: Historically we haven't done so as some of our payments are reimbursements.

Question: Why the budget for 2014 is only \$7,000.00 when \$9,000.00 was spent last year?

Answer: The total operating budget is the total levy. Norm's service is a reimbursement.

Road and Bridge budget of **\$105,000.00** was presented by David Miller. There is a change for 2014 of +\$16,000.00. Every other year the Road budget would be increased to receive gas tax funding, this year we received a letter saying the mathematical formula the State uses to provide gas tax money to townships has been revised. We no longer will have to take into consideration gas tax reimbursements when creating the Road budget. In December we received FEMA reimbursement for flood damage bringing the budget back to a more normal level. We are in good financial shape now, left over FEMA funds will be moved into the budget to be spent this spring as damage repair continues. Dave Mount made a motion to reduce the total road levy by \$25000.00 to reflect the changes in gas tax management, Phil Strom seconded. Motion passed unopposed. The Road Budget will now be **\$80,000.00**

Community Education budget of **\$2,000.00** was presented by Mary Ann Sironen. Michelle Libby, Tera Freese and Jo Thompson gave a recap of 2012 classes there is no change to the budget. We appreciate all of the work they do and continue to hear positive things from those who attend classes.

Recreation budget of **\$8,800.00** was presented by Kevin Pettis. This is the recreation coordinator salary. Kevin spoke to the improvements of the recreation program at the Community Center. Thank you to Kevin for all of the extra work he puts into keeping the recreation program running.

Non-levied Funds discussion. Electorates do not vote on non-levied funds.

Question: What are reimbursements for \$1800.00?

Answer: There are times where there is no good way to make a purchase so often personal credit cards are used. The reimbursements include detailed receipts and are for the most part materials.

Motion to approve the Total Budget of \$362,616.00. The motion was made by Phil Strom and seconded by Val Brady. Motion passed unopposed

Set time and date for 2014 Annual Town Meeting: George Sundstrom made a motion to set the time and date of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting on March 11, 2014 at 8:15 p.m. Phil Strom seconded. Motion passed unopposed

Set time and date for continuation of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting: Dan Tanner made a motion to continue the Annual meeting August 8, 2013 8:00 p.m. in the event such a meeting is necessary, Carolyn Marino seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Election Results

Mary Anne Daniel 96

Don Sitter 96

George Sundstrom write in 1

Concerns from the Audience:

Dave Mount thanked Val Brady and Jo Thompson for all of the work they have put into our Stormwater management.

Mary Ann Sironen thanked Dave Mount for his years of service as a Town Board Supervisor. His hard work has been so greatly appreciated.

Question: Could we have the Town Election in November to allow the Annual Meeting to begin earlier in the evening?

Meeting is closed not adjourned in the event this meeting will require reconvening at a later date. Meeting closed at 9:50 p.m.