

Duluth Township
Annual Meeting
Tuesday March 11, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Nomination of Moderator

- Val Brady nominated Dave Mount, Dave accepted the nomination
- Phil Strom called for a close to the nominations.

Approval of Minutes from the 2013 Annual meeting: Phil Strom made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting, Jody Anderson seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Call for Bank of Deposit: Currently the Lake Bank and North Shore Bank of Commerce: Bill Cox made a motion to retain the two, Phil Strom seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Call for Newspaper of Publication: Currently the Duluth News Tribune: Babs Strom made a motion to retain the Duluth News Tribune, Kevin Pettis seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Call for Official Posting Places: Currently the Town Hall, New Scenic Café, Fire Hall #1 and the North Shore Community School. Don Sitter made a motion to retain those 4 places, Carolyn Marino seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Introductory Presentation – by Mary Ann Sironen

Question: what year we are levying for?

Answer: 2015

Question: Are the Town's books audited every year?

Answer: Yes by the State Auditor's Office, the report is sent in by the end of March every year. It is a closed document created by the State financial program, once created it cannot be altered in any way before it is sent.

Question: Does the town accept an unsigned audit by the State Auditor's Office?

Answer: Yes, if the State Auditor's office has questions they contact the Town as they did a few years ago.

Explanation of Process by Moderator: The purpose of this meeting is to pass a levy for 2015 questions from the audience may be addressed under Concerns from the Audience further down the agenda unless the question is in regards to a specific budget.

Presentation of Budgets

Phil Strom made a motion to approve the total budget of **\$340,506.00**, Don Sitter seconded

Police Department budget of **\$55,315.00** was presented by Shawn Padden. The budget did increase a little bit; wages for 2015 and the fuel line budget both increased. Burglaries were up this year but those creating them have since been apprehended. We are the only Township in South St. Louis County with a Police Department. And a reminder to Sign up for the Crime net e-mail blasts.

Question: what kind of training do you have regarding school shootings?

Answer: The Police Department keeps a very close relationship with the school and participates in lock down, fire drills and planning at North Shore.

Fire Department budget of **\$52,650.00** was presented by Robert Engelson. The budget is down from 2013. The number of calls Clifton Fire/First Responders responded to during the year were noted. Fire Relief funds have been transferred to a PERA account. The Fire/First Responder volunteers were thanked for their service.

General Township budget of **\$104,091.00** was presented by Mary Ann Sironen (Skipper). Professional services have been reduced to reflect the change in assessor services from St. Louis County.

George Sundstrom amended the total budget to include **\$2000.00** for lawn mowing the soccer fields and an additional **\$2000.00** to the General township fund for community center snowplowing on the ice rink, Phil Strom seconded.

Discussion: Following a brief discussion George Sundstrom called for the question. Hand Vote on the Motion: Aye – 22 Nay 14 Motion carries on a vote of 22 to 14. General budget now **\$108091.00**

“Moderator Dave Mount clarified that although the electorate voted to add \$2000 for lawn mowing and \$2000 for snow removal, it is the Town Boards responsibility to decide how and where to spend the levied funds”.

Planning and Zoning budget of **\$22,550.00** was presented by Sue Lawson. Thank you to the Planning Commission; John Schifsky, Paul Voge, Jo Thompson, Larry Zanko, Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Brigid Pajunen, and Secretary Beth Mullan. This year the planning commission worked on the Congdon Trust property project, safe routes to school, updating the town brochure and building structure size requirements. Val Brady spoke on the MS4/SWPPP requirements by the State.

Question: Only one year of receipts is shown?

Answer: Yes.

Question: how do the wages break down?

Answer: we are doing half of the permits that is true, but that is only part of what we do. The Planning Commission also didn't meet 12 times this year due to holidays.

Cemetery budget of **\$7,000.00** was presented by Mary Anne Daniel: The budget is staying the same as 2014. There was more brushing around the mowed area and we anticipate resetting of some monuments and stones which had fallen over or pushed over. Cemetery Sexton Molly Tillotson has been remapping the cemetery plots and is working to put this information on line which will give us a second format besides the current paper format. The weather and rain didn't cooperate to get more done this year.

Brief discussion re: condition of the Cemetery.

Road and Bridge budget of **\$90,000.00** was presented by Skipper for Road Supervisor Dave Miller: Dave Miller has been the town supervisor on the ground working for you most regularly. Roads have been graded at least once, 8 driveway culverts and 5 cross culverts were replaced and approximately .5 mile of township road were ditched.

Community Education: The history has gone up and down the last few years in spite of having good, interested and energetic people working on the program. Most of the programs that were offered were not completed there was little or no interest. It was to our regret that we had to accept the resignation of our Community Education coordinators. Duluth and Two Harbors are having similar problems with their community education classes. We are encouraging people who wish to share their community education class by renting a class through our recreation coordinator. Thanks to Jo Thompson, Michelle Libby and Tera Freese for their hard work.

Recreation budget of **\$8,900.00** was presented by Kevin Pettis. Kevin discussed the facilities and recreation programs and some recent safety changes to the facilities such as grab rails going down to the surface of the skating rink ice. Some activities currently taking place are basketball and volleyball, cross country skiing, pleasure and hockey rink skate time. Morning K-6 basketball and adult afternoon basketball will be starting this weekend and Soccer this coming summer. There is a new concession stand in the warming center. Thanks to Travis Stolp and Ray Sundberg for their hard work.

Question: What are taxes received \$7929.65?

Answer: Recreation levy.

Question: Is that for wages only? Shouldn't the budget show a rental income?

Answer: No the rental income is put into the Community Center fund.

George Sundstrom made a motion to reduce the proposed levy by 20% (70,000.00) Phil Strom seconded.
Discussion on the motion:

Vote on the amendment to reduce the proposed levy by \$70,000.00 to \$274,506.00. Motion failed on voice vote

Vote on Motion to approve the amended total budget of **\$344,506.00**. Motion passed on voice vote.

Set time and date of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting: Phil Strom made the motion to hold the 2015 Annual Town Meeting 8:15 p.m. March 10, 2015, Carolyn Marino seconded. Motion carried.

George amended the motion to hold the town election from 7:00 a.m – 7:00 p.m. in 2015 seconded by Jody Anderson.

Phil Strom made a motion that the motion be tabled until the August meeting. Motion was withdrawn to deal with the motion on the floor.

Clerk: Minimum hours for elections are from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The Town Board has been requested to look into this issue.

Jody Anderson withdrew her second to the motion.

Set time and date for continuation of the 2014 Annual Town Meeting in the event such a meeting is necessary. Carolyn Marino made a motion to hold the continuation 7:00 p.m. August 14, 2014 in the event such a meeting is deemed necessary, Don Sitter seconded. Motion carried.

Election results.

Out of 69 total votes cast: Dave Edblom received 65 votes
 Dave Miller received 55 votes
 David Mount received 1 vote

Concerns from the Audience:

Question by George Sundstrom: township capital improvement fund, in the past it never said where the funds were from?

Answer by Dave Mount: taconite production tax. Cities have received those funds for many years change was made to state law to dedicated those funds to townships also.

Statement: Phil Strom "We" and "Them" a discussion of ownership.

Question by Val Brady: School district 381 may levy taxes but a charter schools cannot?

Answer by Phil Strom: yes.

Sue Lawson made a motion to close the meeting, Mary Anne Daniel seconded.

Question by Travis Stolp: what is going to happen with the community center fund?

Answer by Skipper: the community center fund is a non-levied fund that does not come from taxes. We have State Statutes that limit what we can do with that fund, we cannot give it away.

Discussion Phil Strom: except to say for the benefit of the Community

Response by Skipper: yes for the benefit of the community.

Question by Travis Stolp: where did the money come from?

Answer by Skipper: rent

Discussion by Travis Stolp: If someone gave me a building for a dollar I would feel a little guilty keeping the money. You say legally we cannot do it I would like to have you say we have to figure out how to do it.

Response by Skipper: The town board cannot build or give funds to build classrooms we could when we owned the school but now that we no longer own the school we cannot do that. Township Attorney Tim Strom has been very clear on that subject we cannot give money for construction.

Discussion by Judy Sundstrom: When you still owned the school didn't you refuse to build us classrooms?

Response by Kit Sitter: you/we/you/we you cannot have it both ways.

Response by Skipper: a number of years ago there was a building assessment team that was set up for 5 situations to be added, the most immediate need was 3 classrooms and those have been added. What piece of the 3 million dollars spent in part on the 3 classrooms is community space?

Question by George Sundstrom: This town board had the opportunity to stand up for Mary Murphy's law and you tabled it?

Sue Lawson called for the question
Motion to close passed at 10:20 p.m.

Annual Town Meeting Reconvene
August 14, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Don Sitter made a motion to adjourn the meeting George Sundstrom seconded motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.

Election Judge _____

Election Judge _____