

Duluth Township
Annual Meeting
Tuesday March 11, 2008

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Nomination of Moderator

Ed Bruckelmyer nominated George Sundstrom as moderator; Jeff Cook nominated Corlis West as moderator. On a hand count vote George received 22 votes; Corlis received 14. George Sundstrom was moderator for this meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting

Dave Mount made a motion to approve the 2007 Annual Meeting minutes, Dan Tanner seconded. Motion passed

V. Call for Bank of Deposit

Jeff Cook, made a motion to accept The Lake Bank as the Bank of Deposit, Bill Cox seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Call for Newspaper of Publication

John Green, made motion to accept the Duluth News Tribune as Newspaper of Publication, Don McTavish, seconded. Motion passed

VII. Call for Official Posting Places

Current: Town Hall
 Scenic Café
 Fire Hall #1
 North Shore Community School
 Lakeview Castle

Dave Mount motion to continue using the current posting places, Sherri Camper seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. Presentation of Budgets

Police Department budget (**\$40,955.00**) was presented by Chief Shawn Padden; At an Annual Meeting a few years ago Township residents requested the Police Department hire a fourth office to assist with investigations. The Police Chief would like to request the removal of the fourth officer, our current fourth officer recently resigned due to health issues, we will not refill this position. Dave Mount made a motion to approve the Police Department as presented, Don McTavish seconded. Motion passed.

Fire Department budget (**\$64,000.00**) was presented by Chief Robert Engelson. We have received a FEMA grant this year for \$161,000.00.

Question: will the new truck replace an engine or a tanker truck?

Answer: Yes it will replace an old milk truck which had been converted to a tanker; we will continue to have two tankers in the department.

Question: How many members in your current roster?

Answer: Currently we stand at 14, we could have 25.

Dan Tanner made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Valerie Brady seconded. Motion passed.

General Township budget (**\$118,900.00**) was presented by Dan Tanner. We have a few issues to take care of: 1) Lower grade around the town hall, we have had some basement flooding in the past few years and have set aside \$5000.00 from our surplus for this problem. 2) Shingles on the Town Hall and Fire Hall need to be replaced; \$15,000.00 has been set aside from our surplus to cover that project. 3) Town Hall floors will be buffed and a finish coat added to keep them in the condition to which they have been brought. There will be an insurance reduction on our budget line item once we find out the insurance cost for the Community Center.

Question: Why are we setting aside \$8000.00 for our attorney when his expenditures were only a small amount for 2007?

Answer: This year the town board did quite a bit of their own research in 2007 using fewer legal services. However that might change in 2009.

Janet Green made a motion to approve the general township budget, Valerie Brady seconded. Dave Mount would like to propose an amendment to the budget under General Maintenance. We have \$20,000.00 of repairs to be done to the town hall for water and roof damage. We also have rotting siding and trim issues with peeling paint. Dave Mount would like to request an additional \$10,000.00 to be set aside for 2009 repairs, Sherry Rovig seconded. Amendment passed. Dave Sundberg would like to amend the budget to add \$6000.00 for lawnmowing and snowplowing at the Community Center, Ray Sundberg seconded. Janet Green made a motion to approve the amended budget, Valerie Brady seconded. Motion passed.

Planning and Zoning budget (**\$16,900.00**) was presented by Dave Mount. Thank you to Adam Hendrickson, Trisha O'Keefe, Carolyn Marino and Wayne Dahlberg for their years of service to the township; Wayne was presented a plaque. New additions to the Planning Department; Jeanne Anderson our secretary and Sue Lawson our new Planning Director; and our one continuity, John Kessler.

Question: professional service legal; what happens if we need more than we have budgeted for in 2009.

Answer: Permit purchases will cover some of the gap between the Total Budget and the Total Levy. Corlis West made a motion to approve the planning and zoning budget as presented, Don McTavish seconded. Motion passed.

Cemetery budget (**\$6,000.00**) was presented by Dan Tanner. Corlis West made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Carolyn Marino seconded. Motion passed.

Road and Bridge budget (**\$70,000.00**) was presented by Jeff Cook.

Question: Do we pay maintenance for County roads?

Answer: No we only have to pay for township roads.

John Green made the motion to approve the Road and Bridge budget as presented, Carolyn Seconded. Motion passed.

Budget Presentation closed.

Jeff Cook brought to the floor educational issues for our MS4/Stormwater project. We have septic seepage which puts an overload on the D/NSSD septic system.

Building Assessment Team update by Stephen Dahl. The Town Board is quite leery of a long term loan; we would prefer to phase in new structure. At this time we would like to hire an engineer and an architect to create a long range plan. Possibly look at two classrooms, replace the roof, and preliminary plans for replacing the portables. We should have enough in the Community Center fund to cover the cost in 2010. There would be no debt or liability with this proposal and we have incredible grant writers who have offered to be of assistance with this project.

Comment: There is some concern that the town board is being overly cautious. Is there a plan in place to find out how the general township population feels?

Response: The BAT meetings are and have always been open for residents to attend and speak to the changes. Dave Mount has done a very careful financial analysis, there isn't the income stream to cover a large loan.

Question: Is there any plan in place to replace our heating plant at the Town Hall? Our budget for 2009 is quite high.

Answer: The heating plant is new. Dave Mount will look into fuel efficiency at the Town Hall.

IX. Motion to approve the Total Budget **\$332,755.00**.

Dave Mount would like to make a motion to approve the entire township budget of \$332,755.00 as amended, Janet Green seconded. Motion approved.

X. Set time and date of 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Valerie Brady made the motion to hold the 2009 Annual Town Meeting at 8:15 p.m. March 10, 2009, Carolyn Marino seconded. Motion passed.

XI. Set time and date for continuation of the Annual Town Meeting in the event such a meeting is necessary. This date must be set prior to September 15, 2008. John Kessler made a motion for the continuation of the Annual Town Meeting, in the event such a meeting is necessary, to be held 7:00 p.m. August 12, 2008, Carolyn Marino seconded. Motion passed

XII. Election Results: 135 ballots were cast

131 Danny Tanner
134 Wendy Meierhoff
1 Lars Fladmark
1 Gary Berggren

XIII. Concerns from the Audience

No concerns at this meeting.

XIV. Meeting is closed not adjourned in the event this meeting might need to be reconvened at a later date. 9:33 p.m.

By Ann K. Cox
Clerk, Duluth Township