

The Township annual meeting started at 1:00pm CDT with Mr. Behrens calling the meeting to Order. There were 14 Residents in attendance and 3 guests. The Group recited the pledge of allegiance as a group.

**Clerk Report** - Mr. Behrens provided time for reading the meeting minutes from the 2016 annual meeting. Then the group was asked if there were questions or discussion on any of the items. Motion made by Mr. Fields to accept the meeting minutes as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Quam. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasure's Report** – Mr. Behrens gave the treasures (since the position was OPEN) report and shared that the township is in good standing according to the auditor. He reviewed the budget worksheet and provided the totals for landfill ash and bypass. Motion made by Mr. Quam to accept the treasures report. Motion seconded by Mr. Hagre. Motion carried unanimously.

**Moderator Selection** – Mr. Behrens called for nominations for a moderator. Mr. Hagre nominated Mr. Glenn Larson with Mr. Wharton seconding the motion. Mr. Field motioned to close the selection process with Ms. Farley seconding the motion. The vote occurred and was unanimous. Mr. Glenn Larsen was elected moderator and took over running the annual meeting.

**Gopher Bounty** – The current bounty is set at \$2.50 for pocket and \$2.50 for striped gophers. Motion was made by Mr. Field to leave the 2017 value for pocket gophers and striped gophers at \$2.50. The motion was seconded by Ms. McKenzie. The motion carried unanimously.

**Web Site** – Mr. Larsen requested an update from the Clerk regarding the status of the website. Mr. Behrens stated that he had visited the site earlier in the day and confirmed that the site was up to date. Mr. Behrens shared that if House Bill 1344 and Senate Bill 1245 pass that next year we could drop the official newspaper and use the website and posting board exclusively. Mr. Fields ask how much the website cost a year and Mr. Behrens said it was around \$350.00. Mr. Behrens stated that with the population getting younger in the township that there is more usage and interest in the web technology. Mr. Larsen then recommended that residence utilize the site Mr. Fields made the motion that the Kalmar web site ([www.kalmar.govoffice.com](http://www.kalmar.govoffice.com)) should be made the official web site for the township for posting. This web site besides the Official newspaper and the Posting board at the town hall should meet all requirements. Mr. Hagre seconded, motion carried.

**Official Newspaper** – Motion by Mr. Hanson to make the Rochester Post Bulletin as the official newspaper and keep the Byron Review as a courtesy. Mr. Hagre seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Mount Hope Cemetery** – Mr. Behrens (representing Mount Hope Cemetery) provided a summary of the history of support provided Mount Hope Cemetery by the township. He gave the current status of the fence, flag pole and the possibility of purchasing .8 acre for

a parking lot and new driveway. The residents thought it was a good idea and encouraged Mount Hope board to proceed with the transfer of land to make the parking safer and provide a safe access for people. The residents encouraged Mount Hope board to make the new access very handicap and elderly accessible. Motion made by Mr. Quam to raise the value a \$100.00 to \$800.00 for the cemetery association. Mr. Hagre seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Road Status/Tree Removal** – Mr. Hanson provided a report on road status and tree maintenance. The roads are in good shape, there will be a spring road inspection in April to check out winter and spring damage. Rock bids will be opened at the March meeting. Mr. Wharton asked about the tar aprons and if they would be chipped and sealed. Mr. Wood stated that just crack work was done this year. The board will look at aprons on the road tour and start the process. Mr. Behrens stated that there are 31.92 miles and the population was 1077 people.

**Fire Department** – Mr. Jeff Thorpe (Byron Fire Chief) provided a report of the fire department status and confirmed that the fire department was requesting \$52,658.00 for 2017. Mr. Thorpe gave a report on the activities that it was involved in for the year. He stated that there were 31 members now and that they had a waiting list to get on staff. There were 11 calls to Kalmar Township, with the number of car accidents rising. He then gave some financial information and also about possible building maintenance that will be required in the future. The fire house is approaching 25 years old and there are a few items that may require updates/replacement (ex. HVAC).

A motion was made by Mr. Till to accept the report and request for \$52,658.00. Seconded by Mr. Hagre. Motion carried unanimously.

**First Responders** – Mr. Ryan Ostreng gave the Byron First Responders presentation and stated that the first responders were asking \$7,251.00 (includes \$2000.00 for truck fund). He gave a brief presentation on number of calls and their types. There was an increase in total calls in 2016 rising to 223. There were 44 calls in Kalmar township with 29 being medical and 15 being accidents. There were no public service calls or fire department response calls. 2017 has been trending above 2016, so they expect a record year.

A motion was made by Mr. Fields to accept the First Responders request for \$7,251.00 which included the truck fund of \$2000.00 and that would be added to the existing CD that the township manages. Ms. McKenzie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**General Fund** – The recommendation of the township board to increase the levy for the general fund from \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00. Mr. Behrens gave a recap of what was covered in the general fund and then provided a summary of the 2016 expense detail and associated 2017 budget, including the ash and bypass income. There was a discussion regarding the fact that the ash and bypass income will be decreasing over the next few years. Motion made by Mr. Fields to accept the recommended value of \$100,000. Mr. Voll seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Chloride** – Mr. Wharton and Mr. Hanson stated the value of continuing to utilize chloride as a means improve safety and to extend the useful life of the township roads. The audience asked Mr. Woods his thoughts, and he stated he would rather see it not used at all since it causes the roads to retain water. He did state that for dust control it was really the only viable idea. Mr. Behrens provided a summary of the 2016 cost of chloride (\$27,000.00) and provided the budgeted cost for 2017 (\$27,000.00). Mr. Behrens stated that the cost of chloride per gallon was going to remain at \$.081 per gallon applied.

The general consensus that residents still wanted it applied.

Motion was made by Mr. Quam to continue the Kalmar program to apply chloride to all residences, intersections, bike trail crossings and any other area that the supervisors deemed a safety issue, second by Ms. Farley, Motion carried unanimously.

**Road and Bridge** – Mr. Hagre and Mr. Hanson went over the amount of road work to be done in the upcoming 2017 year. There was going to be an annual spring road inspection to find any issues that winter caused. Mr. Behrens provided a summary of Road and Bridge spending history and the decreasing money received from the state. There were no bridges to be repaired this year in the township. Mr. Wharton asked about 14th in front of Leashes and Leads and that the fill trucks tore the road up. The board stated that when Mr. Fischer extended the tar road to the new division that the road would be fixed. Mr. Fields asked how many miles of road the township maintains. Mr. Hanson stated that there are approximately 31.92 miles of township roads and that an estimated 8000 yards of rock would be needed. The township would only be doing about half the roads this year. The winter and early melt did not help the roads much. Motion by Mr. Wharton to set the road and bridge levy at \$242,500.00 second by Mr. Till, Motion carried unanimously.

**TCPA** – Mr. Quam provided a summary of the services generally provided by the TCPA. Mr. Quam stated that the township received money back from TCPA this last year. This was to repay the townships for their contributions to keep it afloat when the economy was bad. Mr. Quam stated that the township should receive their original investment back this year. No action required.

**Recycling** – Ms. Behrens provided a Recycling update and stated that we had 39 users and that they received 38 percent of the money that was available. This meets the State of Minnesota requirement. The general consensus was that the program is working well and should be continued. Mr. Hagre made the motion to keep the program active and start it retro-active to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The last date for expense reimbursement requests must be received by the treasurer by the normally scheduled December township meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Quam, Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fields made the motion to keep the reimbursement value at \$200.00, was seconded by Mr. Hanson. There was discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Town Hall update** – Mr. Behrens reviewed the updates/maintenance to the town hall last year. He also gave an update on efforts in conjunction with the Eagle scouts for the KR 7 reservoir.

**Set Next Annual Meeting** – The citizens present decided to keep the 1pm start time and to have 3pm as the election time. Motion was made by Mr. Quam to have the next annual meeting at 1:00 pm on 3/13/2018 and General elections to be held at 3:00 pm till 8 pm, and seconded by Mr. Fields, Motion carried unanimously.

The weather alternate is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the board of canvas will be the day after the election at 5:00 pm at the town hall.

**Other new business** – There was a discussion on whether the township wanted to keep the ownership of the land and fire hall. Currently the township owns a third of the building and the land underneath it. The general consensus was to table this discussion to next year and if the situation came up, that the board should call a special meeting.

Mr. Fields made motion to table the discussion of the sale of the land and fire hall portion till next year. The motion was second by Ms. McKenzie, Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Till made motion to Adjourn, the Motion received and second by Ms. Farley, Motion carried unanimously.

2:52 pm CDT

Respectively submitted by Terry Behrens