

## 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Kalmar Township annual meeting held on March 10, 2020 started at 1:00pm CDT with the clerk, Bob Suchomel, calling the meeting to order. There were 24 residents in attendance and 2 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited to open the meeting.

**Agenda Approval** - Robert Brekke asked that the agenda proposed by the clerk be amended to include a report he wished to make on findings of the Alternate Energy study group he had chaired. The item was added ahead of the General Discussion Section. The revised agenda was unanimously approved.

**Moderator Selection** - Glenn Larson was nominated to be moderator. No other nominations were made. Mr. Larson was unanimously appointed to be meeting moderator and took the moderator chair.

**2019 Meeting Minutes** – Moderator asked if anyone wished to have the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting read aloud. Richard Field moved to have the minutes approved without reading. Lisa Baldus seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**2019 Audit Report** – Clerk read the minutes from the annual Board of Audit meeting held in February. Lisa Baldus made a motion, seconded by Glenn Quam, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

**First Responder Levy** – Brian MacGregor made a presentation on behalf of the Byron First Responders that provides ambulance services to the township. He listed the number of calls the service had responded to in past years and described the makeup of the 16 member crew. He stated that they would be very interested in adding a team member who lives in the Township as this would provide even faster response for them. He detailed their 2021 budget and asked that the Township provide \$8,082 in 2021. Lisa Baldus made the motion to set \$8,082 as the levy amount for 2021. Richard Field seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

**Fire Protection Levy** – Byron Fire Chief, Matt Grant, presented information on the 110 calls that the 30 member department responded to in 2019. Lisa Baldus made a motion to set the 2021 Fire levy at the \$54,021 level Mr. Grant had requested. Motion was seconded by Glenn Quam. After a brief clarification, that this levy amount does not include maintenance work on the Fire Hall building, the motion was voted on and passed. The Chief then listed the building improvements to the HVAC system completed in 2019 and the parking lot and interior carpeting work items planned for 2020.

**Budget Overview** – Clerk stated that the bank balance as of December 31, 2019 was \$935,893.50 which included the year end property tax payment of \$176,128 received in December. Clerk reviewed a spreadsheet contained in the handout packet showing expenditures

for 2017, 2018, and 2019 along with the proposed budget breakdown for 2020 and 2021. There were no comments or questions from the audience concerning the budget.

**Road & Bridge Levy** – Mike Wood had prepared a summary, included in the handout packet, of the work he had performed on roads and ditches in 2019. Mr. Brekke questioned the Township's response to the resident on Roselee Circle who had experienced basement flooding last summer. He felt that the Township should have installed a larger culvert under the road to improve water flow. The Township had worked with the Olmsted county engineer to calculate the culvert size needed for the maximum expected rainfall. He asked that the situation be looked at again and suggested this be a future work item for the Township. Supervisor Hanson explained that county engineer's opinion was that the culvert size was not the main cause of the basement flooding. Supervisor Baldus stated that she had responded to the resident's initial complaints and had found that the existing culvert was substantially plugged with debris. The Board had then directed Mike Wood to clean the culvert and slope the right-of-way near the culvert. The Supervisors had asked that the resident report any additional water problem; the resident has not contacted the board.

Richard Field asked about the work done on 20<sup>th</sup> St. Clerk clarified that the work was all done on the road and right-of-way, not on the city owned soccer fields.

Moderator asked if everyone felt that flood damage from last summer had been adequately and promptly repaired. No one reported any remaining problem.

After a brief description of how the Township has managed Chloride application in past years, Richard Field made the motion to continue Chloride application in 2020 under the policy used last year. Lisa Baldus provided a second to the motion. Several residents commented on the benefit that Chloride provided on 20<sup>th</sup> St near the soccer fields. Motion was approved.

Lisa Baldus made a motion to set the road & bridge levy at \$277,000 for 2021. Jim Wharton seconded the motion. Discussion revealed that state Gas Tax should contribute \$20,000 to the budget amount. Ms. Baldus then moved to amend the motion to set the levy at \$257,000. Mr. Wharton seconded the amendment. Both the amendment and main motion were passed.

**TCPA** – Clerk pointed out a section in the handout packet prepared by TCPA officials to describe the services they provide to the Township and list the number of permits they worked on in 2019. No comments were made by meeting attendees.

**Mount Hope Cemetery** – Clerk read comments provided by a board member of the cemetery association. Lisa Baldus made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the cemetery in 2020; Richard Field seconded the motion. A question was asked as to whether any local church was affiliated with the cemetery; attendees believed that the cemetery is independently operated. Mr. Brekke asked that the cemetery board provide a financial statement as to the health of their account before money is donated in future years. The motion to donate \$1,000 was approved.

**Gopher Bounty** – James Bier made a motion to recommend keeping the gopher bounty the same as last year, \$3.50. Motion was seconded by Jim Wharton and motion was approved.

**Recycling** – Clerk provided background on why the Township receives money for the recycling program. He also listed other possible options for the money if residents desire some alternative use. Supervisors requested that if the program continues in somewhat the same form as last year, that the list of acceptable items to be reimbursed be more clearly defined. There was a consensus to continue the program but no clear list was suggested. Mr. Bier then made a motion to continue in 2020 with a maximum reimbursement amount of \$200 and with the supervisors determining what is acceptable. Ms. Baldus seconded the motion. After more discussion on the various methods used by residents to dispose of recyclables and waste, Mr. Field called the motion. The moderator temporarily suspended the normal rules of order to allow more discussion. The motion was finally voted on. The motion to set the limit at \$200 based on a list of Supervisor approved expenses, was approved despite several dissenting votes.

**General Fund Levy** – Lisa Baldus made a motion, seconded by Jim Wharton, to set the General Fund levy for 2021 at \$30,950. Motion approved.

**2021 Annual Meeting** – A motion was made by Ms. Baldus to hold the 2021 Annual Meeting on March 9, 2021 at the Kalmar Town Hall at 1:00 PM with the election to follow from 3:00PM to 8:00PM. Richard Field seconded the motion. There was discussion about changing the meeting time to an evening hour to allow more residents to attend. Mr. Bier observed that an evening time had been tried in past years and is being used this year in other townships. However, this does not seem to increase attendance. The meeting cannot be held between 5 PM and 8 PM as state statute requires this time period be reserved for the election. Motion to set the 2021 meeting as described was adopted.

**Alternate Energy Study Group** – Robert Brekke made a short presentation to summarize the work the committee had done to consider possible changes to the ordinance in effect in Kalmar Township. The committee was formed after the request he had made at last year's annual meeting to look at possible changes to prevent having anyone's property severely impacted by neighboring solar or wind projects. Mr. Brekke handed out packets of information containing minutes of committee meetings, reports made to the Town board at their monthly meeting and a report for the annual meeting. Supervisor Baldus commented that one very restrictive local ordinance in his packet came from a township in Virginia where large coal companies had lobbied heavily for those restrictions. Mr. Brekke and Ms. Baldus did not agree on whether those ordinance restrictions were still in place or had been overruled by Virginia state authorities.

Attendees of the meeting asked what further discussion would be ongoing for the set of changes proposed by this committee. Supervisors stated that an 'open house' community input session

had been held. The proposed changes will be reviewed at the March Planning and Zoning meeting. Recommendations from Planning and Zoning will then +be forwarded to the Board to discuss at their March meeting. It was pointed out that Olmsted County has an ordinance in place dealing with Solar Farms. Kalmar can enact their own ordinance but the local ordinance conditions must be as strict as or stricter than the county ordinance.

**General Discussion Items** – No other topics were raised for discussion.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Bier made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Quam offered a second to the motion. Motion was adopted. The 2020 Annual Township Meeting adjourned at 2:44 PM, March 10, 2020.

Minutes Submitted by the clerk

Reviewed and Approved by the Moderator

  
Robert Suchomel 2/17/2021

  
Glen Larsen 2/18/2021