

## 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Kalmar Township annual meeting, March 14, 2023 was called to order at 1:03pm by the Clerk. There were 15 residents and 2 guests in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited to open the meeting.

**Moderator Selection** – Glenn Quam made a motion to nominate Glen Larsen to be moderator. This was seconded by Jeff Reed. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken with Mr. Larsen being unanimously elected moderator.

**2022 Meeting Minutes** – Moderator asked if anyone had any corrections or additions to the 2022 annual meeting minutes as written; there were no corrections offered.

**Financial Report** – Clerk read the financial statement. For 2022, receipts were \$612,019.03 and expenses were \$399,613.77; yearend bank balance was \$1,339,322.47

**First Responder and Fire Protection Levy** – Byron First Responder, Nick Boddicker, summarized the organization's work in 2022 that included 47 response calls to the Township. Fire Chief, Matt Grant, gave a report on the Fire Department's activity. They answered 35 calls to the Township last year. He stated that a new pumper truck will be purchased this year. Clerk explained the revised funding formula, which is based on number of addresses in each entity (Kalmar, Salem, Byron), that is being used in this year's contract. The motion (Motion: Bob Brekke / Second: Keith Stanich) to approve a First Responder levy for 2024 of \$10,300 was approved. A motion (M: Kevin Delva / S: Glenn Quam) to approve a Fire Protection levy of \$45,300 was also passed.

**Road & Bridge Levy** – A report of 2022 road work, that included a list of where road rock was spread and where ditches were cleaned, was reviewed. A motion (M: Kevin Delva / S: Glenn Quam) to set a Road/Bridge levy of \$300,000 was made and discussed. Bob Brekke offered an amendment (S: Mark Polzin) to reduce the 2024 levy amount to \$240,000. That amendment was approved and electors voted to approve the Road/Bridge levy as amended (\$240,000).

**General Fund Levy** – Clerk explained that other revenue sources are adequate to fund the activities paid for out of the General Fund. A motion (M: Jeff Reed / S: Bob Brekke) to set the General Fund levy for 2024 at \$0 was approved.

**Recommendations for 2023 Programs** – Supervisors requested input and recommendations from meeting attendees on a number of items.

Building Improvements: Electors discussed what building interior updates could be undertaken. After extended discussion, a number of items were identified and suggestions were offered.

Anne Suchomel offered a motion (S: Jeff Reed) to recommend that the town board investigate costs required to improve lighting, HVAC, ceiling appearance, audio/video capability and wall paneling. Motion was approved.

Mount Hope Cemetery: Linda Behrens, who volunteers with cemetery upkeep, reported on the metal overhead sign installed last year, the number of American flags used in a year and the headstone repairs planned for this summer. On behalf of the cemetery board, she asked if the Township's road maintenance team could do more to blade the parking lot and remove snow. Mr. Brekke inquired as to the financial health of the cemetery; Ms. Behrens said that she did not have that information but would try to obtain a summary for next year's annual meeting. A motion (M: Glenn Quam / S: Jim Miesbauer) to recommend that the town board make a \$2,000 donation to the cemetery was approved. A motion (M: Bob Brekke / S: Jim Miesbauer) to recommend that the board support the cemetery board's request for parking lot help was also approved.

Gopher Bounty: Clerk provided information on bounty paid in 2022 and explained that the resolution governing the bounty will continue until modified. Information was shared regarding the rate neighboring township pay. No recommendations were forthcoming regarding any change to the current amounts.

Recycle Reimbursement: Clerk reviewed the wording of the state statute that governs the payments made by Olmsted County for material deposited at the Kalmar landfill and the statute's interpretation. There was discussion on the dwindling amount of reimbursement claims. Mr. Brekke suggested that sending out a reminder letter to residents would be useful. After more discussion, a show of hands revealed that the majority of electors were not inclined to recommend having the board send out a letter or postcard. The group felt that the existing program could be continued for another year while watching to see how the County's plan to divert a significant amount ash product to roadway use works out.

Dust Control: Practices that neighboring township use, which range from chloride spread on all town roads at no charge, to a subsidy on purchases made by residents, was discussed. Electors seemed fairly happy with the process used in Kalmar. Mr. Brekke described the high level of dump truck traffic past his house that is generated by the rock quarries in Salem Township. Tom Tweite explained processes used by the Township in years past. A number of other suggestions were made but no motion was offered in the way of formal suggestions to the supervisors.

**2024 Annual Meeting** – The clerk explained that a location and time must be set for the 2024 Annual Meeting which will be held on March 12, 2024. He reported that Oxbow Park had offered their soon-to-open Nature Center as a venue for the 2024 meeting as a way of getting local residents to tour the new building. Dave Hegre made a motion to hold the 2024 meeting at 1:00PM on March 12, 2024 at the Oxbow Park Nature Center if the location is available and to

use the Town Hall as the backup location. Keith Stanich provided the second. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Help Request** – A number of attendees offered to help with traffic control during the spring road rock period. Names will be given to the supervisors.

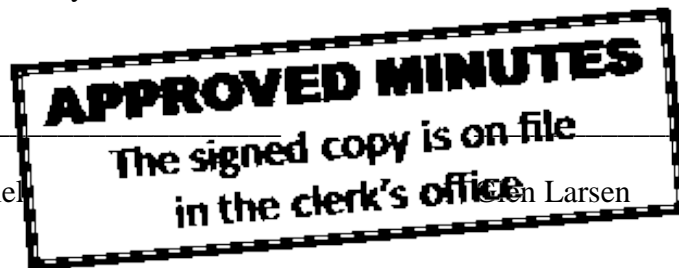
**General Discussion** – Bob Brekke pointed out the importance of participation in local forms of government such as townships. His opinion was that more residents need to step forward and that the township could do better at communicating the opportunities available. He observed that Salem Township was able to find a larger number of residents to serve on the planning/zoning and appeal boards than Kalmar does. He suggested that the township could prepare an informational newsletter or handout to give to residents on Election Day.

**Adjournment** – A motion (M: Glenn Quam / S: Kevin Delva) was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was adopted. The 2023 Annual Township Meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM, March 14, 2023.

Minutes Submitted by the clerk

Reviewed and Approved by the Moderator

Robert Suchomel



Glenn Larsen