

Unapproved Annual Meeting of Windemere Township Minutes - March 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Clerk, Cindy Woltjer. Others present were Treasurer, Ron Mossberg. There were 47 residents of Windemere Township in attendance and 2 non-residents. There were 10 people on Zoom.

The clerk called for nominations for moderator. A motion was made by Pamela Kirkeby, seconded by Judy Zimmeroff to nominate Alan Overland as moderator of the 2022 Windemere Township Annual Meeting. No other nominations were made. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

AGENDA :

A motion was made by John Menke, seconded by Clair Strandlie to move item #9 – Fire District Report to item #6 position on the agenda due to the speaker having to leave early for another meeting. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES :

The Clerk read the 2021 Windemere Township Annual Meeting minutes. Motion was made by Marilyn Tokarczyk and seconded by Brad Smith to accept the 2021 Windemere Township Annual Meeting minutes as presented. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

JOINT TREASURER & CLERK'S REPORT :

Treasurer Ron Mossberg presented the 2021 joint Treasurer & Clerk's Report to the electorate. Motion was made by Clair Strandlie and seconded by Brad Smith to approve the 2021 Joint Treasurer & Clerk's Report as presented. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Executive Director of the Moose Lake Fire District, Osten Berg spoke to the residents about the service provided to Windemere Township. He informed them of the regulations in place that govern how the fire department operates and about the extensive training that each member has to go through. He stated that all money given to the fire district goes to the fire district. Services to the township include all types of fire response, carbon monoxide & propane calls, smoke and noxious odors, general Search & Rescue (SAR), water and ice rescue, disaster response and emergency and medical calls. They provide free fire safety education to local schools and senior citizens and others on request. They also install free smoke detectors provided by the Red Cross. They review building and zoning plans to be sure fire protection would be easily available. He stated that last year there were 554 total calls to the fire district with 167 calls for Windemere Township of which 140 were medical.

A question was asked about a possible sub-station in Windemere Township. Mr. Berg said it had been researched in a prior year with very little to no response.

2023 WINDEMERE TOWNSHIP LEVY :

Supervisor Heidi Kroening presented to the electorate the Windemere Township Board of Supervisors recommendation to leave the 2023 township levy at \$400,000 with no changes. Supervisor Mark Dunaski reported on the rules for the ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act money and what could be done with it. It could be claimed as revenue recovery and used for most general expenses. It could not be used to replace any other regular government funds, which would be considered sub-planting. Sub-planting is when a state or unit of local government reduces state or local funds for an activity specifically because federal funds are available or expected to be available to fund that same activity.

Motion made by John Menke, seconded by Mark Prachar to keep the levy at the present amount of \$400,000. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING :

The 2023 Windemere Township Annual Meeting was discussed. Motion made by Floyd Aubol, seconded by Clair Strandlie to hold the 2023 Windemere Township Annual Meeting on the second Tuesday in March at 6:30 PM. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS :

Michelle Anderson, Foundation Development Director from Essentia Health requested a donation of \$5000 from the township for a new specialty examination table for the clinic. After some discussion a motion was made by John Menke, seconded by Clair Strandlie to donate up to \$5000 to Essentia Health for an examination table. A vote was taken. Motion Failed.

ZONING REPORT :

Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau reported that in 2021 there were a total of 106 permits issued with 102 completed with 4 extensions. In 2020 the total number of permits was 110. The breakdown was new dwellings in 2020 were 10 with 16 in 2021. New garages in 2020 were 11 with 15 in 2021. New pole barns and sheds in 2020 were 6 with 11 in 2021. New accessory structures were 4 in 2020 and 6 in 2021. Additions of all types, including decks, porches, any permitted addition or structure over 150 square feet were 13 in 2020 and 6 in 2021. Shoreline restorations and/or grade and fills were 58 in 2020 and 40 in 2021. Others included Sand Lake Resort, the Toy Barn storage, a restaurant at the Red Oak site, fences, pools, solar arrays, stairs, signs, kennels and commercial propane tanks were 8 in 2020 and 12 in 2021.

There have been requests for minor sub-divisions, many but not all were granted. There have also been some equal land swaps. Pine County has changed some rules for these which require soil borings and the sub-division must support an independent sewer system.

Mr. Genereau also reported receiving increased inquiries for information on Short Term Vacation Rentals. He stated that the Planning Commission is working on creating a permitting process for the Short-Term Vacation Rentals using a Conditional Use permitting process. The Planning Commission is also working on updating the Township Ordinances.

The Board of Adjustments has met and is in process of setting up procedural rules and future meetings to be able to hear any variance requests and appeals.

A proposed contract for local law enforcement services through the Pine County Sheriff's office has been drafted to be presented to the township board for approval to assist the zoning administrator with the tools for the enforcement of all aspects of the township ordinance, including blight issues, nuisances, refusals or non-efforts of compliance with the permitting process.

Mr. Genereau stated that the ordinance with respect to the camper and recreational vehicles regulations will now be enforced along with the regulations for blight and nuisances.

MLWSSD Update :

Clair Strandlie reported that since the sewer district was doing well it voted not to charge any townships in 2022. Windemere Township was charged \$30,000 last year. He reported that the ponds in Moose Lake are at 91% full and they are working on the sewer lines to get this number down. This would mean that any new construction needing to connect to the sewer lines would have to get approval from the sewer district before construction.

A new Point of Sale Ordinance was adopted stating that when selling a house, a plumber has to be called to check the condition of the sewer line from the house out to the main sewer line.

OTHER PERTINENT TOWNSHIP BUSINESS :

One resident made the suggestion that the township go back to a 5 member board. It was stated that in order to do this it would have to be put on the ballot for a vote by the residents.

The second resident had a complaint about a plow driver dropping too much sand and grit on her road.

A third resident made a comment about possible mail in voting for the township annual meeting and would it be possible to move the voting back from November to Township Day voting in March.

A fourth resident suggested thanking Holy Angels for the nice venue and possibly using it for future meetings. He also stated when voting was on Township Day it took time to count the votes before the Annual Meeting could begin and also a lot of the snow bird residents were not back home yet to vote.

A fifth resident suggested that the money coming in from ARPA funds could be used for a new town hall.

A sixth resident made a comment that they had gotten a recent quote for construction of a 30 x 40 building with no bathroom for \$96,000.

PUBLICATIONS :

A motion was made by Clair Strandlie, seconded by Judy Zimberoff to keep official notices & postings the same as last year. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

ADJOURN :

With no further township business to discuss. Motion was made by Rick Tokarczyk, seconded by Floyd Aubol to adjourn the 2022 Windemere Township Annual Meeting at 8:20 PM. A vote was taken. Motion Passed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

Moderator :

Windemere Township Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Alan Overland