

Annual Meeting of the Windemere Township - March 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Clerk, Scott Danelski. Others present were Treasurer, Ron Mossberg.

The Clerk called for a nomination of a moderator. Phill White nominated Alan Overland. The Clerk called for any further nominations and no other nominations were made. Nominations were closed. The clerk called for a motion to approve the nomination of the moderator. Motion by Vern Anderson, seconded by Irv Dahlen to appoint Alan Overland as moderator to preside over the 2020 Windemere Township Annual Meeting. Motion Passed.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES :

The Clerk read the 2019 Windemere Township Annual Meeting minutes. Motion made by John Menke, second by Clair Strandlie to approve 2019 Windemere Township Annual Meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

JOINT TREASURER & CLERK'S REPORT :

Treasurer Ron Mossberg presented the 2019 joint Treasurer & Clerk's Report to the electorate. Motion by John Menke, seconded by Vern Anderson to approve the 2019 Joint Treasurer & Clerk's Report as presented. Motion passed.

2021 WINDEMERE TOWNSHIP LEVY :

Treasurer Ron Mossberg presented to the electorate the Windemere Township Board of Supervisors recommended 2021 township levy. It was determined that some of the 2020 capital improvement projects and also some future capital projects are expected to cost more than what were originally estimated in the 2019 budget. Due to the unexpected increase in capital costs for 2020, the Town Board is recommending setting the 2021 levy at \$500,000.00, a 25% increase over the \$400,000.00 2020 levy. Discussion followed. Motion by Vern Anderson, seconded by Irv Dahlen to not increase the levy and set the levy at \$400,000.00 to be placed in the Road & Bridges Fund. John Menke was present and stated he believes the motion should be defeated and a new motion be presented to the electorate approving the Town Board's recommended levy of \$500,000.00. Discussions followed. Motion passed, 32-Aye – 22 Nay

#### 2021 ANNUAL MEETING :

The 2021 Windemere Township Annual Meeting was discussed. Motion by Mark Salmon, seconded by Susan Quest to hold the 2021 Windemere Township Annual Meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 6:30 PM in the Windemere town hall located at 91546 Military Road Sturgeon Lake, MN. Motion passed.

#### PUBLIC NOTICES :

The publishing of Windemere Township public notices was discussed. Motion by Mark Salmon, seconded by Clair Strandlie to keep the Star Gazette/Evergreen papers as the news media to publish Windemere township's official public postings. Motion passed.

#### CHARITABLE DONATIONS :

The topic of the 2020 Windemere township charitable donations was presented to the electorate. Motion by Dave Arneson, seconded by Susan Quest to make available up to \$5000.00 of township funds to be donated at the Windemere Town Board's discretion to charitable organizations. Discussions followed. Dennis Genereau suggested adding a friendly amendment to the above motion and have the town Board get together at a later meeting to put together a list of guidelines in which such donations can be made. Motion by Dennis Genereau, seconded by Dave Arneson to add the friendly amendment to the motion. Motion passed.

#### ROAD UPDATE :

The annual road update was given by Clerk Scott Danelski to the electorate. 1- Palon Road Improvement Project (TP 17-01) was completed in June 2019 and the road was reopened. During the inspection of the project, quality issues were discovered and the township is in a good-faith dispute with the contractor (Casper Construction) and the engineering firm (Erickson Engineering) who inspected the construction of the project. The township has held back approximately \$60,700.00 in invoices until the quality issues are resolved. Both vendors have agreed to meet with the township in the spring of 2020 and correct the issues. 2 - The Island Lake outlet project was completed in September 2019. 3- The Balsam Road Box Culvert Project was completed in October 2019. 4 - During the 2019 Annual Road Review, 18 road culverts were identified as needing replacement and that work was completed in October 2019. 4 - Harmony Lane Improvement Project (TP 19-01) was placed out for bid. The township only received one bid from the vendor Kiminski Paving for a total of \$383,423.00. The engineer's estimated cost for the project was \$437,505.00. The Board has 30 days to accept or decline the bid. The Board is also looking into other options for completing the project.

-5 - The Sturgeon Island Bridge has deteriorated significantly and needs to be replaced. In September 2019 the Board formed the Sturgeon Island Bridge Preservation Committee and the committee applied for a legacy grant to try to secure funding to get the bridge to be considered for the National Registry of Historical Places, and to also secure funding to repair and keep the bridge intact as is. In early 2020 it was found out that the grant was denied by the State of Minnesota. The Board has requested the committee to present to the Board any other funding options they may have to continue trying to keep the current bridge in place. There is also a cooperative agreement with Pine County currently on hold which would replace the bridge at a total cost to the township of \$20,000.00 through the MNDOT Road & Bridge Fund. 6 – The Sturgeon Island Road repair project has been placed on hold until the Sturgeon Island bridge project can be completed. 7 - The significant rain event in early October 2019 caused some major township road damage including the washing out of Island Lake Road. 8 - Two additional cooperative agreements with Pine County have been signed to replace existing culverts with box culverts, one on Rush Blvd and one on Birchview Road. The total cost to the township will be \$20,000.00 for each project through the MNDOT Road & Bridges Fund. 9 - Due to the high-water issues in the township, the Maintenance Department is expecting some flooding of roads this spring so they are asking residents to be watchful for closed roads. 10 - The Windemere Maintenance Department is asking residents to subscribe to the new township website so they may receive road updates and also to report concerns and poor road conditions through the website. Emails sent through the site are received instantly and call-backs are usually within minutes of the notification.

#### FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

The annual Fire District update was given by Chairman, John Wesely to the electorate. Wesely stated he is not aware of any increase in the cost fire protection for Windemere Township. The cost for fire protection for Windemere Township in 2019 was \$85,500.00.

#### ZONING UPDATE :

Zoning Administrator, Phil White presented the Zoning Department update to the electorate. Phill stated he is resigning as the Windemere Township Zoning Administrator effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. He stated that the Board is considering options for what is best for the township in regards to zoning. One of the options being considered is opting-in to the Pine County, county-wide zoning ordinance. The Windemere Township Zoning Department is in favor of the county-wide zoning ordinance option. A total of 77 zoning permits were issues in Windemere Township in 2019, the highest number ever.

#### MOOSE LAKE WINDEMERE SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT (MLWSSD) UPDATE :

The Moose Lake Windemere Sanitary Sewer District (MLWSSD) update was given by Clair Strandlie to the electorate. MLWSSD contracted with Visu-Sewer to conduct some cleaning & televising of the Unit 2 sewer pipe in 2019 (sewer lines around Sand Lake). MLWSSD are waiting on the results so that repairs can be made.

MLWSSD is working on a Point-Of-Sale Ordinance which will go into effect sometime in the year 2020. The new ordinance will require home owners to have their lateral sewer lines televised and repaired as necessary before selling, tearing down an existing structure and connecting a new structure, or changes to the living quarters which would result in additional flow into the MLWSSD system. The new ordinance is the hope that it will enable MLWSSD to eliminate some of the inflow and infiltration into the system from cracked or broken lateral sewer lines. The MLWSSD held their budget meeting in September 2019 and voted unanimously to lower the levy for 2020. The MLSSD levy for 2020 was set at \$60,000.00, \$29,284.00 down from the 2019 levy of \$89,284.00. The main considering factor for reducing the levy is due to the City of Moose Lake's sewer treatment ponds being near capacity and no future plans for expansion, which limits the MLWSSD's growth for the time being.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT UPDATE :

The Hospital District update was given by Kelly Goeb to the electorate. Kelly explained that Mercy Hospital has not done as well as they hoped it would. Effective mid-year 2020 Mercy Hospital has agreed to a 100% buy-out by Essentia Hospitals. Until the buy-out is complete, Mercy Hospital's levy will remain in place, but after the buy-out the electorate will see no future levy on their tax statements from the Mercy Hospital District.

OTHER :

The township's class-5 gravel inventory control and the township's gravel reserves were discussed.

The township's website was discussed. The Board of Supervisors and the Road Maintenance Department encourage the electorate to utilize the website and its notification system when they have concerns or issues.

ADJOURN :

With no further township business to discuss. Motion by Phill White, seconded by Mark Salmon to adjourn the 2020 Windemere Township Annual Meeting at 8:09 PM. Motion Passed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

Moderator :

Windemere Township Clerk, Scott Danelski

Alan Overland