

SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
March 10, 2020

SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL
20381 FAIRLAWN AVENUE, PRIOR LAKE, MN

The 2020 Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Clerk, Melissa Hanson, at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Three times the Clerk called for nominations for meeting Moderator. Kelley nominated Loren Hanson as Moderator. Reeder seconded. Nominations were closed. On a voice vote, Loren Hanson was elected Moderator of the 2020 Spring Lake Township Annual Town Meeting.

The moderator presented a draft agenda for discussion and approval. The moderator called for any revisions to the agenda. Kelley made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Berens seconded.

Noting that the minutes were made available for review before the meeting, the Moderator called for a motion approving the minutes of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. Berens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Kelley seconded. On a voice vote the minutes were approved.

Noting that the draft audited financial statements were made available for review before the meeting, the Moderator called for a motion waiving the reading of the financial statements. Kelley made a motion to waive the reading of the financial statements. Reeder seconded. All in favor.

Sheriff's report. Deputy Dane Mosmar presented an overview of Sheriff's calls for the period 01/01/2019 through 12/31/2019 and provided an infographic with 2019 data. He noted that Spring Lake Township was second highest in call volume for the townships but the volume is still small and the area safe. The top calls were assists of various kinds 116, traffic 114, medical 110, car accidents 93 and calls for alarms, 90.

Mosmar stated that the Sheriff's Department has started extra patrol for area businesses and churches and that their side by side vehicle has been upgraded with tracks to make it more visible and safer while on patrol. He also noted that weight restrictions on roads are now posted and will be enforced. Questions: Berens asked about department responsibility for the water. Mosmar explained that Deputies patrol at night and generally Rec Safety Officers respond to issues during the day. Reeder asked if SCSD has any drones. Mosmar explained that SCSD does not have their own but do utilize SMSC drone when needed.

Fire Services Report. Prior Lake Fire Chief Rick Steinhaus reported an overall increase by over 100 calls from 30-40 per month to 50-60 which is taxing on the entire department. Spring Lake saw a relatively small increase in calls (7) year over year and had one large structure fire on Mushtown. In 2019 the report reflected that the fire department responded to 67 calls in Spring Lake Township in 2019 as compared to 60 calls in 2018. Of the 67 calls in 2019, 6 were fire calls (structures, grass fires, etc.), 12 were medical calls, 15 calls were for motor vehicle accidents, 12 were HAZMAT calls, 8 were miscellaneous and there were 7 false alarms; 2 were fire/smoke or co alarm calls. Steinhaus highlighted increases - construction issues that include gas lines being hit (usually no explosions) and equipment fires as well as an increase of medical calls as a result of laced heroin which is problematic for the entire county and state.

Questions: Johnson asked what was the cause of increased rate of alarm calls. Steinhaus noted that

January and February 2019- extreme cold resulted in a higher than normal rate of fire alarms.

Looking ahead at 2020: So far in 2020 calls for the service area are up by 5 calls in February and 8 in January - a significant change and at this point rather unexplainable. New tanker was received and it does not leak and the old tanker was sold.

Clerks Report. Hanson presented the 2020 Clerk's report as follows:

- **2019 BUILDING AND DRIVEWAY PERMITS**
 - 14 home permits (10 new; 4 final) in 2019
 - 2018: 12 home permits (10 new; 2 final) in 2018
 - 2017: 9 home permits issued in 2017 (4 new / 5 final)
- **DEVELOPMENT**
 - Approved 4 new plats or lot splits, creating 17 new lots including Buffalo Ridge with 7 single lots and one out-lot. (Mullenmeister(1), Buffalo (8) Legacy (5), Hickory Hills 3rd (2)
- **ANNEXATIONS**
 - No new annexations in 2019
 - Annexation conversations on hold with Prior Lake until street fee legislation addressed
- **ELECTIONS**
 - No elections were held in 2019
 - Planning for Minnesota's first Presidential Nomination Primary in 25 years began.
- **MAJOR ACITIVITIES IN 2019**
 - New Engineer – Matt Stordahl took over responsibilities for Township mid 2019.
 - 185th pavement project initiated at request of residents. Majority of work completed in 2019 with final finishes in Spring 2020.
 - Highway 13 work completed from 282 to Duluth – weather and culvert issues delayed portions of the project and work resulted in need to dustcoat Townships roads.
 - Telecommunications: The County and Townships were determined to get a USDA grant to provide highspeed internet to unserved and underserved areas in the County but were unable to apply due to a misunderstanding with the format for financial reporting.
 - Jaguar extended high speed internet to residents/entities including those in or on Butterfly Lane, Doon Bury, Lydia, Spring Lake Town Hall and the Industrial Park.
 - Netwave Broadband – extended into areas of township including Wells Lane.
 - Nuvera – (formerly Integra) began replacing old cable with fiber optics.
 - Habitat/Shoreline Restoration at Fish Lake Park started with herbicides and seeding of prairie area and shoreline.
 - Town Hall/Pavilion Reservations 130 (excluding board meetings) (2018=102)
 - Town Hall- events/meetings; (\$16,000)
 - 84 paid reservations (73%)
 - 31 unpaid (27%) (includes other gov't meetings/ Fish Lake Sportsman's Club
 - Pavilion- 15 events (\$450)
 - Town Hall established as a Temporary Emergency Shelter
 - Town Hall experienced spring flooding – emergency and permanent regrading completed.
- **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020**
 - Continued interest in development in the township at both 2.5 and 10 acres.

- Continued collaboration with Cities and Legislators for legislative action regarding street/turn lane fees “Infrastructure Accountability”
- Continued discussion with City of Prior Lake regarding Orderly Annexation Agreement.
- Primary and General Elections will be held in August 11 and November 3 respectively
- Question was asked about the doc ordinance from Prior lake

Question: Reeder asked if the Township would be aligning with Prior Lakes new shoreline and mooring ordinance. Hanson responded that the date for a public hearing on this issue would be set at the March 12, 2020 Board Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report. Copies of the 2019 audited financial statements were made available at the meeting place at least one half hour prior to the meeting. Johnson presented the Treasurer’s Report, providing an overview of activity in the General Fund, Park Fund, and Road & Bridge Fund.

In 2019 the Township had total receipts of \$1,555,906 and total disbursements of \$1,245,190. The General Fund has total receipts of \$438,111 and total disbursements of \$364,826. The General Fund expenditures were just over budget by \$7,000. The ending balance of the General Fund was \$1,081,554 which does not include the loan to the Park Fund of \$583,599.

The Road & Bridge Fund had receipts of \$1,095,033 and total disbursements of \$769,877 about \$300,000 over budget due to 185th paving project. The ending balance for the Road & Bridge Fund was \$1,683,350.

Total Cash balance of \$2,277,549 up from 1,966,833 from the beginning of the year.

Road Report. Berens presented the road report as follows:

- **2020 Road Maintenance**

- We have approximately 54 miles of road - 16.5 of gravel and 37 miles of asphalt includes Fairlawn, Mushtown and Revere.
- Plowing costs for winter 2018/2019 were \$103,089 and winter costs to date for 2019/2020 \$51,953 with Art Johnson Trucking doing a lot of work and doing it well.
- Salt brine being used and reduces amount of salt and helps keep roads clear of ice/snow
- Planning for road tour which determines black top and sealing issues will be planned at March 12, 2020 meeting. To keep roads safe with higher rains recently, shoulder/ditch mowing is being requested three times a year and the township continues to spray for weeds.
- Paving 185th - Projected cost of project \$310,000 with residents picking up \$294,000 as it is a resident-initiated project. Costs are expected to come in on target with the final work to be completed Spring 2020.
- Spring Lake Township formalized an adopt a road program for the entire township and are grateful for volunteers who keep the road/ditches clean.
- Mushtown between 190th and City of Prior Lake. Soil borings have been authorized so that the town can determine next steps for the road that is showing signs of deterioration.
- Hwy 13 from 282 into Prior Lake fully reclaimed with turn lanes at 13/Fairlawn and 13/Vergus to help with safety concerns.
- Road construction resulted in unexpected detour on Township roads. Township is requesting reimbursement from MnDOT for dust coating we did as a result of this detour. Dust coating was requested for safety purposes.
- 21/Revere/170th Intersection Study Completed- The County/Kimley-Horn completed a study of the intersection of 21/170th/Revere resulting in three possible design scenarios. The Spring Lake Township Board supported options that would keep traffic flowing, limit accidents and decrease traffic on Revere which was turned over to the Township in 2018.

- **Looking Ahead to 2021**
 - Road tour to be in scheduled in spring to determine what roads need repair and type of repairs are needed

Parks and Town Hall Report. Kowalski was absent but all areas of concern covered in clerk's report.

Water Resources Report. Kelley presented the water resources report as follows:

- Spring Lake Launch improvements funded by DNR -Project delays pushed completion date to Spring 2019
 - Enhanced storm water management
 - New Aquatic Invasive Species boat inspection and cleaning area
 - New (night sky friendly) lighting
 - New boat ramp and bituminous for the parking lots
 - Restored shoreline
- Carp Seining Project (PLSLWD)
 - Effort to help extend the positive impact of the alum treatment.
 - Ongoing PLSLWD project to reduce carp population on Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake.
 - PLSLWD met with Sen. Pratt to ask to remove restrictions on companies permitted to seining for carp and allow others to seining so the necessary work can be completed in a timely and competitive manner. Bill passed in 2019 legislative session.
- PLSLWD – Work continued on the [2020 Water Resources Management Plan](#) which outlines the District's work for the next 10 years (2020-2029) and provides a road map for the District's projects and programs over the next decade. The work ran long and plan should be finalized in 2020.
 - The 5 areas outlined:
 - Water quality
 - Flood reduction
 - Recreation & wildlife habitat
 - Land uses of concern
 - Groundwater
 - PLSLWD – Managers
 - Interviews were conducted in February for two manager positions:
 - Curt Hennes was re-appointed
 - Bruce Loney, former public works administrator -Shakopee was appointed.
 - Spring Lake Ridge Development
 - Proposed development on west side of Spring Lake for 100+ houses and boat slips.
 - Resident concern and opposition resulted in proposed project being scaled back to 99 houses and no boat slips, among other changes.
 - Township Mooring Ordinance
 - Reviewed Township Mooring Ordinance - Board was provided with a copy of Spring Lake Ordinance as well as Prior Lake's 2015 ordinance when both were at 12.5 feet for Controlled Access spacing.
 - 2019 Prior Lake ordinance amendments including increasing amount of lakeshore per slip from 18.75 to 40 feet and changed calculation in determining lake shore was presented in October. Spring Lake Township to revisit ordinance in 2020.
 - McMahon Lake Draining Project
 - With no natural outlet, water level on McMahon Lake was approaching a problematic level. A pipe was placed under the road with the goal of drawing down the lake level

- **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020**
 - Interviews to be held in March for 2 manager position to be filled one as a result of retirement one in cycle timing.
 - Carp management will continue for Upper Prior and Spring Lake with seining of carp and stocking of blue gills.
 - Question asked about alum treatment for 2020- funds have been set aside and additional research is to be gathered.

Designate time and location for 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Domer made a motion to set the time and location of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting for 7:00 p.m., **March 9, 2021** at the Spring Lake Town Hall, 20381 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake, MN. Reeder seconded. All in favor.

General Discussion of Items of Concern.

Reeder: Request to have ordinance consistency with Prior Lake for mooring and shorelines for Spring Lake since the lake is split between municipalities.

Reeder: Reiterated her concern from last year that she feels that there are few, if any, incentives for the residents to be annexed into the city and would like the Board and residents to fight annexation. All residents in attendance were in agreement with her request.

Motion to continue meeting. Berens made a motion to recess the Annual meeting to September 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the General Fund levy and the Road & Bridge Fund levy. Kelley seconded. All in favor. The meeting was recessed at 7:35 p.m.

Moderator Hanson reconvened the annual town meeting at 7:18 p.m. on September 10, 2020

Setting the General Fund Levy. Johnson reviewed the proposed 2021 General Fund budget. Proposed 2021 general fund budget is \$425,000 with a proposed levy of \$350,000. Kelley made a motion to approve the 2021 general fund levy of \$350,000. Berens seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Setting the Road and Bridge Fund Levy. Johnson presented the proposed 2021 budget for the road and bridge fund totaling \$535,000. The proposed levy is \$635,000. Kowalski made a motion to set the 2021 levy at \$635,000. Berens seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Kelley motioned to adjourn. Kowalski seconded. All in favor. The 2020 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm

Loren Hanson, Moderator

Melissa Hanson, Clerk