

**SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING**  
**March 9, 2021**

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

The 2021 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 the meeting Moderator. Marty Coddington nominated Loren Hanson as Moderator. Berens seconded. Nominations were closed. On a voice vote, Loren Hanson was elected Moderator of the 2021 Spring Lake Township Annual Town Meeting.

The moderator presented a draft agenda for discussion and approval. The moderator called for revisions to the agenda. Hearing none, Ted Kowalski made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Glenn Kelley seconded.

Noting that the minutes were made available for review before the meeting, the Moderator called for a motion approving the minutes of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Coddington made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Wesley Steffan 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. Berens seconded. On a voice vote the reading of the financial statements were approved.

**Sheriff's report.** Amy Lueck, Spring Lake Townships Community Engagement Deputy, presented an overview of Sheriff's calls for the period 01/01/2020 through 12/31/2020 and provided an infographic with 2020 data. She noted that Spring Lake Township was second highest in call volume for the townships but the volume is consistent and low. The top calls were traffic 149, assists of various kinds 137, medical 85, car accidents 62 and calls for alarms, 57. Kelley asked if there are plans to have more regular patrols on Spring Lake. Lueck noted that there was some discussion of having a dedicated resource officer but she hasn't heard more on that. She did note that they have been more proactive on the lake over the last year rather than reactive. Coddington asked about a boat dedicated to Spring Lake patrol and Lueck stated there is not a dedicated boat. Lerschen asked what kind of complaints were being received and Lueck explained that it was usually safety issues- boating to close to shore or floating bog dangers. Lerschen asked if there has been increase in crime overall in the area, Lueck noted that crime rates were pretty consistent.

**Fire Services Report.** Prior Lake Fire Chief Rick Steinhaus reported that in 2020 the fire department responded to 71 calls in Spring Lake Township as compared to 67 calls in 2019 and calls are very consistent year over year with no notable trends. Of the 71 calls in 2020, 5 were fire calls (structures, grass fires, etc.), 8 were fire/smoke alarm calls, 2 were CO alarms, 13 were medical calls, 19 calls were for motor vehicle accidents, 6 were Hazmat calls, 5 were miscellaneous and there were 13 false fire or CO alarms. Steinhaus noted that medical calls for heroin overdoses continue to be a problem. Issues of note this year – serious injury accidents at Langford/220<sup>th</sup> (CR 8); accidents at Panama & 190<sup>th</sup> and a large grass fire on 180<sup>th</sup>. On track in 2021 with calls – medical and false alarms.

COVID was a significant issue resulting in a 2 week closure of Station 2 in May as nine firefighters were out. As a result, a duty crew was implemented and used for a period of time during peak time of COVID resulting in improved response times. Primary expenditures were small pieces of equipment and PPE.

**Looking ahead at 2021:** New engine ordered and should be in service this fall. Lerschen asked if anyone reviews or suggests home alarms. Steinhaus explained advice can be provided in person or phone. Steinhaus explained extra man hours were covered by FEMA/COVID Funding.

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

- **BUILDING AND DRIVEWAY PERMITS**
  - 18 new home permits
    - 2019: 14 home permits (10 new; 4 final)
    - 2018: 12 home permits (10 new; 2 final)
- **DEVELOPMENT**
  - No new plats or lot splits approved.
- **ANNEXATIONS**
  - No new annexations in 2020.
  - Annexation conversations were on hold with Prior Lake until street fee legislation addressed.
- **ELECTIONS**
  - Presidential Primary, Primary and General Election in 2020.
    - New precautions and voter flow implemented.
    - Spring Lake Township had highest percent of voter turnout in Scott County: 97.88%;
    - Over 50% of registered voters requested an absentee ballot.
    - First voter arrived at 6:15 with steady voting all day; no major incidents/complaints.
    - New Supervisor elected for open Seat B: Lisa Quinn, Supervisor Doug Berens retained Seat A, Tom Wolf retained position as County Commissioner for District 2
- **MAJOR ACITIVITIES IN 2020**
  - COVID – CARES funding
    - Majority used in collaboration with Scott County to provide broadband from Netwave Broadband/Access Networks throughout Spring Lake Township (47 current subscribers from SLT with 37 waiting for install).
    - Purchased protective equipment, conference phone, and benches for park.
  - COVID Restrictions limited the use of Town Hall/Pavilion
    - Town Hall/Pavilion Reservations approximately 104 (excluding board meetings) (2019-130)
    - Town Hall- events/meetings; (\$14,300) (2019 \$16,000)
      - 90 paid reservations (90%) - Mostly House of Grace Church
      - 9 unpaid (10%) (includes other gov't meetings/ Fish Lake Sportsman's Club)
    - Pavilion- ~ 5 events (\$170) (2019 \$450)
    - Cancellations- Living Joy Church has not used hall since March + 14 other cancellations
  - Fire Contract with Prior Lake and Credit River successfully renegotiated.
  - South Shore Drive Project assessments ended.
- **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021**
  - Continued interest in development in the township at both 2.5 and 10 acres including Buffalo Ridge 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Continued collaboration with Cities and Legislators for legislative action regarding street/turn lane fees "Infrastructure Accountability"; lobbyist supported by SCALE in 2020 & 2021.
  - Goal to start conversations about Orderly Annexation after street fee legislation decided.
  - Scott WMO is working on project to help with water levels on McMahan lake.

- Interest remains in developing the area off of Sunset Ave in Prior Lake (west side of Spring Lake) – originally slated as Spring Lake Ridge.
- Prior Lake has received Preliminary Plat from DR Horton (Springview) for 24 acres (approx. 40 lots) off of 170<sup>th</sup>/Marschall with access off of 170<sup>th</sup> as well as Parkwood 47.5 acres (55 lots)

Lerschen asked for clarification around street fees. Hanson explained that based on a recent court case, fees that used to be charged to developers to improve streets that were impacted due to development were found to be illegal noting no statutory authority was been given to cities or townships. The goal of the current legislation is to provide the statutory authority and the bill is part of the Omnibus bill for 2021. Lerschen also asked about the zoning rules if South Shore Drive was annexed and was invited to talk with the City about their rules. Hartell asked if annexation is progressing as the agreement is set out. Kowalski noted that the agreement is up for negotiation as many areas that were to be annexed have fallen out as they were not annexed within the specified timeframe.

**Treasurer's Report.** Copies of the 2020 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 2020 the Township had total receipts of \$2,557,126 and total disbursements of \$2,196,288.

The General Fund has total receipts of \$491,238 and total disbursements of \$476,569. The General Fund expenditures were over budget by \$76,000 which was the results of CARES funding. The ending balance of the General Fund was \$1,096,223.

The Road & Bridge Fund had receipts of \$1,697,438 and total disbursements of \$1,366,784. The ending balance for the Road & Bridge Fund was \$2,014,004, the increase was attributable to the Bonds received for the Mushtown road project.

Lerschen asked about the bond for Mushtown and Berens explained that collector roads are generally not assessed. Coddington asked if the South Shore Bond was paid off – staff explained the assessment period has ended but would need to check if the Bond was fully paid off.

**Road Report.** Supervisor Berens presented the road report as follows:

- **2020 Road Maintenance**
  - We have approximately 54 miles of road - 16.5 of gravel and 37.5 miles of asphalt.
  - Mushtown between 190<sup>th</sup> and City of Prior Lake reclaimed and paved at a cost of \$760,000 at .8%. The pavement was breaking up and it was decided to reclaim and pave ahead of schedule. Some of the steep ditches were softened as well. Small amount of work remains to be completed in 2021.
- **Looking Forward in 2021**
- Road tour which determines black top and crack sealing priorities will be planned at March 11, 2021 board meeting – COVID may impact how the tour is implemented.
  - Routine maintenance work will be done – plowing, grading, ditch mowing and weed spraying.
  - 190<sup>th</sup> Panama and Fairlawn is deteriorating and the township has applied for LRIP grant to help cover the cost to reclaim and pave tis stretch of road.
  - South Shore Drive – the pavement is starting to show its age with significant wear on the sides. The engineer has suggested a project to replace bad curb and complete a mill and

overlay to prevent further deterioration. The area is scheduled to be annexed in 2024 and we need an agreement of how township a proportion of money would be reimbursed. Barbara Lerschen asked how much 190<sup>th</sup> and South Shore Drive would cost to repair. Berens explained 190th would be comparable to Mushtown and South Shore Drive has yet to be determined. Per the township assessment policy, a mill and overlay on South Drive would be picked up by the township.

**Parks and Town Hall Report.** Supervisor Kowalski presented the Parks and Town Hall report:

- Volleyball courts removed as they were not used and were in disrepair.
- Conduit pipe on path to the pavilion was removed and path was repaired.

**Looking ahead to 2021**

- Old lean-to will be removed as safety precaution.
- New benches to be installed

Quinn introduced Wesley Steffan Spring Lake Township resident who produced and submitted a video about the work that has been done and will be done at Raymond park highlighting the removal of buckthorn as well as the addition of a woodchip walking trail with natural grasses and flowers.

It was noted that some of the timbers on the pier have been replaced but maintenance is needed.

**Water Resources Report.** Supervisor Quinn presented the Water Resources report:

- Spring Lake Launch was very busy in the summer of 2020, partially due to COVID. It seemed like everyone wanted to get outside and take advantage of the beautiful weather and outdoor social distancing opportunities. A video by a Spring Lake Township resident, Camille Will, was shown outlining the work done at the Spring Lake Launch to curb the spread of curly leaf pondweed with boat inspections over the summer.
- Zebra Muscle Project- an Eagle Scout project found no Zebra Mussels in Spring Lake! A video by Charlie Malecha was played outlining the project and the results. Malecha was surprised by the amount of zebra muscles in Upper Prior Lake. Malecha supports doing test every other year.
- McMahon Lake (Carl's Lake) received the go ahead for a flood mitigation grant. The WMO plans to use the money for a high-water outlet and some streambank stabilization projects downstream at Xanadu. There is not a natural outlet on the lake and goal to put in an outlet to relieve the flooding issues that are impacting resident's property

**Looking ahead to 2021**, the grant will continue making its way through the legislative process and design engineering, and construction work should begin in 2022.

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD)

- Spring Lake Township was and is lucky to usually have Curt Hennes, our SLT liaison, at our meetings to explain things in detail, but here are some things that are new and recently completed:
- The Upper Watershed Blueprint, worked on throughout 2020, has been completed. It is a study that was commissioned by the PLSLWD and completed by Wenck Associates/ now Stantec. It presents 17 major projects that aim to improve water quality in Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake, four of which will likely go forward. The goal of the Upper Watershed Blueprint is to significantly improve the water in runoff that originates in the Upper Watershed and move Spring Lake in a positive direction towards meeting TMDL goals (a total phosphorus reduction of 82%). There is a link to the Upper Watershed Blueprint on the PLSLWD website which you link to via

- the Spring Lake township website.
- Diane Lynch, the now former Watershed District Administrator of the Year, retired in 2020. Her replacement was named.
- The PLSLWD 2020 Report Card for Spring Lake gave it a “B” for Phosphorus because the trend shows improvement.
- The third of three Alum treatments was applied to Spring Lake in 2020. Moving forward, the Watershed would like to identify longer term, longer range treatments in order to address the issues before they get into the lake versus treatments after they get into it.

**Looking forward to 2021 in PLSLWD:**

- There is a New District Administrator: Ms. Joni Giese started on March 1. Ms. Giese brings a wealth of experience- They are very excited to have her! Her contact information at the Watershed is [jgiese@PLSLWD.org](mailto:jgiese@PLSLWD.org).
- One project that will be new for the spring of 2021 will be a Camera mounted at the Spring Lake Launch. It's called an Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor, or I-LIDS for short. I-LIDS will allow the videos taken to be reviewed for aquatic invasive species on boats and also supply audio directives to boaters at the launch. It is a self-contained, solar powered unit! It will be a 6-month pilot program starting this spring at Spring Lake Launch. A Spring Lake resident, Christian Morkeberg, was closely involved in the project in getting the camera and getting the Spring Lake Launch selected for the program.
- Christian Morkeberg is also the Board Chair of the CAC which is the Citizen's Advisory Committee. The CAC is comprised of residents who provide input and recommendations to the district board on projects, reports, prioritizations and act as the primary interface for the board to address the current issues and concerns of local citizens. The CAC is looking for more people to join them! Call Christian or fill out an application on the PLSLWD website/CAC if you are interested.
- Spring Lake Township began discussing a boat slip and dock ordinance to match Prior Lake's ordinance which has been in existence for over a year. Ordinance 21-001 Regulating Boat Slip and Docks passed on January 14, 2021. Many factors played into this decision including strong public support, and the need for consistency on Spring Lake, a portion of which was already covered by the ordinance. A complete copy of the ordinance can be found on the Spring Lake Township Website. Ordinance 21-001 states, among other things, that dock rental on Spring Lake is prohibited.
- Lerschen asked about the camera system at the launch. Quinn explained that the camera provides audio directives and takes video of boat and license plates. Gail Molden asked about the storing of the video noting she is concerned about the security/privacy of the information

**Designate time and location for 2022 Annual Town Meeting.** Lerschen made a motion to set the time and location of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting for 7:00 p.m., March 8, 2022 at the Spring Lake Town Hall, 20381 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake, MN. Kowalski seconded. All in favor.

**General Discussion of Items of Concern.**

Lerschen requested an annexation update noting that if residents on South Shore Drive were surveyed, nobody would want to be annexed. Kowalski explained that he has had conversations with various people at the City Prior Lake and the direction that he is received is to adhere to the agreement and annex the areas of South Shore Drive and Vergus Ave. Kowalski noted that it will be a large tax burden to the rest of the township as 11% of the tax base will be annexed. Berens noted that several things have changed since the agreement was signed including the sewer pipe that was originally designated to be extended for service beyond the current areas as new access points will be used from the west side of the lake. In addition, Spring Lake Township did not grow as anticipated during the down turn of the

economy which was in the middle of the annexation agreement time period.

Kowalski spoke to the Supreme Court ruling holding charging developers street fees is illegal. He explained that knowing the answer to this will be helpful but we will have to push the conversations forward as 2024 is approaching quickly. Pat Hertel asked about the current agreement and if all is progressing as planned. Kowalski noted that South Shore Drive and Vergus are on track but most of the rest of the areas, if not annexed, have fallen out because they were not annexed within the specified time period.

Lerschen asked about zoning and what residents could do with their property when annexed and expressed her concern about increase in taxes with no additional benefits. Kowalski noted that he is unaware of current plans to provide sewer and water upon annexation to areas not served (or the costs) but it would be revisited at an upcoming workshop. Kowalski stated the costs for a Maple Drive resident to hook up to city sewer and water was approximately \$90,000 to hook up. Lerschen noted the costs for re-plat at the time of the South Shore Drive project and is hoping to recoup those costs.

Lerschen asked if Credit River, after becoming a city, would annex portions Spring Lake Township – Kowalski and Commissioner Wolf both stated that there are no plans and part of the goal in becoming a city was to protect their borders and prevent annexation.

Tom Wolf mentioned COVID vaccines are being administered in Scott County. County is considering a noise ordinance in 2021. New government building is moving forward with employees moving in at the end of the month. Lerschen asked if there are drone regulations in the County, Coddington explained these are controlled by the FAA regulations.

**Motion to continue meeting.** Berens made a motion to recess the Annual meeting to September 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the General Fund levy and the Road & Bridge Fund levy. Coddington made a motion, Kelley seconded. All in favor. The meeting was recessed at 8:35 p.m.

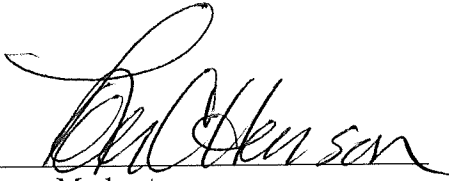
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Moderator Hanson reconvened the annual town meeting at 7:25 p.m. on September 9, 2021

**Setting the General Fund Levy.** Johnson reviewed the proposed 2022 General Fund budget. Proposed 2022 general fund budget is \$515,000 with a proposed levy of \$350,000. Kelley made a motion to approve the 2022 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 2022 budget for the road and bridge fund totaling \$785,000. The proposed levy is \$685,000. Kelley made a motion to set the 2022 levy at \$685,000. Feldten seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Berens motioned to adjourn. Kelley seconded. All in favor. The 2021 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

  
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Dan Hansen  
Moderator

  
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Melissa Hanson, Clerk