

SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
March 8, 2022

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

The 2022 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. Kowalski nominated Barbara Lerschen was elected Moderator of the 2022 Spring Lake Township Annual Town Meeting.

- The moderator presented a draft agenda for discussion and approval. The moderator called for revisions to the agenda. Staff requested to add Town Hall report before last item prior to calling for designating 2023 Annual Meeting, Berens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Kowalski seconded.

Noting that the minutes were made available for review before the meeting, the Moderator called for a motion approving the minutes of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Berens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting. Kowalski 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. Kowalski made a motion to waive the reading of the financial statements. Quinn seconded. On a voice vote the reading of the financial statements were approved.

Sheriff's report. Dan Aszmann, Scott County Sheriff Deputy, presented an overview of Sheriff's calls for the period 01/01/2021 through 12/31/2021 and provided an infographic with 2021 data. He noted that Spring Lake Township had highest call volume for the townships, 1327, but the volume is consistent and low. The top calls were traffic 127, assists of various kinds 140, medical 104, car accidents 63 and calls for alarms, 83. No assaults, thefts.

Approximately 100 calls show origination from the Highway Maintenance location because that is a default address for unknown location, they don't specifically deal with township concerns. The way these types of call are handled is changing for 2022.

Question asked about Sheriff's Department moving location. Deputy explained with Government Center construction finishing the Highway Maintenance Department will move to the new facility in Shakopee and the Highway Maintenance Building will be remodeled for the Sheriff's Department making it more centrally located.

Deputy explained the difference the characteristics of call categories for Civil calls (example child custody), Assists (not civil or criminal in nature calls but often to assist another department or an individual in need).

Question asked about confusion of location if someone lives in the township, but address is city – Deputy stated dispatchers and systems are equipped to handle these issues.

Fire Services Report. Prior Lake Fire Chief Rick Steinhaus reported that in 2021 the fire department responded to 92 calls in Spring Lake Township as compared to 71 calls (up 20) in 2020 and calls are very

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consistent year over year with no notable trends. Of the 92 calls in 2021, 18 were fire calls (structures, grass fires, etc.), 10 were fire/smoke alarm calls, 2 were CO alarms, 21 were medical calls, 24 calls were for motor vehicle accidents, 5 were Hazmat calls, 5 were miscellaneous and there were 7 false fire alarms. Medical calls are going up and it has to do with other departments being stretched thin – police, sheriff’s and ambulance. Increased fires from 2020 likely a result of COVID shutting many things down in 2020. There were multiple large building fires in 2021 and a few County Road 8/13 serious accidents. New engine is being delivered. Fire Department is transitioning to a full time, 12-person, department. Still waiting on grant to be received to help with funding.

In response to a question about where medical patient goes if there is a medical emergency, chief Steinhaus explained that a patient can request specific hospital unless severity or urgency dictates location. Question asked if there is senior program that allows the fire department to access home in emergency situation without having to break into door. Although there is no official program, there is an option in place to call the non-emergency Sheriff’s Dispatch and have an access code added into the 911 system which can be used to access the home.

County Auditor- Michael Thompson County Assessor-

Presentation covered: Market influencers and changes to assessed values of property: including increased interest rates, non-existent foreclosures, high construction costs, limited materials, low home supply within Scott County-only 1 month supply of homes. Investor competition- 10% purchased of homes are purchased by investors. Median time on market 9 days. Most homes are going above asking price.

Changes for new construction in 2021: Value Added to New Construction – 29% for residential. Commercial 127 % and noted a lack of industrial space for building pads. New construction is just over half as much as it was during the peak in 2006. Median residential values increased in Scott County 23% based on state rules (Jan 1, 2021). Anoka and Scott Counties have made investment in high-speed internet; many people will not move to areas without highspeed internet because of the demands of work and school.

Median Value of homes in Spring Lake Township \$577,100 a 24% increase. Most agricultural is enrolled in green acres and is valued at highest and best use. Price per acre is lower with non-sewered at \$78,000 per acre with sewer and water, \$46,000 per acre without. Net change to existing residential in Scott County = 23%. Industrial = 7% increase (lower than in the past). Apartments up 12% rental is healthy. Comparing all locations residential went from 75% to 77% in 2021 to 2022.

Value notices will be mailed in the next week and Thompson stated the best step is to contact appraiser for any questions or concerns as most issues can be resolved informally and quickly. Suggestion to consider E-notices for property statement is available – get early and save paper. GIS has a recent sales layer to see sales in neighborhood and the ECRV (Mn Depart of Revenue) can find information on individual sales. Thompson advised attendees to check to see if you are eligible for special refund which is not income dependent.

In response to question asked about tax change going from a township to municipality there will be a difference in township to city taxes but the value of the home doesn’t necessarily change for instance- all lake shore homes around Spring Lake (city or township) already valued in the same manner so there isn’t an inherent increase in the value of the home with annexation.

Parks and Trails Updates - Spring Lake Regional Park Update- Patricia Freeman,

Starting in 2012-2017 the park was enhanced with walking trails and an off-leash dog park. Gap analysis and “needs surveys” were completed and vision reviewed from 2017-2019 as part of 2040 comp plan.

Work plan and design being reviewed now with Phase 1 planning to include an entry and parking lot, fishing pier, lakeside gathering spots with picnic areas, large observation deck, hand carry canoe/kayak launch and trail loop. Snowmobile trail will be shifted to the east for realignment. Master plan calls for 3000 square foot building with guiding for a building for 100 at round tables with restrooms and may end up being 2000-3000 square feet. Later phases would look to pedestrian bridge and pavilion.

Water Resources Report.

Carp Project Video- Camille Will (originator) PLSLWD Intern 2021- Covered summer carp seining.

PLSLWD Highlight Video- Elizabeth Frödén (originator) PLSLWD Water Resources Assistant

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

- **BUILDING PERMITS**
 - 2021: 10 new home permits
 - 2020: 18 new home permits
 - 2019: 14 home permits (10 new; 4 final)
- **DEVELOPMENT**
 - 10 Small Developments/Admin Splits approved.
- **ANNEXATION-**
 - One new annexation in 2021 - Shimek
 - Annexation conversations on going with Prior Lake –
- **ELECTIONS**
 - November 2, 2021 – Prior Lake School District Referendum – Did not pass
- **MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2021**
 - ARPA – First ½ of ARPA Funds Received (\$209,548) nothing spent in 2021.
 - Fire Contract – Pursuing full-time fire-department staffing with SAFER Grant.
- **LOOKING AHEAD IN 2022**
 - Larger Developments – Working through phased approvals in 2022 for 3 new developments with approximately 65 new homes.
 - Continued collaboration with Cities and Legislators for legislative action regarding street/turn lane fees “Infrastructure Accountability”; lobbyist supported by SCALE in 2020 & 2021.
 - McMahan Lake Outlet- grant received in 2021, design and construction in 2022 with goal of outlet being in place in early 2023.
 - Prior Lake Development- work has started at Springview Meadows for 24 acres (approx. 40 lots) off of 170th/Marshall; Parkwood Estates 47.5 acres (55 lots) off of Mushtown and work is planned for Revere Place- 9 acres (180th and Revere) (20 lots). Interest remains in developing the area off of Sunset Ave in Prior Lake (west side of Spring Lake) – originally slated as Spring Lake Ridge.
 - Work on Highway 13 from 282 South to 19 begins in 2022 and includes a roundabout at 8.
 - Quinn thanked staff for the work that is done.

Treasurer's Report. Copies of the 2021 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 and Road & Bridge Fund.

In 2021 the Township had total receipts of \$1,314,060 and total disbursements of \$1,104,111.

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The General Fund has total receipts of \$397,645 and total disbursements of \$423,573. The General Fund expenditures were under budget by \$1,427. The General Fund was reduced by \$25,928, leaving an ending balance of the \$1,070,295.

The Road & Bridge Fund had receipts of \$740,662 and total disbursements of \$799,014 including transfers. The ending balance for the Road & Bridge Fund was \$1,955,652.

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

- Road miles – 37.5 paved / 16.5 gravel (54 miles)
- No official gain or loss of road under township jurisdiction this past year.
 - As proposed, a couple of pending developments within the township will add roads.
 - Discussions are underway with the City of PL to take over responsibilities for half mile section of 170th street.
- No major road projects this past year.
- At this point we do not have any major road improvement projects in the works. Negotiating with a developer to possibly pave a portion of Flag Trail in the future.

- 2022 Maintenance work similar to past years.
 - Road tour will determine crack filling, seal coating, and patching
 - Ditch spraying
 - Shoulder mowing
 - Graveling
 - Routine grading
 - Snow plowing and ice removal as needed
- Question asked about improving South Shore Drive. Berens explained the township approached Prior Lake about a cost share for road improvements but there is little interest at this time.

Town Hall Report. Supervisor Kowalski presented the Town Hall report:

- Town Hall Rentals
 - Town Hall/Pavilion Reservations approximately 132 (excluding board meetings) (2020-104)
 - Town Hall- events/meetings- \$12,792.50 (2020 \$14,300)
 - 100 paid reservations (80%)
 - 25 unpaid (20%) (includes other gov't meetings/ Fish Lake Sportsman's Club, Republican Women's Group)
 - Pavilion- ~ 7 events -\$245 (2020 \$170)
 - House of Grace stopped renting in Aug. Living Joy came back in June.
 - Wi-Fi Outside – residents and guests can utilize wi-fi in the playground and parks at the township part of CARES funds.
 - Considering relandscaping parking lot islands.
- Fire Contract as Fire Chief mentioned
 - Pursuing full-time fire department staffing with SAFER Grant
 - Moving toward hiring more firefighters (fewer people volunteering)
- Orderly Annexation
 - Discussion on going with City of Prior Lake about what an agreement could look like.
 - Current agreement expires in 2025 with South Shore and Vergus areas planned for annexation in 2024.

- Development Review Team – County –
 - Meetings to discuss land development plans to get all departments involve early in the process.
 - 2021 meetings were held via Zoom and are continuing that way.
 - Meeting later this spring to discuss how DRT planning is working.

Designate time and location for 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Lerschen made a motion to set the time and location of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for 7:00 p.m., March 14, 2023 at the Spring Lake Town Hall, 20381 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake, MN. Kowalski seconded. All in favor.

General Discussion of Items of Concern. No items articulated but for annexation. Discussion had about the biggest financial unknown for the township – Kowalski stated it is road projects because of the volatility with cost of oil and labor. Kowalski noted the need to look for area for rural industrial growth to help counter change in tax base from annexation.

Motion to continue meeting. Lerschen made a motion to recess the Annual meeting to September 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the General Fund levy and the Road & Bridge Fund levy. Kowalski made a motion, Berens seconded. All in favor. The meeting was recessed at 9:10 p.m.

Moderator Lerschen reconvened the annual town meeting at 7:10 p.m. on September 8, 2022

Setting the General Fund Levy. Johnson reviewed the proposed 2023 General Fund budget. Proposed 2023 general fund budget is \$620,000 with a proposed levy of \$450,000. Kowalski made a motion to approve the 2023 general fund levy of \$450,000. Quinn seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Setting the Road and Bridge Fund Levy. Johnson presented the proposed 2023 budget for the road and bridge fund totaling \$820,000. The proposed levy is \$700,000. Berens made a motion to set the 2023 levy at \$700,000. Kowalski seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Kowalski motioned to adjourn. Quinn seconded. All in favor. The 2022 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm

Barbara Lerschen, Moderator

Melissa Hanson, Clerk