

SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
March 14, 2023

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

The 2023 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. Doug Berens nominated Barbara Lerschen, Kowalski seconded. Lerschen was elected Moderator of the 2023 Spring Lake Township Annual Town Meeting.

- The moderator presented a draft agenda for discussion and approval. The moderator called for revisions to the agenda. Wes Steffan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Glenn Kelley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting. Doug Berens 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 01/01/2022 through 12/31/2022 and provided an infographic with 2022 data. He noted that Spring Lake Township had 2nd highest call volume for the townships-1024, but the volume is consistent and low. The top calls were traffic 129, assists of various kinds 124, medical 112, car accidents 63 and calls for alarms, 60. 1 assault, 7 thefts. No New trends of note. All deputies now have body cameras and there will be a new computer system installed in squad cars.

Resident Questions:

- how many calls turned into charges/convictions- Deputy did not have number however would assume the more serious calls turned into charges but less serious call like traffic stops/animals could have been warnings.
 - Are there any more common areas where accidents happen. Deputy stated a lot happen on hwy 13. Panama/190th is also a trouble intersection. Additional lights would be helpful to indicate that cross traffic does not stop, possible roundabout to help mitigate accidents.
 - What are most animal calls for- Most animal calls are related to dogs
 - Where are policies regarding body cameras- Sheriff's website and county.
- **Fire Services Report.** Prior Lake Fire Chief Rick Steinhaus reported that in 2022 the fire department responded to 74 calls in Spring Lake Township as compared to 92 calls in 2021 and calls are very consistent year over year with no notable trends. Of the 74 calls in 2022, 10 were fire calls (structures, grass fires), 33 were EMS, 2 were combustible spills/leaks, 2 were chemical reactions/toxins, 1 was an electrical wiring problem, there were 3 public service assists, 14 cancelled en route, 5 system malfunctions and 4 unintentional system calls. Fire Department is transitioning to a full time department in July. SAFER grant was denied. Majority of calls in township were EMS

Annual Meeting Minutes for 2023

calls, approximately 40. Was a good year, safety wise, for township. YTD 118 total calls so far in PL, SLT, Credit River . Transitioning to full time fire department. Full time fire department will begin in July. Firefighter interviews are taking place, 64 applications were received for 12 open positions.

Paid on call firefighters will remain as well. Remodel for fire station is just about complete.

Resident Questions:

- Define burn permit. Anytime a fire is over 3 x 3 a permit is required. \$40 fee good for 1 year.
- How many paid on call- have 30, approved for 50
- Does PL cover SMSC- SMSC has their own fire department

Water Resources Report.

- Spring Lake Association Presentation- see supporting documents
 - Celebrating 70 years
- Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Presentation- See supporting documents
 - Carp Seining
 - Fish Stocking- bluegill
 - Invasive Species Program- boat inspectors, record low number of violations
 - Upper Watershed Projects
 - Fish Lake Restoration Completion

Clerks Report/Town Hall Report.

- **BUILDING PERMITS**
 - **2022: 14 new home permits**
 - 2021: 10 new home permits
 - 2020: 18 new home permits
- **DEVELOPMENT**
 - **2022: 4 Developments/Admin Splits approved: 64 parcels**
 - **Includes: Amazed Acres=37; Scenic Bay=19; Vergus South=7**
 - 2021: 10 Small Developments/Admin Splits approved: 11 parcels
- **ANNEXATION-**
 - No new annexations in 2022
 - Annexation conversations halted mid-year
 - Discussion has resumed with the City of Prior Lake
 - Current agreement expires in 2025 with South Shore and Vergus areas planned for annexation in 2024.
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- **ELECTIONS**
 - Primary Election - 507 Voters
 - General Election – 2119 Voters
 - 76% of registered voters
 - Township Supervisor Election – 1436 Voters,
 - 1413 voted for Kowalski
 - 23 write ins
- **MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2022**
 - Town Hall Rentals-2022
 - Town Hall/Pavilion Reservations approximately 114 (vs 132 2021)(excludes board meetings)
 - Town Hall- events/meetings- \$13,327.50 (2021: 125 events \$12,792.50)

Annual Meeting Minutes for 2023

- 81 paid reservations (70%)
 - 28 unpaid (24%) (includes other gov't meetings/ Fish Lake Sportsman's Club)
 - Pavilion- 5 events -\$100 (2021: 7 events- \$245)
 - Fish Lake Sportsman's Club once a month September-May- barter agreement.
 - Living Joy every Sunday and a few other holidays throughout the year.
 - Vergus Monthly Availability Payments complete at the end of 2022.
 - Town Hall Lights- Upgraded to LED.
 - Security Cameras- Upgraded to allow offsite viewing and to ensure all access points covered.
- **LOOKING AHEAD IN 2023**
 - Larger Residential Developments – None on the horizon.
 - Rural Industrial/Commercial Development- Potential – Hentges.
 - McMahan Lake Outlet- Scott Soil and Water Conservation District will act as owner.
 - Annexation discussions to be revisited.
 - Prior Lake Development- homes being built on Springview (170th & Marshall) ~40 lots- interest rates impacting sales. Parkwood 47.5 acres (55 lots) off of Mushtown – Fishpoint Road is opened to Mushtown; homes are being built. Revere Place (180th and Revere) (20 lots)- homes going in. Interest remains in developing the area off of Sunset Ave in Prior Lake (west side of Spring Lake) – originally slated as Spring Lake Ridge.

Treasurer's Report. Copies of the 2022 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. A clean audit was reported.

In 2022 the Township had total receipts of \$3,449,778 and total disbursements of \$2,570,658.

The General Fund has total receipts of \$394,812 and total disbursements of \$564,221. The General Fund was reduced by \$169,409, leaving an ending balance of \$900,886.

The Road & Bridge Fund had receipts of \$999,776 and total disbursements of \$446,195 including transfers. The ending balance for the Road & Bridge Fund was \$2,131,596.

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

- Road miles – 40 paved / 16 gravel (56 miles)
- No major road improvement projects in 2022
- Road projects in 2023:
 - Flag Trail paving from Cty Rd 8 to Dorothy Way
 - Mill and Overlay in South Shore Drive area
 - Could be more based on road deterioration from tough winter
- 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
 - Routine Tree Trimming

Parks and Trails Report. Supervisor Kowalski/Supervisor Quinn Presented the Parks and Trails Report:

- Pavilion siding and inside work to be done in 2023
- Trails discussion
- New ADA picnic tables to be purchased

Designate time and location for 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Mauren Reeder made a motion to set the time and location of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting for 7:00 p.m., March 12, 2024 at the Spring Lake Town Hall, 20381 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake, MN. Kowalski seconded. All in favor.

General Discussion of Items of Concern.

Maureen Reeder gave a brief history of South Shore Drive and Vergus annexation with a potential footbridge and the township retaining parcels connecting the park. PLSLWD is supportive of the project. Asked the Board to consider adding planned foot bridge into the current South Shore Drive and consider bonding for the footbridge. Lerschen noted that she thinks the bridge would be valuable but is concerned about the cost of the bridge.

Motion to continue meeting. Kowalski made a motion to recess the Annual meeting to September 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the General Fund levy and the Road & Bridge Fund levy. Kowalski made a motion, Kelley seconded. All in favor. The meeting was recessed at 8:47 p.m.

Moderator Lerschen reconvened the annual town meeting at 7:14 p.m. on September 14, 2023

Setting the General Fund Levy. Johnson reviewed the proposed 2024 General Fund budget.

General Discussion had:

- Jill Romann & David Adams, 1826 Spring Lake Circle- regarding fire contact: noted that some cost savings may be realized in insurance premiums.
- Wesley Steffan, 2350 Raymond Ave- asked about assessed values and if they impacted taxes. Johnson explained how values worked.
- Kyle Coglitore, 4466 Hickory Hills Trail- asked for total number of calls in 2022. Staff shared total callouts: 74, 10 of which were fires.
 - Lerschen asked who determines if EMT or fire is called. Kowalski noted that Scott County dispatch makes that decision.
- Gail Molden, 17334 Vergus Ave-asked about when the annexation will actually happen. Johnson stated sometime in the last half of 2024.
 - Stefan asked about how taxes will be settled. Johnson noted that the municipalities will need to reconcile.
- Lisa Quinn noted that much attention, time and energy has been put into negotiations with the city and explained that we continue to try to negotiate to leave the areas of 24.1 and 24.2, which surround the lake, but have not had any success to date. The Board is aware of the impact had on the township.
 - Lerschen asked if more money were put towards the effort would it make a difference. Berens noted that we have met with attorneys to look at all opportunities for controlling the

Annual Meeting Minutes for 2023

- borders and at this point the Board has not found compelling options.
- Kim Prchal, 3135 200th St. E – agrees that spending more on legal fees won't be worth it but encourages additional negotiations for future agreement.
 - Coglitore asked if residents began to speak at the City of Prior Lake council meetings would it make a difference? The Board encouraged residents to accept the invitation extended by Prior Lake to attend their meetings and get questions answered.
 - Lerschen provided history of annexation.
 - Prchal asked about what happens with levy if annexation is delayed. Johnson shared there could be surplus that would be utilized in 2025 to offset levy.
 - Kowalski explained the history of negotiations and difficulties therein including the size of the area that was in the current OAA.
 - Romann– asked what benefits they get for the increased taxes and if they would get sewer water. Kowalski said that the agreement reads that services will be provided but the question is for the City and their policy.
 - Quinn confirmed with Johnson that inflation at 3% is calculated in and that fire contract will drive out year costs. Berens noted that the out-year costs are just maintaining our status not adding anything different to our township.
 - Coglitore asked about residential development and asked if there are ways to decrease development costs. Most costs are County fees and the Township does all it can to limit our fees. Kowalski stated that the Township has worked to try to get a more diversified tax base to limit the dependence on residential taxes including efforts to rezone an area for Rural Industrial but the County Commissioners voted it down. Quinn noted that our County Commissioner voted in favor of rezoning for Rural Industrial.

The proposed 2024 general fund budget is \$728,000 with a proposed levy of \$575,000. Kyle Coglitore made a motion to approve the 2024 general fund levy of \$575,000. Wesley Steffan seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Setting the Road and Bridge Fund Levy. Johnson presented the proposed 2024 budget for the road and bridge fund totaling \$1,745,000. The proposed levy is \$725,000.

General discussion had:

- Berens explained that none of the road projects have been approved, these numbers are just estimates so we can manage the budget effectively.
- Steffan asked about how cost share works.
- Questions asked about the difference in type of road reconstructions and the costs. Stordahl explained mill and overlay vs reconstruction.
- Berens explained assessment policy.

Coglitore made a motion to set the 2024 levy at \$725,000 Jill Romann seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Coglitore motioned to adjourn. Romann seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The 2023 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm

, Moderator

Melissa Hanson, Clerk