

SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
March 12, 2024

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

The 2024 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 Loren Hanson, Wesley Steffan seconded. Loren Hanson was elected Moderator of the 2024 Spring Lake Township Annual Town Meeting.

- The moderator presented a draft agenda for discussion and approval. The moderator called for revisions to the agenda. Steffan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Berens seconded. All in favor.

Noting that the minutes were made available for review before the meeting, the Moderator called for a motion approving the minutes of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Glenn Kelley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the 2023 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. Barbara Lerschen made a motion to waive the reading of the financial statements. Kowalski 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 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023 and provided an infographic with 2023 data. He noted that Spring Lake Township had 2nd highest call volume for the townships-840 (which is down 200 as a result of dispatch stopped using hwy department address for anonymous calls). The top calls were 98 medicals, 72 suspicious, 69 assists, 63 animal, 62 accidents, 61 alarms, 36 hazards, 27 welfare checks and 19 disturbances. Categories of calls changed in 2023.

Resident Questions/Comments:

- What areas are consistent accident hazards?
 - Marshall Rd and Country Trail as well as Marshall and Hwy 13.
- Is animal/car crash considered animal call?
 - It is considered a traffic call.
- Parkfield Ave Concerns: Meeting to be held here on Monday March 18 at 4:45. Calls are considered disturbance, assist or suspicion. Depends on how dispatch codes it.

Fire Services Report. Prior Lake Fire Chief Rick Steinhaus stated that in July 2023, they transitioned to full time fire department with some paid on call firefighters will remaining as well. Steinhaus stated the fire department responded to 88 calls in Spring Lake Township as compared to 74 calls in 2022. Of the 88 calls in 2023, 35 were EMS calls 10 fires (structures, grass fires, vehicle, outside rubbish), 5 were combustible spills/leaks, 3 were chemical reactions/toxins, there were 3 public service assists, 17 cancelled en route, 5 system malfunctions and 3 unintentional system calls. YTD 240 total calls so far in CR, SL and PL (88%), v 118 same time last year (2023)

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Since full time fire staff started there have been 1119 calls in 2023, a significant increase. Prior Lake EMS calls jumped 370% after full time department started. Steinhaus explained calls are dispatched through PL police department. They rely on the fire department at an assist level, even on a fire call. (EMS includes car accidents and medicals (not mental health). 5% increase in CR, SLT 19% increase). According to Steinhaus, because fire is now full time the Prior Lake PD is now calling them for just about every medical so they can continue their police work. Fire calls aren't increasing because fire is now full time department, fire is just getting more calls to assist from PL police department. In talks on how to manage that. Chief anticipates they will start going out on more sheriff calls as well. Just a matter on how it is dispatched and a difference in protocol.

Resident Questions/Comments:

- Does fire have ambulance?
 - No they do not. Ambulance service is covered by Allina in Spring Lake Township however, the patient has right to go to whatever hospital is requested.
- How much has fire budget gone up in last 5 years?
 - Roughly \$1,000,000
- Is cost to township for fire services based on calls?
 - No, it is based on estimated tax value of area, not based on calls.

Water Resources Report.

- Spring Lake Association Presentation- see supporting documents
 - Discussed 2024 goals and initiatives, communication methods, boating safety, map and need to know information.
 - DNR to provide lake with floating dock, installing a buoy channel, extend the concrete of the ramp.
 - Sand Point ramp on Prior Lake will be closed after July 4th for approximately 2 months to redo the ramp.
 - DNR not receptive to dredging channel.
- Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Presentation- See supporting documents
 - Carp Management: 11,500 pounds removed under ice seining, additional 400 pounds in summer. Bluegill stocking because bluegills eat carp eggs. Carp management is done on Fish, Spring and upper prior- all at different phases of mgmt.
 - Aquatic Invasive Species program: boat inspections to help manage contamination
 - Upper Watershed projects: Sutton Lake mgmt. plan, Fish Lake mgmt. plan, \$100,000 for projects in 2024
 - Water Quality- Spring Lake doing well (A and B's grade). Fish Lake (C grade)
 - Citizen Advisory Committee- Loren Hanson, Chair. Currently have 8 members, looking for more. Projects are to help watershed in overall goals. Goal for 2024 is more outreach to residents- not just on lake. Education on different topics that effect water/lake quality.

Resident Questions/Comments:

- How do you measure success?
 - If water quality indicators are improving, building flood reduction projects, maintain and reducing Aquatic Invasive Species spread.
- Have any studies been done or being planned to measure what effect the quantity of Spring Lake Estates boats are doing to Spring Lake?
 - NO, no study has been done and nothing is being planned.

MS4 Report – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System – pipes, ponds, curb, inlets, outlets, ditches.

As part of our permit we need to report each year at a public meeting.

- In 2021 a new MS4 permit to discharge water was issued by MPCA and completed by the township. Because of the significant changes to the permit, an annual report for 2022 or 2023 has been postponed.
- The six minimum control measures remain the same
 - Public Education and Outreach- facilitated by Scott Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP) with partners across the County to educate businesses and individuals about various impact on stormwater. Brochures for upcoming classes on rain gardens and controlled burns in the lobby.
 - Public Participation- sharing information at this meeting.
 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination- everyone should watch for dumping into the storm water systems which includes ditches. If you see anything, please contact Megan Tasca with Scott County.
 - Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control- Scott County manages this by managing sediment and erosion control for construction sites.
 - Post-Construction Storm Water Management- after construction of new roads or other developments, the run off must be managed and storm water maintained. Our engineers help the township with this and we are implementing a new system to help us track and manage maintenance more easily with GIS.
 - Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations- this applies to this facility – Spring Lake Townhall. We maintain the raingarden here and maintain catch basins in the township so that they are kept clean and functioning properly.

Clerk's Report

- **BUILDING AND DRIVEWAY PERMITS**
 - **2023: 26+ new home permits**
 - 2022: 14 new home permits
 - 2021: 10 new home permits
- **DEVELOPMENT**
 - **2023: Developments – 6 Subdivisions or Admin Splits approved for 7 new parcels**
 - 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 2023
 - Annexation conversations continue with the City of Prior Lake:
 - August 2023-December 2023 Joint Annexation Team created with County, Township and City to identify opportunities for a new agreement.
 - January 2024– Framework for a new agreement was reached leaving areas around Spring Lake in the Township permanently and putting 1900 acres that were in the previous Orderly Annexation Agreement into a new agreement for annexation.
 - Significant progress has been made on the terms and conditions of the agreement but there are two major issues that need to be resolved.
 - The City is no longer willing to allow the areas around the lake to remain permanently in the Township.

- The City has placed signing of an agreement on hold until the outcome is known for legislation (HF 4009 – SF 3964) that would allow multi-unit housing into areas zoned for single family homes, without public input, without requirements for parking and without consideration for infrastructure.

Resident Questions/Comments:

- Is it correct that possible Legislation only applies to cities over 10,000 people?
 - YES
- **ELECTIONS**
 - 2023 - Non-Election Year
- **ACTIVITIES IN 2023**
 - Town Hall/Pavilion
 - Town Hall/Pavilion Reservations approximately **122** (excluding board meetings) (2022-114 events)
 - Town Hall- events/meetings- 113 events totaling **\$13,337.50** (2022: 109 events, \$13,327.50)
 - i. 83 paid reservations (73%)
 - ii. 30 unpaid (27%) (includes other gov't meetings/ Fish Lake Sportsman's Club)
 - Pavilion- 9 events -\$240 (2022: 5 events- \$100)
 - Fish Lake Sportsman's Club once a month September-May- barter agreement
 - Living Joy Church every Sunday and a few other holidays throughout the year- pay
- Audio equipment installed in meeting room
- New carpet installed
- **LOOKING AHEAD IN 2024**
 - Larger Residential Developments – none on the immediate horizon.
 - Rural Industrial/Commercial Development- working on potential opportunity in Lydia.
 - McMahan Lake Outlet- Scott Soil and Water Conservation District will act as owner
 - Annexation discussions continue...
 - Elections – PNP was March 5th, Primary- August 13th, General- November 5th.

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 2023 the Township had total receipts of \$1,435,245 and total disbursements of \$2,157,116.

The General Fund has total receipts of \$745,313 and total disbursements of \$675,504. The General Fund was reduced by \$69,809, leaving an ending balance of \$970,695.

The Road & Bridge Fund had receipts of \$962,058 and total disbursements of \$707,974 including transfers. The ending balance for the Road & Bridge Fund was \$2,182,466.

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

- Road miles – 40 paved / 16 gravel (56 miles)
 - No roads added in the past year
 - Not aware of any proposed new roads in the near future

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- Only major road improvement project in 2023 was paving a section of Flag Trail which was mostly paid for by the developer of Scenic Bay Estates and money held by the township since the development of Raven Point a number of years ago.
- Subject to change but currently we aren't actively planning any major road improvement projects for 2024. Potential 2024 or 2025 projects include:
 - Mill and overlay of South Shore Drive, South Shore Circle, Rustic Hill Drive, Rustic Hill Court, and Sunrise Court, pending the outcome of OAA discussions with the City of Prior Lake.
 - Reclaim, shape and pave 190th between Panama Ave and Fairlawn
 - Reclaim, shape, and pave 195th west of Fairlawn
- Considering new assessment policy
- 2024 Road Maintenance work will be similar to past years.
 - Snow removal and ice control
 - Road tour will determine which roads need crack filling, seal coating, patching and other work
 - Ditch spraying for noxious weeds and woody vegetation
 - Shoulder mowing
 - Graveling
 - Grading
 - Routine tree trimming
 - Removal of hazardous trees including those infected with Emerald Ash Borer
 - Township has paid for dust coating on collector streets the past two years. In the next couple of months the Board will be considering dust coating for 2024.

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

- Pavilion siding replaced
- New ADA picnic tables
- New sand digger installed
- Shed painted and rotted trim replaced

Designate time and location for 2025 Annual Town Meeting. Steffan made a motion to set the time and location of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting for 7:00 p.m., March 11, 2025 at the Spring Lake Town Hall, 20381 Fairlawn Avenue, Prior Lake, MN. Berens seconded. All in favor.

General Discussion of Items of Concern.

Timeline for annexation:

- Waiting for outcome of zoning legislation, hopefully decided by May. Procedures need to be started by Fall in order to annex the lake areas.

Parkfield Ave concerns:

- Supervisor Kowalski has talked with Commissioner Wolf, Sheriff Hennen. Will be advocate for residents. Believes it is a management problem.

Motion to continue meeting. Kowalski made a motion to recess the Annual meeting to September 12,

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2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of setting the General Fund levy and the Road & Bridge Fund levy. Kowalski made a motion, Lerschen seconded. All in favor. The meeting was recessed at 8:39p.m.

Moderator Hanson reconvened the annual town meeting at 9:03 p.m. on September 12, 2024

Setting the General Fund Levy. Johnson reviewed the proposed 2025 General Fund budget. The proposed 2025 general fund budget is \$740,000 with a proposed levy of \$625,000

General Discussion had:

Lerschen-

Asked about cash balance to cover township for 6 months. Johnson; We have enough cash to cover township for 1 year.

Asked if cost of asphalt gone up or down. Stordahl: Cost has gone up.

Asked if south shore drive road project happening. Stordahl: now that annexation agreement has been approved it will proceed as a township project.

Kowalski made a motion to approve the 2025 general fund levy of \$625,000. Lerschen seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Setting the Road and Bridge Fund Levy. Johnson presented the proposed 2025 budget for the road and bridge fund totaling \$650,000. The proposed levy is \$750,000.

General discussion had: NONE

Berens made a motion to set the 2025 levy at \$750,000 Lerschen seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Hanson motioned to adjourn. Kowlaski seconded. All in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote. The 2024 Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

, Moderator

Melissa Hanson, Clerk