

Annual Meeting Minutes
Maine Prairie Township
March 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Clerk/Treasurer Hunt with the pledge to the flag.

Nominations opened to elect a moderator. Motion by Supervisor Loewen and seconded by Erin Gutwasser to close nominations and elect Gary Woods as Moderator. All in favor, motion passed.

Deputy Clerk Robinson announced the results of the election. The election was to elect one (1) supervisor for a three (3) year term with Eugene Deering, Jr. running unopposed. There were a total of forty-three (43) votes cast, Eugene Deering, Jr. received nineteen (19) votes, John Wicker received nineteen (19) write-in votes, Keith Donnay received four (4) write-in votes and Dave VanVleet received one (1) write-in vote.

Due to the election ending in a tie, the Board determines winner by lot. The Board of Canvass met Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 8:15 p.m. to canvass the results of the election, with John Wicker winning the coin toss. Motion by Supervisor Kuechle/loewen to approve the results of the election.

Clerk Hunt read the minutes from the March 18, 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion by Supervisor Kuechle, seconded by Mike Schneider to approve the March 18, 2016, Annual Meeting Minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Clerk/Treasurer Hunt presented the treasurer's report. Motion by Supervisor Loewen, seconded by Jim Young, to approve the treasurer's report for year ended 12/31/2016. All in favor, motion passed. Charlie Craft asked if the Town Hall was paid off, to which Clerk/Treasurer Hunt informed him that inter fund payments are still being paid.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Projected/Future Road Projects for 2017:

83rd Avenue: Supervisor Loewen explained to the electorate that 83rd Avenue is a shared road with the City of Kimball that runs from 135th street South to County Road 44, approximately 2,600 feet. As of right now, the City of Kimball does not have money in the budget to move forward with 83rd Avenue Road Improvements, and suggested converting the road back to gravel.

Loewen informed the electorate that 83rd Avenue bid quantities were received from Randy Sabart, (SEH), and reviewed making adjustments accordingly. Bid notices were published for two (2) consecutive weeks, in the Tri-County News and the Cold Spring Record respectively, a

bid advertisement was also sent to Quest CDN, a Construction Data Network designed to deliver construction bid advertisements.

A plan holders list of previous contractors on construction jobs was also received from Jodi Teich, Stearns County and an invitation to submit bids for 83RD Avenue Road Improvement Project, along with a bid form and bid notice w/ cover letter was sent. He stated that bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the April 11th Board meeting, but emphasized that much will depend on what numbers the bids come in at, with the Township having the right to refuse any and all bids. Loewen stated that there was no definite answer as of right now, but 83rd Avenue is our top priority.

Charlie Craft asked if there was a fall back road plan in place, to which Chair Wicker explained that there is no master road plan, but as of now, the Township has been using road counts, with one-third of the roads being counted.

Fire Contracts: Motion by Chair Wicker, seconded by Bob Pike to approve the figures as follows:

Watkins Fire Department	\$ 6,422.70	Contract Year: 4/1/2017 through 3/31/2018
Kimball Fire Department	\$53,590.99	Contract Year: 1/1/2018 through 12/31/2018
Rockville Fire Department	<u>\$21,051.00</u>	Contract Year: 4/1/2017 through 3/31/2018
Total	\$81,064.69	

All in favor, motion carried.

Open Forum:

Friends of the Library: Erin Gutwasser and Amanda Loewen were present on behalf of Kimball Area Friends of the Library to share information with the electorate about library concerns. Gutwasser informed the electorate that a library assessment was taken in July of 2016 of the building structure (Kimball branch) by Great River Regional Library and was deemed insufficient in the following areas:

- Space
- Handicap Accessibility
- Air Quality
- Sound and Noise Control
- Hard Shelving

Gutwasser explained that the current building is the City of Kimball's responsibility and right now cannot afford to do anything. Gutwasser encouraged the electorate to voice concerns to the City Council Members. Gutwasser also stated that they were in the process of finding people to help write grants.

Mike Schneider, Kimball Fire Chief, was present to speak on behalf of the Kimball Fire Department. Mr. Schneider informed the Electorate that Maine Prairie Township had a total of forty-nine (49) calls. Thirty-seven (37) of the calls were for medical purposes and (12) calls were for fire.

Schneider spoke of the 100th year celebration for the Kimball Fire Department that was held on March 12, with about 100 people attending. A public celebration at the Triple R in Kimball is planned in July. Schneider informed the electorate that as of current there are a mix of young and old with twenty-five (25) people currently on the force. An increase in fire amounts was contributed to keep personal on the payroll. Gary Woods asked where money comes from to fund new equipment, to which Schneider informed that a good portion of money comes from charitable gambling.

Charlie Craft asked how things were going with the new administrator at the City of Rockville, to which Clerk Hunt stated very smoothly. Craft also stated that Grand Lake Road, a shared road with Rockville should be overlaid.

Charlie Craft shared suggestions to the electorate and Board for future Annual Meetings as follows:

- Include in the minutes the number of people who attended the meeting.
- Introductions at the beginning of the meeting.
- Seating – everyone should sit in a circle.
- The Board has to tell the moderator, that the job of the moderator is a paid position.
- According to Statutes, the electorate must set the time of the next Annual Meeting, as well as the date.

Gary Woods asked if we could swap part of shared roads. Supervisor Loewen stated that we would be taking a huge risk of the possibility of the road being annexed, which would lead to other complications.

Dave Lochen asked about having 83rd Avenue converting to gravel, would we be ahead by adding calcium chloride, Chair Wicker informed him that yes we would be ahead.

Pat Vinkemeyer reported a pot hole that needs to be filled on Countryside Lane. Hendricks will check it out.

Levy: Motion by Jim Young and seconded by Bob Pike to set the 2018 levy at \$627,300.00, levied as follows: General-\$95,754.00; Road & Bridge-\$325,000.00; Snow Removal-\$75,000.00; Blading-\$33,000.00, Fire-\$86,000.00 and Town Hall-\$12,546. All in favor, motion passed.

2018 Annual Meeting: Motion by Supervisor Loewen, seconded by Gary Woods to set March 13, 2018 at 8:15 p.m. for the Maine Prairie Township Annual Meeting. All in favor, motion passed.

There being no further business, Motion by Bonnie Hoskins and seconded by Jim Young to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. All in favor, motion passed.

Gary Woods, Moderator

Lori Hunt, Clerk/Treasurer