

Deerwood Township  
Deerwood Township Annual Meeting  
March 14, 2017

Carol Pundt, clerk, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Josh Thompson.

Present: Gina Hlidek, Richard Hlidek, David Gray, James Rude, Josh Thompson, Claudia Tessmer, Fred Tessmer, Jim Walth, Donna Swanson, Duane Swanson.

A motion was made by Fred Tessmer and seconded by Josh Thompson to nominate James Walth as moderator of the meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

The minutes were read by Carol Pundt, clerk. A motion was made by Fred Tessmer and seconded by Josh Thompson to approve the minutes as read. All voted in favor of the motion.

Amy Donovan, treasurer, summarized the Township financial report. Fred Tessmer wanted more clarification of the report because it included the summary of the December financial report and was not the usual financial report handed out at the annual meeting. Carol Pundt brought out the 2016 Township financial records for review. She also explained that at the bottom of the monthly report was the yearend financial information. A more detailed report will be handed out next year. The question came up that the report needed to be approved as a budget/audit procedure. It was explained the Board had their Budget/Audit meeting on March 6, 2017 to review and approve the financial reports. A motion was made by Fred Tessmer and seconded by David Gray to accept the financial reports as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Deerwood Fire Contract/David Gray: David Gray reported to the voters in attendance the Township paid Deerwood Fire Department \$53,397.97 in 2016 which will be "roughly the same" amount in 2017 and 2018.

Road & Bridge Report: Carol Pundt told the voters in attendance the Township received \$270,145.36 and spent \$367,620.26 in 2016. \$138,418.76 in billings was due to the storm damage on 7/19/16 which was an unplanned budget item. The Township is hoping most of the monies will be reimbursed by the County due to the catastrophic event.

James Walth gave an update on the Nelson and Placid Drive road project. There was a question regarding if the bonds had been issued. The Township is still working on finding an agency to purchase the bonds. Bids for Nelson Drive are being let and will be opened on April 12, 2017 at Widseth, Smith, Nolting in Baxter, MN. The Nelson Road project bid will be awarded in May at a Special Township Board meeting still to be announced. The Placid Drive road project is on hold awaiting survey regarding an endangered plant species called the Purple Flower Bladder Wart, which may be in the location of the road project. The botanical survey can only be conducted in the summer months when the plant is in bloom.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by Fred Tessmer to approve the 2018 Levy for \$420,000, with the General Fund at \$30,000, Fire Fund at \$55,000, Town Hall Fund at \$15,000, the Road and Bridge Fund at \$200,000 and the Road and Bridge Bond Repayment Fund at \$120,000. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Jim Rude and seconded by Josh Thompson to designate the Deerwood Bank and Unity Bank as the Township's financial depositories. All voted in favor of the motion.

The Crosby Courier is the official Township publication with the Brainerd Dispatch to be used for emergency situations. The official posting locations are the Deerwood Town Hall, Deerwood Post Office and Deerwood TruValu. Please check the township website for the Township Calendar of events/meetings at [www.deerwoodtownship.org](http://www.deerwoodtownship.org).

The day month and time of the regular Township Board meetings are the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless it is a national holiday at which time the meeting will be held on the following Wednesday.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by David Gray to hold the 2018 annual meeting at the Deerwood Town Hall starting at 6:30p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Donations: Donations requests letters received by the Township will be reviewed by the Board at the April Board meeting. Last year \$500 was given to the Deerwood First Responders. As advised by the Minnesota Townships Association in their Winter 2017 Township Newsletter, there is no general authority to donate town funds to a non-profit entity. Supervisors cannot merely follow the direction of the voters, at the annual meeting, to provide donations.

Other Business:

Fred Tessmer asked for an update on information regarding action on a 5 member Supervisor Township Board which was discussed at the 2016 Township annual meeting. No action was taken. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of a 5 member board with no decision. A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by Claudia Tessmer to put this item on the April Board meeting agenda for discussion. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Josh Thompson and seconded by Claudia Tessmer to reconvene the Annual Meeting for August 14, 2017 at 6:30p.m. at the Deerwood Town Hall to discuss adopting any Levy changes. All voted in favor of the motion.

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Clerk

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Moderator