

Deerwood Township
Deerwood Township Annual Meeting
Deerwood Town Hall Building
March 8, 2022

Carol Pundt, clerk, called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carol Pundt.

Present: David Gray, Jim Walth, Amy Donovan, Josh Thompson, Carol Pundt, Marcel Dahl, James Rude

A motion was made by David Gray and seconded by James Rude to nominate Josh Thompson as moderator of the meeting. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by David Gray and seconded by Amy Donovan to approve the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The March 9, 2021 annual meeting minutes were reviewed by those in attendance. A motion was made by James Rude and seconded by David Gray to approve the annual meeting minutes. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Amy Donovan, treasurer, summarized the Township financial report. This report had been approved by the Board at their Budget/Audit meeting on February 24, 2022.

Road & Bridge Report: A written road report, which was prepared by Steve Reilly, was included in the agenda packet for review. The Township plans to chip seal Cedar Lake Drive, Cedar Springs Land and North Hamlet in 2022. Retro reflectivity testing of all cautionary, advisory and warning Township traffic signs will be done in 2022. James Rude asked why the State Highway Department is using bigger stones when chip sealing portions of Highway 18. Steve Reilly welcomes suggestions on how to improve road operations in the Township.

A motion was made by Amy Donovan and seconded by James Rude to approve the 2023 Levy for \$495,000, with the General Fund at \$40,000, Fire Fund at \$55,000, Town Hall Fund at \$0, the Road and Bridge Fund at \$270,000 and the Road and Bridge Bond Repayment Fund at \$130,000. All voted in favor of the motion. There will be no increase in the Levy for 2023. All voted in favor of the 2023 Levy. Motion passed unanimously. The Township Board did not want to raise taxes in 2023 due to the recent increases in the cost of living for the residents of the Township. There was a question from those attending asking if the Township had received any Federal Funding. The Township received \$76,983.59 in 2021.

A motion was made by Marcel Dahl and seconded by David Gray to designate Deerwood Bank as the Township financial depository. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Crosby Courier was designated as the official Township publication with the Brainerd Dispatch to be used for emergency situations at the Township's January 10, 2022 Reorganization meeting. The official posting locations are the Deerwood Town Hall, Deerwood Post Office and Deerwood TruValu. It was discussed at the meeting Public Notices posted on the Post Office bulletin board have been taken down before the meeting date on the notice by someone other than the Township clerk. Please check the township website for the Township Calendar of events/meetings at 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 Thursday.

A motion was made by Amy Donovan and seconded by James Walth to hold the 2023 annual meeting at the Deerwood Town Hall starting at 6:30p.m. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Donations: Donations requests letters received by the Township will be reviewed by the Board at the April Board meeting. 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:

James Rude wanted to know how the clerk can be the clerk for Deerwood Township and Bay Lake Township. The clerk is an appointed position (hired) at Deerwood Township and an elected official at Bay Lake Township. Since the clerk has no voting rights on either Board there is not a conflict of interest by being a clerk in both Townships at the same time.

It was also discussed that the Board must be doing a good job because of the low attendance at this meeting. The Township annual meeting is a meeting of the residents of the Township. The most important part of this meeting is the residents vote on the Levy for the next year. It would be wonderful to see more people in attendance at this "Grass Roots" form of government.

James Walth told everyone in attendance the clerk and treasurer are doing a fabulous job and he appreciates the work they do for the Township. This was acknowledged by all the Board members in attendance. The Board members in attendance also gave many thanks to Steve Reilly for all his hard work.

A motion was made by James Rude and seconded by Marcel Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. All voted in favor of the motion.

Clerk

Moderator