

**LYNDEN TOWNSHIP
STEARNS COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2023**

Township Clerk Jenny Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. David L Johnson made a motion to elect Jeff Westrum to moderate the annual meeting, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

8:15: Todd Voigt made a motion to waive the reading of the 2022 March annual meeting minutes, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

8:17: Tom Plaggerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting, seconded by Todd Voigt, all in favor, motion passed.

8:18: The 2022 treasurer's report was available for review. Treasurer Jean Schermer presented the Board of Audit report and highlights of the treasurer's report. The annual audit was convened on January 24th and the Clerk's and Treasurer's books and Lake Central Bank statements balanced exactly. 2022 revenue was \$817,785, of which \$113,434 is ARPA and expenditures were \$539,866. At the close of 2022, the checking account balance was \$734,200, of which \$198,553 is ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act).

8:21: David L Johnson made a motion to waive the reading of all checks written and received in 2022, seconded by Dennis Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

8:22: Annandale Fire: Sean Pearson and Adam Harvey represented the Annandale Fire Department. They responded to 334 total calls in 2022, 12 of which were in Lynden Township. Average response time in Lynden Twp is 14 minutes, 40 seconds. The Department has 22 members. They do not anticipate any new equipment this year. The levy request for 2024 is \$13,323. (no change from 2023).

8:24: Clearwater Fire: Chief Mike Keller and John Schmidt represented the Clearwater Fire Department. They responded to 373 total calls in 2022, most of which were medical, with an average response time for Lynden Twp of 8 minutes, 16 seconds. To date the 2023 calls are down from 2022. Sharing information occurs quarterly thru the fire commission and the process is working great. The Department has 22 members. Many volunteers helped with a fundraising effort for new SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). The levy request for 2024 is \$95,300 (+0.2%). On behalf of the township, David Johnson and Dennis Niemi thanked both departments for their service.

8:31: Clearwater Public Library 2023 Annual Support: Moderator Westrum called for a motion to authorize the Lynden Township Board to donate \$2,000 to the Clearwater Branch of the Great River Regional Library, Clerk Schmidt notes that no request for donation has been received from the Library since 2019, item fails for lack of a motion.

8:32: Road Report 2022: Supervisor Dennis Niemi reported. In 2022 we spot graveled the gravel roads as needed. This year graveling the south 1/3 of the Township will occur and we will need to purchase gravel. We chip coated Birchwood Rd., 17th Ave. and the Town Hall parking lot. Ditches were mowed and brush cut back where needed, as well

as applying Magnesium Chloride to all of our gravel roads. In 2023 we will increase the amount of Magnesium Chloride on some of our busiest roads. In 2023 we plan to chip coating 200th St. E from CR44 to 21st Ave., 21st Ave. from 200th St. E. to 202nd St. E., 202nd St. E. from 21st Ave. to the end, and Edison Circle. Also in 2023 our Engineer will develop a plan for the section of 200th St E. from 21st Ave to CR145 so we can reclaim and repave that section of 200th St in 2024. Roads that are improved may be raised to 9 ton roads. We are looking forward to a 5 year road plan soon.

8:40: Anne Ackerman request to recall the agenda item of Clearwater Public Library 2023 Annual Support: Anne Ackerman made a motion to authorize the Lynden Township Board to donate \$2,000 to the Clearwater Branch of the Great River Regional Library, seconded by Hilary Studinski, all in favor, motion passed. Johnson alerts Moderator Westrum that the motion must contain the statutory language. Ackerman amends her motion to include the language as permitted by MN Statutes §§ 134.12 & 365.10, allowing payments to the library for the benefits library services provide locally in that it is a convenience to township residents, serves a public purpose and is in the township's best interest to authorize this donation, and to allow this to come from the ARPA Funds, seconded by Hilary Studinski, all in favor, motion passed.

8:43: David L. Johnson, Town Board Chair presented township updates which included:

- There were 89 building permits issued in 2022, most of which were reshingle, including 3 new single-family structures with a preliminary valuation increase of \$2.262 million for all permits.
- We hold contracts with Allspec, Nancy Scott as Chief Building Official, Hakanson and Anderson Engineering contract is pending, Schendzielos for Summer road maintenance, Schabel for snow plowing, Republic Services for recycling, Couri and Ruppe as our Attorney, Patriot News for official publications, and Lake Central Bank for depository of funds.
- ARPA Funding received to date is \$226,869 with a balance of \$198,553. Funds must be disbursed by 2024, and be committed by contract by 2023. Town Hall improvements of: foundation repair (pending), central air, furnace, install LED lighting, additional cameras, improve sound system, and internet upgrade.
- 4 major projects pending: Hazard Mitigation Program with FEMA and Stearns Emergency Mgmt to increase the number of emergency sirens. Estimated cost of \$400,000.
- Hazard Mitigation Program with FEMA and Stearns Emergency Mgmt to establish dry hydrants off Long Lake for fire suppression. We have obtained the support of DNR and Stearns Co Engineer. Estimated cost of \$150,000 - \$175,000
- State Park Road Account (SPRA) Grant to request 100% funding to upgrade Eaglewood Rd up to the lake access. We have obtained the support of the DNR and Stearns Co Engineer. Estimated cost of \$570,000
- Land Acquisition on the corner of 208th Str and CR44. Sale is pending with the City of St Cloud for the 6 acre parcel at a cost of \$66,500, using ARPA Funds. This potentially could be the future site of a town hall, storage of road materials, and clean-up day site. No decisions have been made as to time lines or funding mechanisms. The goal of the Board is to minimize the impact that this would have on the levy.

9:01: Johnson reviewed the components of the proposed 2024 levy, which consists of 4 funds.

Johnson presented the proposed levy as follows:

| YEAR 2024 | PROPOSED LEVY |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Road and Bridge | \$ 450,000 |
| General Government | \$ 99,700 |
| Annandale Fire | \$ 13,323 |
| Clearwater Fire | \$95,300 |
| Total | \$658,323 |

- Overall the proposed levy for 2024 is +11%

9:11 Ian Anderson made a motion to approve the levy as presented by the Board, seconded by Dennis Niemi, all in favor motion passed.

9:12 Election results were announced as follows:

Number of voters: 85 signatures on the polling place roster, 2 absentee. 87 total ballots were cast.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Candidate: | David L Johnson (Supervisor) | Votes Received: 32 |
| Write In Candidate: | Scott O’Konek Supervisor) | Votes Received: 55 |
| Candidate: | Jean Schermer (Treasurer) | Votes Received: 85 |

The Board of Canvass will meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, to review the summary statement and canvass the votes. Scott O’Konek won the three year Supervisor Term. Jean Schermer won the two year Treasurer term.

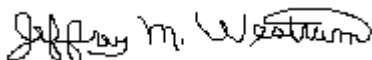
On behalf of the residents of Lynden Township, we would like to thank David L Johnson for his many years of service.

The Annual Meeting for 2024 will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:15 pm. at the Lynden Town Hall.

9:13 Jean Schermer made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by Scott O’Konek, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Schmidt, Clerk



Jeff Westrum, Moderator