2023 Sunrise Township Annual Meeting
Royal Wilcox Community Center
Sunrise, Minnesota
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Vice Chair Jeske Noordergraaf called the 2023 Sunrise Township Annual meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

Supervisor Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson
Supervisor Dan Kaiser
Supervisor Eric Leivian
Supervisor Jeske Noordergraaf
Supervisor Mark Osland (absent)
Clerk Wendy Kowalke
Treasurer Karen Anderson (absent)
Engineer: Cristina Mlejnek
Maintenance: Troy Montague

Others Present

Dan Harrington	BJ Thorstenson	Greg Strom
Ted Meyers	Tyler Richter	Andrea Richter
Lynn Wolleat	Peggy Pearson	Shane Stepp
Dan Harrington	Brennett Harrington	Joyce Meyers
Dave Stertz	Commissioner Dan Dahlberg	Steve Childs
Janelle Agness	Bill Campbell	James McCarthy

Appointment of Moderator: Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson to have Greg Strom be moderator. Hearing no other nominations - Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Motion by David Stertz, second by Lynn Wolleat to approve the 2022 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: James McCarthy, second by BJ Thorstenson. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Supervisor Eric Leivian went over treasurer's report. Books closed for 2023. Checking account balance for 2022 is $993,618.54. ARPA certificate of deposit balance is $220,460.54.

- Questions: There were questions on budget vs. actuals.
- Jeske Noordergraaf explained that River Road and Mill Street had a grant that had some reimbursement dollars that came through in 2023, so not reflected on 2022 sheet.
- It was explained that there would be a one-time budget increase in 2024 for new town hall if approved.
- Citizens have asked the Town Board to spend down some of the reserve money in the past.
- Black Top Levy is funding for money that is already spent – some costs were front loaded and part of it is being recouped. 2024 is the last year for the black top fund.

- Road paving – traffic counts are taken in consideration for roads to be determined to be blacktopped. Sunrise works with the engineer to obtain grants from the state and it depends what the criteria is for the grants. Also, Tiller Corporation is not willing to help pave River Road.

Motion by Dan Harrington, second by Lynn Wolleat to approve treasurer's report.

Proposed 2024 Levy: Supervisor Eric Leivian went over the budget. At the February 28 and March 7, 2023 Budget meeting there was a motion by Mark Osland, second by Dan Kaiser to bring the below 3% or 5% options to the Citizens of Sunrise Township at the March 14, 2023 Annual Township Meeting. Motion was carried with 2 opposed – Eric Leivian and Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson. A separate Levy for the Blacktop Fund of $100,000.00 will continue through 2024, which the Citizens approved for 5 years in 2019. Motion carried.

Option 1

- Motion by James McCarthy, second by Ted Meyers. 3% increase - $15,941.27 (7.42 per citizen) Levy total = $547,316.18 plus $100,000.00 blacktop levy (2 separate levies)
- There was much conversation on Option 1 and Option 2. Tyler Richter gave a New Town Hall Report and is urging a vote on Option 2 – See New Town Hall agenda item below.
- Motion failed with 1 in favor. Motion failed.

Option 2

- Motion by James McCarthy, second by Joyce Meyers. 5% increase - $26,568.78 New Town Hall Fund ($12.37 per citizen) Levy total = $557,944.32 plus $100,000.00 blacktop levy (2 separate levies)
- Town Hall
- Motion carried with 1 opposed. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – Dan Dahlberg: Mr. Dahlberg came to introduce himself as the new County Commissioner. We are the only County around that does not allow secondary living facilities in our building. Chisago County Zoning is updating their zoning which Commissioner Dan Dahlberg believes is in the new zoning draft plan. BJ Thorstenson is wondering if there are any plans to obtain more money from the solar companies. Commissioner Dahlberg said it bypasses the County and goes to public utilities commission. Solar companies do not get taxed like a business. Changes have to take place at the legislature. Decommissioning in 20 years is a concern.

2022 Annual Township Report: Annual Report available at meeting. Motion by BJ Thorstenson, second by Ted Krause to accept the Annual Township Report with correction of adding No Parking on River Road and Mill Street under Ordinances. Motion carried

Road Report: Annual Road report is included in the Annual Township Report. Motion by BJ Thorstenson, second by Ted Krause to accept the road report. Motion carried.

Donation Requests:

Motion by Joyce Meyers, second Bobbi Harrington to distribute $4,000 at the discretion of the Town Board at the April meeting. Motion carried.

Donation requests were received by Family Pathways, Chisago County Historical Society, Chisago County Ag Society, Chisago Age Well, Seven County Senior Federation, Sunrise Cemetery Association.

Gopher Bounty: Motion by Lynn Wolleat, second by BJ Thorstenson to set gopher bounty at $4.00 per pair for pocket gophers. Motion carried.

Gravel Update: 6,000 yards being purchased from Rydberg and sons.

Ferry Road: Jeske Noordergraaf said Sunrise is trying to improve the way snowmobiles use the road with signage and working with the snowmobile club.

Ferry Road – Snowmobiles: Working with the snowmobile club for better signage. Peggy Pearson asked about being on the seal coat list. Road tour will be done in the spring and will be assessed if Ferry Road needs to be seal coated.

New Town Hall: Tyler Richter, Town Hall Building Task Force Member. Obtained preliminary estimates (not bids) – roughly speaking is approximately $400,000 – additional costs – site preparation, electrical, etc. Tried to look at the future. Question: Site has not been decided. There are 2 viable sites (one where the garage/structure is, on the other side of the driveway and the second site would be across the river off CR 9 / Ferry Road. Discussion took place on the pros and cons of each site. If approved, the site will be discussed at a future date. Jeske Noordergraaf – one of things that started this Sunrise Township has approximately $245,000 in the budget for a town hall and received approximately $220,000 of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. The Town Board is not interested bonding for a new building. There is an expiration date on ARPA funds needs to be spent by 2026. Someone in a judiciary role could manage the process or a contractor could possibly handle the project. Lynn Wolleat – concerned about sufficient space for parking in the current location – lot is not level – taking down structure. Discussion, again, on the 2 site. People living on Ferry Road are concerned about more traffic if the new town hall is built on the 10-acre site. Community is growing. Public use for the building was discussed. There will not be a commercial kitchen put in this building.

American Rescue Plan: Jeske Noordergraaf indicated the money is intended to be used for the New Town Hall.

River Road / Mill Street: Jeske Noordergraaf said that river road / Mill Street was paved 2022 – sidewalk – and parking also put in. There will be additional work completed in spring, 2023.

Funding Programs: Outdoor Rec Grant – considering for next solicitation (park parking lot improvements, kayak launch and access to kayak launch – public input needed): No discussion. Sunrise owns some land along the river.

Community Night Out: Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Motion carried.

2024 Annual Meeting: Motion by Tyler Richter, second by Ted Meyers to hold the 2024 annual meeting on Tues., March 12, 2024 at 8:15 at the Sunrise Town Hall. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Public Comment: When is the decision on the new town hall site going to be addressed. There will be discussion taking place immediate future Regular Town Board Meetings to discuss the new town hall site.

Sunrise Township March 14, 2023 Election Results: Clerk Kowalke read the Election Results. ***A Total of 27 votes cast***
(Total number of on register of electors 1,503)

Supervisor A – Three (3) Year Term
Greg Strom.....25
John Swenson.....1
Lynn Wolleat.....1

Supervisor B – Three (3) year Term
Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson....18
Tyler Richter.....2
William Campbell.....1
Anyone.....1
Blank.....5

Motion by BJ Thorstenson, second by Ted Meyers to accept the Township Election Results as read. The Canvass Board will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2023 immediately following the annual meeting to certify the election results. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Motion by Dan Harrington, second by BJ Thorstenson to adjourn at 9:39 p.m.

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Attest: Wendy Kowalke, Clerk Moderator