2024 Sunrise Township Annual Meeting
Royal Wilcox Community Center
Sunrise, Minnesota
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Chair Jeske Noordergraaf called the 2024 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 Greg Strom
Supervisor Jeske Noordergraaf
Supervisor Mark Osland
Clerk Wendy Kowalke
Treasurer Karen Anderson
Engineer: Cristina Mlejnek
Maintenance: Troy Montague

Others Present

Lynn Wolleat
Randy Swanson
James McCarthy
Troy Montague
Peggy Pearson
Rick Olseen
BJ Thorstenson
Charlotte Wilcox
Reed Miner
Hayden Thorstenson
Sara Rockensock
Deah Szymanski
Terry Lindberg
Martha Arnold
Mike Heinen
Bill Campbell
Dave Stertz
Adam Grovobe
Eric Leivian
Victoria Heydt
Dan Dahlberg
Leilani Freeman
Jake Holzem
Barb Lindberg
Tyler Richter
Erica Heinen
Denise Martin
Shane Stepp
Connie Grovobe
Vincent Bennett
Chris Christoforides
Matt Rockensock
Janet Swanson

Appointment of Moderator: Jeske Noordergraaf asked for motions to appoint a moderator. Motion by James McCarthy, second by Eric Leivian to nominate Rick Olseen. Hearing no other nominations - Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Motion by BJ Thorseten, second Eric Leivian to approve the 2024 agenda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: Motion by Dave Stertz, second by Adam Grobove, III to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Karen Anderson went over treasurer's report. Books closed for 2024. Checking account balance for 2023 is $1,365,206.01. Savings account balance is zero as Sunrise Township does not have a savings account. Treasurer's report was available at the Annual Meeting.

Motion by BJ Thorstenson, second by Eric Leivian.
Discussion:
Tyler Richter asked if the black topping fund for new blacktop roads.

Treasurer Anderson said the blacktop fund is for new black top roads.

Maintenance Fund is for crack filling, chip sealing and striping
Road and Bridge Fund is for everything else.
The current blacktop fund runs from 2019 through 2024.
Jake Holzem: Discussion took place regarding reimbursement for blacktop roads that had state funding applications.

Motion carried.

Blacktop Fund (possible renewal of blacktop fund): The original blacktop fund has been in affect from 2019 and runs through 2024. Rick Olseen mentioned if we are not borrowing for blacktopping, we could be building the cash account for future blacktopping. Jeske Noordergraaf said there is no plans in the near future to pave roads at this point. Recent roads that have been blacktopped are Ferry Road, Mill and River and Olson Road.
BJ Thorstenson mentioned that high traffic roads are a concern. Mark Osland said that Wilcox will be an issue down the road. Wilcox is one of the most high traffic roads in Sunrise Township. Troy Montague said there was a car count completed on Kost Trail which resulted in 209 cars in a day. It is a hard road to get paved because it does not have a very good base.
Reed Miner would like to see a scope of work if the Town Board is planning on blacktopping roads
James McCarthy said typically the minimum threshold is 400 cars per road up to 1,000 before it is cost effective to pave.
Jeske Noordergraaf said Sunrise Township Engineer Cristina Mlejnek has a Township Maintenance plan. Clerk Kowalke to post the maintenance plan on Sunrise Township website.
Eric Leivian – with the road plan it would show what the cost of paving those roads would be. Is it feasible with introducing a blacktop fund. Cristina Mlejnek said the costs are to help plan for blacktopping and graveling.
David Stertz asked if Sunrise Township has a rough idea of potential blacktop costs. Do any of the roads meet the threshold of 400 cars per day. Troy Montague said Kost Trail was at 209 per day, Wilcox Road was around 212 and 215 cars per day. The cost for a total reconstruct of Kost Trail is around $1.6 mil or $247,000 for just a bituminous overlay. The estimate was approximately 2 years ago.
Cristina Mlejnek continues to look for funding that would be good fit for Kost Trail.
Treasurer Karen Anderson went over the reserves.
Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson said that the Town Board does not want to bond or assess residents on the road.
Randy Swanson would like to have the Town Board identify what we want to accomplish.
Motino by Lynnn Wolleat to continue blacktop fund at $100,000 per year for the next 5 years. Lacking a second. Motion failed.

Fire Fund Update: Jeske Noordergraaf informed the Citizens on the future costs for Almelund Fire and Rescue to Sunrise Township. Future contracts will be as follows due to the purchase of a new truck at a cost of $800 to $900,000. Amador will be picking up 50% of the cost and Sunrise is as follows:
Year 2025 will be an additional $10,775.72 (1st year is interest only)

Year 2026 will be an additional $33,387.26 for 10 years.
This will continue for the length of the bond.

Proposed 2025 Levy:

- *Levy: 2025*: Motion by James McCarthy, second by David Stertz to accept the 2025 Tax Levy at 0% increase for 2025 and letting the current blacktop fund sunset at the end of the current levy of 2024. Setting the levy at $557,944.32. Motion carried.
- *Eric Levian* – asked if there any capital improvements for 2025. Jeske Noordergraaf said Sunrise Township is planning on replacing one of the trucks. Mark Osland said there is plenty in reserve and do not see an issue with having a 0% increase.
- *Rick Olseen* – how is this affecting the tax base. This is a County Auditor question. Carl Peter "Pete" Johnson mentioned that when looking at taxes to remember to take a look at where your taxes are being applied such as schools, county and state taxes.

Set 2025 Budget: Motion by James McCarthy, second by David Stertz to set the Sunrise Town budget at $863,250.00. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – Dan Dahlberg: Commissioner Dan Dahlberg went over current road projects. The main Chisago County project is CR 10. There is a lot of pedestrian and bike traffic. Long term plan part of CR 10 had state funding come in, but all the funding didn't come in. Chisago County Planning Commission is working on revamping all of the zoning and ordinances. Commissioner Dahlberg would like one on one input from Sunrise Town Board. Storage units, accessory dwelling units are being worked in. Commissioner Green and Dan Dahlberg are the only two that have townships. Eric Leivian asked about the HWY 8 Project. Dan Dahlberg said they are waiting for bats. The State found 2 long-eared bats.

2023 Annual Township Report: Chris Christoforides asked if the equipment needs were immediate. The Sunrise Town Board discusses equipment needs with Lead Maintenance Troy Montague as the need comes up. The equipment needs listed is items for future. Nothing planned for 2024. The Town Board is looking at replacing the one-tone truck in 2025. Sunrise has been successful with Ziegler with the buyback program. The Township has been successful when selling equipment and extending the buyback program with Ziegler. Eric Leivian would like to see the Annual Township Report shortened up. It was the consensus of the citizens that they like to see the history.

Annual Report available at meeting. Motion by Shane Stepp, second by Chris Christoforides to accept the 2023 Annual Report. Motion carried

Road Report: Annual Road report is included in the Annual Township Report. Motion by Shane Stepp, second by Chris Christoforides to accept the annual road report. Motion carried.

Donation Requests:

Motion by Shane Stepp, second by Adam Grovobe, III to distribute $4,000 at the discretion of the Town Board at the April meeting. Randy Swanson asked how much was in the budget. Treasurer Anderson said that $4,000 is in the budget. Motion carried

Donation requests were received by Family Pathways, Viking Vittles (backpack food program), Chisago County Historical Society, Chisago County Ag Society, Chisago Age Well, Seven County Senior Federation, Sunrise Cemetery Association.

Martha Arnold presented for Viking Vittles: Martha Arnold explained this is backpack food program for students in the North Branch Public Schools. Provide food for North Branch Public Schools for over the weekend and summer. There are care closets in the schools. Individuals can donate $15 per month. Have around 60 families. Shared a video. The host church is Trinity Lutheran Church. $1,000 will feed 3 children for an entire year.

Perry Lindberg presented for Historical Society. There are 10 / 12 directors which are volunteers. Located in Lindstrom on main street. Have a museum and research center. Funded a little bit from Chisago County. Around 50 people that come through Sunrise Night Out.

Leilani Freeman presented for Age Well: Historical Society is a partner of Age Well. Provide older adults with resources they need to age well in their home and community. Citizens 65 and older make up 20% of the population. Age Well has a lot of resources, but are not well known. Age Well has a multitude of resources for agencies private and public. Age Well exists on foundation grants and public funds.

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: Troy Montague said Sunrise will use approximately 3,200 yards for 2024. Calcium chloride is placed on high traffic roads.

Speed Study Ferry Road: Cristina Mlejnek report that Mn/DOT found that the 45 MPH outside the park on the straight away is good.

Speed Study Wilcox Road: .Cristina Mlejnek reported that the Mn/DOT found unposted statutory at 55 MPH which is what the State recommended. Tyler Richter ask if the speed limit can be posted if statutory is 55 MPH. Chris Christoforides said that cars are going way too fast. Moderator Rick Olseen said that signage should be taken up at a future Town Board meeting. Jeske Noordergraaf said that is why there was a speed study completed. Jake Holzem mentioned that paved roads seem to have people going faster.

2nd Street: Cristina Mlejnek reported that 2nd Street is slated to have a speed study completed in 2024.

Ferry Road – Snowmobiles: Jeske Noordergraaf reported Sunrise has been working the Almelund Snowmobile Club with no results. Sunrise Township will be placing markers themselves.

New Town Hall (off CR 9): Greg Strom reported that the Citizens approved construction of new town hall at 2023 Annual Meeting. Plans were finalized, moved on to sewer design and site plan. Sunrise Township did preliminary site work. Approved the shell of the building and subcontracts. Walters builders will be dropping off materials within a couple of weeks. .

Current Town Hall (off River Road): Deah Szymanski asked the citizens what people want to do with this building. The Current Town Hall Committee has been looking at possible grants to bring back the building to historical context. With grants there needs to be community buy-in to ask for money. #2 rent the building out. # 3 sell it. #4 move building elsewhere. #5 put in landfill. There are costs associated with this such as demolition costs – have to hire a 3rd party – bond needs to be posted which is $10,000. #6 Possibly donate to Almelund Threshing to bring to that site.

Tyler Richter asked if the Committee spoke to a realtor. Deah Szymanski said the realtor that she spoke to said they thought the building had value, but will take time and effort.
Eric Leivian – is there time frame – Jeske Noordergraaf said no time frame at this point.
Mr. Miner asked if boyscouts / girl scouts are interested. Deah Szymanski reported they do not have any money.

Subordinate Service District Update: Jeske Noordergraaf reported that the SSD goes through 2028 and Sunrise has an approximate balance of $310,000 not including interest to be paid.

Noise Ordinance Log – Need Citizens Help: Jeske Noordergraaf said signed have been put up on north and south end of CR 9. State will be putting up signs on HWY 95. Jeske Noordergraaf is asking for citizens participation in letting the Chisago County Sheriff's Office know so the Noise Ordinance can be enforced. A citizen asked the public at the Annual Meeting to please be considerate of truckers especially during harvest season.

Vibo Trail Bridge: Vibo Trail Bridge has been replaced.

River Road / Mill Street: Please see earlier discussion.

Community Night Out: Tuesday, August 6, 2024. Museum will be opened.

Approve site and time for 2025 Annual Meeting: Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Tyler Richter to hold the 2025 Annual Meeting on Tues., March 11, 2025 at 8:15 at the Sunrise Town Hall located off of CR 9 if ready or as an alternative at the Royal Wilcox Community Center. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Public Comment: Jeske Noordergraaf thanked Dan Kaiser for serving.

Sunrise Township March 14, 2023 Election Results: Clerk Kowalke read the Election Results.

A Total of 99 votes cast
(Total number of on register of electors 1,508)

Supervisor C – Three (3) Year Term
Adam Grobove III..... 61
Jake Holzem..... 34
Write-ins..... 0
Undervotes..... 4
Overvotes..... 0

Supervisor D – Three (3) year Term
Mark Osland..... 88
Write-ins..... 6
Undervotes..... 5
Overvotes..... 0

Clerk – Two (2) year Term
Wendy S. Kowalke..... 95
Write-ins..... 1
Undervotes..... 3
Overvotes..... 0

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 12, 2024 immediately following the annual meeting to certify the election results. Motion carried.

Motion by Adam Grobove III, second by BJ Thorstenson to adjourn at 10:01 p.m.

Wendy S Kowalke
Attest: Wendy Kowalke, Clerk

Reid Olson
Moderator