

**Shamrock Township
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2011**

The annual meeting held in the Town of Shamrock, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, was called to order by Clerk Candace Bartel at 8:15 p.m. Thirteen residents were in attendance. The clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard Biernat was selected as moderator. The meeting agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The minutes from the March 9, 2010 annual meeting were approved as read on a motion by Bob Greifzu, seconded by Bob Sannes. Treasurer John Brula read the treasurer's annual report. Clarification was made on early payments/payoff of the loan on the maintenance building. The rate of interest on the loan was discussed. (It is 4.94%). Jack Hooper moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jim Carlson, motion carried.

The annual road report summarizing the work done by the road maintenance employees was read by the clerk.

A draft township long range plan was distributed for review. Craig Karjalahti stated that this is not a comprehensive plan as was requested at last year's annual meeting. Supervisor Nancy Karjalahti stated that she knows that every one of the blacktop roads needs to be resurfaced. She further stated that there have been so many little petty things that have occupied the town board that should have been able to resolved in a very short period of time but weren't. Time spent on these did not allow the board to do what they were directed to do. A great deal of time was spent on developing a snow plowing policy and working on finishing up the maintenance building, which is not yet completed. The board is aware of the road problems and it should have a comprehensive plan but right now there isn't one. It was noted that at last year's annual meeting it was recommended to have an impartial professional evaluation of the roads (\$50,000 was designated to be used in the five-year road improvement plan). It was suggested that someone could be hired to go on the annual road view to access the roads. Supervisor Charles Quale explained that this past year the board has worked on the road by Greenwood (188th Avenue), having the project engineered, using re-milled blacktop, and put some riprap in to correct damage done by muskrats. Quite a bit of the board's time was also spent on "water runs down hill" issues. He stated that he feels the board is venturing out in the direction that we want to go to get the expertise and we are spending our money wisely. The two sections by Greenwood (188th Avenue) will probably come close to costing \$150,000 if guard rails are installed. Charles Quale noted that the legislature has mandated that the road signs need to be replaced by 2012 (sign plan in place, signs replaced by 2014) to meet new federal reflectivity requirements. It was estimated that each sign will cost approximately \$100 to replace plus the sign post and installation fees. Federal grants were available but not applied for because all townships in the county were required sign on and they did not choose to do so. This is another expense that will come out of the road and bridge fund. It was recommended to identify problem areas – focus on blacktops, have an impartial outside consultant to evaluate the areas, and prioritize the projects. A suggestion was made to contact the county engineer's office for assistance. An ongoing plan should be presented annually at future annual meetings; the plan should be detailed and define projects to be done. There was discussion on procedures for new blacktopping projects; the town board is getting more stringent on the procedure for new blacktop projects. Craig Karjalahti moved to allocate an additional \$100,000 to cover upgrading

present blacktop roads, seconded on by Bob Greifzu; motion carried. If a project is over the \$100,000 figure, the board would hold public hearings to further fund the project.

The list of organizations requesting funding from the township was reviewed. Fourteen requests were received. Motion by Bob Sannes, seconded by Bob Greifzu, to refer the requests to the town board for action; motion carried.

The taxable market value and net tax capacity report from the Aitkin county auditor was reviewed. For the assessment year 2010/tax year payable 2011 the township's total taxable market valuation is \$479,033,200 and the net tax capacity is \$4,853,422.

The annual report from the McGregor Fire Department was distributed. The payment for 2011 was \$42,996.35 for fire protection; the 2012 payment will be 47,017.04. Charles Quale noted that the township also provides housing and utilities to have a fire department truck located at the townhall and pays up to \$3000 per new township firefighter for initial training and turnout gear.

The minutes from the Board of Audit/Budget meeting were reviewed. Bob Greifzu moved to approve the levy as follows:

Revenue fund:	\$ 100,000	Road & Bridge fund:	\$285,000
Building Repair fund:	\$ 15,000	Fire fund:	\$ 50,000
Sewer fund:	0	Park/Recreation fund:	\$ 20,000
Lease/Purchase Loan		Add'l Blacktop repair	
Repayment fund:	\$ 80,000	fund	<u>\$100,000</u>

The total levy for 2012 will be \$650,000

motion seconded by Craig Karjalahti; motion carried.

Twenty-five people voted in the annual election. Charles Quale was re-elected as supervisor for a three-year term and John Brula was re-elected as treasurer for a two-year term. Both received 25 votes each. (3.15% voter turnout)

Ron Smith moved to set the voting hours for the March 13, 2012 annual township election as 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., seconded by Bob Greifzu; motion carried. Bob Sannes moved to set the time and place for the March 13, 2012 annual meeting at 8:15 p.m. at the townhall; seconded by Bob Greifzu; motion carried.

The rates for publishing legal notices were reviewed. Bob Greifzu moved to continue using the Voyageur Press as the official newspaper for township notices, seconded by Bob Greifzu; motion carried. The posting locations for township notices were reviewed. Motion by Nancy Karjalahti, seconded by Ron Smith to continue with current posting locations; motion carried. Notices are posted at the townhall, Sather's store, Willey's Bait Shop, and Whispering Pines.

The Board of Equalization and Appeal will be held on Monday, May 16, at 9 a.m. at the townhall.

The spring clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the townhall and the LMA garage. Nancy Karjalahti presented the option of having only one clean-up day this year. Concerns were voiced over items being brought in from outside the township. A conservative estimated net cost for the 2010 clean-up days was \$9000. The consensus was to continue with two clean-up days as in the past.

Supervisor Ron Smith shared concerns about objects in the road right-of-ways being covered by snow and being hit by the plow trucks. Landscaping materials, large rocks/boulders, brush, some mailboxes, etc. plus vehicles parked in the road right-of-way are hazards for the snow removal equipment and drivers. Property owners are asked to remove these items. Ron has written an article for the Big Sandy Lake Association newsletter addressing these issues.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. on a motion by Bob Greifzu, seconded by Jim Carlson.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Richard Biernat
Moderator

**MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE
MARCH 13, 2012 ANNUAL MEETING**