

**Shamrock Township
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2012**

The annual meeting held in the Town of Shamrock, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, was called to order by Clerk Candace Bartel at 8:20 p.m. Twenty-one residents and two guests were in attendance. The clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance. Al Eld was selected as moderator on a motion by Craig Karjalahti, seconded by Brian Napstad. The meeting agenda was approved on a motion by Brian Napstad, seconded by David Schaaf.

The minutes from the March 8, 2011 annual meeting were approved as presented on a motion by David Schaaf, seconded by Bob Sannes. Treasurer John Brula read the treasurer's annual report.

Rachael Rahto, New Pathways, Inc., presented information on their program for homeless families with children in six area counties; they requested a \$400 donation. Katie Nelson, representing Riverwood Health Care Center, presented information on the hospital's building project and expanded services; their request was for a \$3000 donation. The following agencies sent requests for donations from the township: Advocates Against Domestic Abuse, Aitkin Co. Habitat for Humanity, Aitkin Co. Historical Society, ANGELS, Big Sandy Water Institute – requesting \$3000, Cancer Support Center's Rides for Health, Crisis Line & Referral Service – requesting \$250, Horseshoe Lake Association – requesting \$1000, Kinship of Aitkin County, McGregor Area Library, Seven County Senior Federation, and Support Within Reach. Motion by Craig Karjalahti, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti, that the board not donate to any of the organizations; motion passed on the following show of hands - six yes, four no, the rest of the voters abstained from voting.

The annual road report summarizing the work done by the road maintenance employees was distributed for review.

Board Chairperson Nancy Karjalahti and Supervisor Charles Quale shared information on the township's concern for the future supply of gravel and the possibility of purchasing a parcel of land for use as a township gravel pit. The DNR pit may not be available as a gravel source in the future and the price continues to rise. The town board has entered into a purchase agreement for a 38+ acre parcel at 50326 Lily Avenue; the purchase price is \$185,000. The agreement is contingent on approval by the voters at tonight's meeting, evidence of a good source of rock/gravel at the site, and the seller providing a clear title to the property. American Engineering Testing spent two days at the site and did five borings. The report from AET was received late this afternoon and the findings look very good. There was a small gravel pit at this site in the past and obtaining a conditional use permit from the county zoning office should not to be a problem. The supervisors have also discussed the purchase with adjacent property owners and explained the township's intended use of the property. Brian Napstad, Aitkin County Commissioner, stated that the county will be doing several blacktopping projects in the area this summer and suggested that if the township had blacktopping projects that could be done, they might want to consider moving forward with them. Brian Napstad moved to authorize the new board of supervisors to move forward with the purchase of the property contingent on the report of adequate findings from the borings, seconded by David Schaaf, motion was amended to include "for

township use only”; a vote by show of hands was unanimous in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A tax-forfeited parcel on 189th PL was on the county list for reclassification. The township notified the county land office that there is an erosion problem on the township road next to this property and the township would like to correct the problem prior to this property being offered for sale. Commissioner Napstad stated the county will allow the township to correct the erosion problem and when the project is completed, the county will offer the property for sale.

The township road evaluation report prepared by Matt Reid, Project Engineer with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., was presented by Supervisor Ron Smith. Certain roads were evaluated and recommendations were included for future improvements. The supervisors developed a list of recommended road improvement projects based on the report from SEH; this information was distributed to those present. Several residents recommended that the dump road (473rd St) be blacktopped or treated with dust control. Craig Karjalahti moved to allow \$46,000, balance on the comprehensive road plan allotment, to go towards the purchase of the gravel pit property, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; after discussion, Craig and Nancy retracted the motion. Brian Napstad again stated that the county will be doing two blacktopping projects in or near the township this summer in addition to blacktopping at the McGregor airport. He suggested if the township has blacktopping projects that could be done this summer, they could possibly be done in conjunction with the county projects.

The application of calcium chloride for dust control on gravel roads was discussed. There was some concern about applying chemicals near lakes. It was noted that dust control chemicals also improve road stability and reduce maintenance costs. It was again suggested that the dump road be treated for dust control.

Supervisor Charles Quale reported the board is considering remodeling the townhall building to increase the size of the meeting room area. The goal is to have a larger area available for voting this fall.

The taxable market value and net tax capacity report from the Aitkin county auditor was distributed for review. For the assessment year 2011/tax year payable 2012 the township's total taxable market valuation is \$428,553,200.00 and the net tax capacity is \$4,338,863.00.

The annual report from the McGregor Fire Department was distributed. The payment for 2012 was \$47,017.04 for fire protection; the 2013 payment will be \$52,944.85. 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. It was noted that the fire fund levy will need to be increased.

The minutes from the Board of Audit/Budget meeting were reviewed. David Schaaf moved to approve the fire fund levy at \$60,000.00, seconded by Charles Quale; motion

carried. David Schaaf moved to approve the other funds as listed, seconded by Bob Sannes; motion carried.

Revenue fund:	\$ 100,000	Road & Bridge fund:	\$285,000
Building Repair fund:	\$ 15,000	Fire fund:	\$ 60,000
Sewer fund:	0	Park/Recreation fund:	\$ 20,000
Lease/Purchase Loan		Blacktop repair fund	<u>\$100,000</u>
Repayment fund:	\$ 80,000		

The total levy for 2013 will be \$660,000

The supervisors explained the payment for the proposed gravel property purchase would be \$85,000 from the road and bridge fund/gravel CD's and \$100,000 would be financed for a maximum of ten years.

Sixty-seven people voted in the annual election. The results were as follows:
Supervisor: Rich Biernat, 26; Jerry Pawlak, 40; Nancy Karjalahti (write-in) 1; Clerk: Candace Kral, 42; Candace Bartel (write-in) 20; Virginia Stephenson (write-in) 1. (8.6% voter turnout)

Bob Sannes moved to set the voting hours for the March 12, 2013 annual township election as 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., seconded by Ron Smith; motion carried. David Schaaf moved to set the time for the March 12, 2013 annual meeting at 8:15 p.m. or immediately following the Board of Canvass and the meeting to be held at the townhall; seconded by Candace Kral; motion carried.

The rates for publishing legal notices were reviewed. David Schaaf moved to designate the Voyageur Press as the official newspaper for township legal notices and also publish the notices in the NewsHopper, seconded by Nancy Karjalahti; motion carried. The posting locations for township notices were reviewed. Motion by Charles Quale, seconded by Candace Kral, 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 7, at 9 a.m. at the townhall.

The spring clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the townhall only.

The town board is considering scheduling some regular board meetings during the day; comments were voiced for and against. This will be a board decision.

New road signs have been ordered for the north one third of the township (sections 1-12).

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m. on a motion by David Schaaf, seconded by Candace Kral.

Candace Bartel
Shamrock Township Clerk

Al Eld
Moderator

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