**Shamrock Township**

**Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

The annual meeting held in the Town of Shamrock, County of Aitkin, State of Minnesota, was called to order by Clerk Candace Kral at 8:15 p.m.; 15 residents were in attendance. The clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert Sannes volunteered as moderator.

Motion by Sue LaValla, seconded by Richard Biernat, to approve the March 10, 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda; motion carried.

March 12, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were supplied to the residents for their review. A motion made by Bob Greifzu, seconded by Richard Biernat, to approve the March 12, 2019 annual meeting minutes; motion carried.

Treasurer John Brula presented the treasurer's annual report.

Twenty-four (24) people voted in the annual election. The results were as follows: Supervisor – Charles Quale 24: Clerk – Candace Kral 23. There were no write-ins.

The residents were presented with the list of charities with amounts that the township donated to last year. Motion made by Bob Greifzu, seconded by Frank Merry, to allow donations to qualified charities at the town board’s discretion as allowed by Minnesota State Statutes; motion carried.

The annual road report summarizing the work done by the road maintenance employees during the year was provided to the residents and read by the clerk. The board answered questions regarding any plans for upcoming road projects.

The taxable market value and net tax capacity report from the Aitkin County Auditor was distributed for review. For the assessment year 2019/tax year payable 20 the township's total taxable market valuation is $461,532,895 and the net tax capacity is $4,735,888.

Emails received from the McGregor Fire Department were distributed for review. The payment for 2019/payable 2020 payment is $93,999.35; the 2020/payable 2021 payment will be $94,916.15. The annual reports provided by the fire department were MFD 2020 Budget, Activity Report 2019 & 2019 expenditures for the McGregor Fire Department. A table provided by the township listing the fire services fees paid since 2003 as also provided.

The minutes from the Board of Audit/Budget meeting held Thursday February13th was distributed and read by the clerk.

Motion made by Bob Greifzu, seconded by Rich Biernat, for the expenditure allowance of $2,500 at the discretion of the board for appreciation/celebration of volunteers and/or special events, service efforts and recognition of the retirees to Shamrock Township; motion passed unanimously.

The clerk informed the residents that the township has been working on a redevelopment plan of the township’s park/recreation area. A Master Plan was designed and an estimate for the park showing cost of completion in three phases was provided for review.

The clerk explained the concept of the plan and the township’s intentions and long term goals. She explained that the township is applying for the Outdoor Recreation Grant through the DNR, which is a 50/50 match grant up to $250,000 for phase one of the plan which will include the new playground, Pavilion with attached bathrooms with storage, new bleachers for the ballfield, and the beginning of walkways from the parking lot and getting around the recreational area. The township also emphasized that they wanted to be able to have the tennis/pickleball courts constructed right away – they could not qualify for the grant to include the courts do to the fact the courts are designed to be placed on leased property. The board explained that they felt that it was better to get something rather than nothing, to get a good start on the recreational area.

The township, together with the help of the park committee, will be applying for a variety grants that are available. The township will do what they can to install the tennis/pickleball courts as soon as possible

It was explained how the township property is surrounded by state property (beyond the state trust land) and the township has discussed the desire and possibilities of constructing trails that could go to and possibly around Anderson Lake and to other various locations/roads and other destinations.

Katie Nelson explained how she, together a group that forms the park committee, had been working with the township in collecting resident/property owners opinions since early fall. The committee has assisted in the development of the Master Plan. She informed the residents the amount of people from different communities as well as locally who use the park facilities during baseball season alone. It was also stated that the park is used regularly outside of baseball season and would probably be used even more with updated equipment and facilities. The age and safety concerns of the current playground equipment were mentioned. She presented the residents with the recommendation to raise the Park & Rec Fund levy to $100,000, which is an $80,000 increase rather than the board’s $10,000 recommended increase. It was also explained that according to the Aitkin County Auditor taxes would increase approximately $15.00 for $100,000 of property valuation. She stressed that this was not to be a permanent increase. It would be for just for a few years to enable the township to complete the development of the park. The increased levy together with the grants and other donations would enable the park to be completed sooner.

The board was questioned about purchasing the leased property. It was explained that due to the fact that it is State Trust Land, the purchase would not be guaranteed. If the property were determined to be sold by the DNR, it would be put up for public auction giving the township no guarantee that someone else would not purchase said property.

Motion by Bob Greifzu, seconded by Rich Beirnat, to increase the Park & Rec Fund for the 2021 Levy to $100,000; motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Audit levy recommendations were reviewed and discussed. A motion made by Frank Merry, seconded by Sue LaValla, to increase the total levy to $780,000 increasing the Park & Rec Fund from $20,000 to $100,000, and following the board’s recommendations for the remainder of the funds; 2021 Levies set as listed:

Revenue fund: $ 70,000 Road & Bridge fund: $ 300,000

Blacktop Repair $ 100,000 Building Repair fund: $ 50,000

Fire fund: $ 105,000 Sewer $ 5,000

Lease/Purchase $ 50,000 Parks & Recreation $ 100,000

 The total levy for 2021 will be $780,000

Motion passed unanimously.

A motion made by Richard Biernat, seconded by Sue LaValla, to set the voting hours for the March 10, 2021, annual township election as 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the town hall; motion carried.

Motion made by Richard Biernat, seconded by Sue LaValla, to set the time for the March 10, 2021, annual meeting at 8:15 p.m. to be held at the town hall; motion carried.

The current newspapers used for publishing legal notices were distributed and discussed. It was recommended to continue to use both *The Voyageur Press* and *Aitkin Independent Age* for legal notices.

The posting locations for township notices were reviewed. The township informed residents the posting location of record is the town hall, and for convenience of the public - Sather’s Store and the township website -TownofShamrock@Shamrocktwp.org. Residents recommended to continue the current posting system.

The Board of Equalization and Appeal meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, at 9 a.m. at the town hall.

The Spring Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the town hall.

It was noted that the board stated in the Board of Audit Meeting Minutes that the next planned major road project is tentatively set to be Bridge Road. The board was asked for a timeline of the start of the said project. It was mentioned that the township cashed in two CDs that were labeled for blacktop repair that upon maturity and paid it towards the current road bond together with funds out of the Road Repair Fund for a total of $200,000. With the previous payment to the bond principle in February the bond is down to $244,000. The township is committed to paying of the bond as soon as feasibly possible so that it may start on the next road project. The repayment of the current bond was discussed stating that it will need to be paid in full before the township could acquire a new bond. Procedures and cost of doing a large project such as Bridge Road were explained and discussed. The board would like to begin the engineering within the next couple of years; however, no definitive timeline could be given at this time.

A medical statement from Riverwood Healthcare was read by Katie Nelson regarding care and prevention of Coronavirus and the steps and precautions that are being taken by the Riverwood clinics and hospital.

Appreciation was given to the Tim Turner and Marvin Turner for their work and dedication to the township and a special recognition for their efforts during the snow season in ensuring that the roads are as safe and passible as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m. on a motion by Rich Biernat, seconded by Frank Merry, motion carried.

March 14, 2019

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Candace Kral |  | Robert Sannes |
| Shamrock Township Clerk |  | Moderator |