

**SHAMROCK TOWNSHIP
URBAN TOWN COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday January 31, 2023**

Board Chairman Charles Quale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Supervisors Allen Eld and Ron Smith; Treasurer Jack Brula; Clerk Candace Kral; Reno Wells, Minnesota Association of Townships Representative; Graham Berg-Moberg Minnesota Association of Townships Attorney (via Zoom); and the residential committee members – Fred Neuman, Tom Meyer, Preston Lee, Ron Flatten, Katie Nelson.

The purpose of this meeting was to obtain and discuss the process and the pros and cons of a township becoming an urban town. It was stated that this committee was formed to provide input and opinions regarding the decision of the township moving forward with the process. For the township to become an urban town, the question needs to put on the ballot in a township election for voter approval. Once approved by the voters, the powers and responsibility take effect immediately.

Reno Well provided a brief overview of what an urban town stating that basically an urban town is a township that receives new or expanded powers and can also have new opportunities and responsibilities.

Graham Berg-Moberg gave a presentation over Zoom sharing the benefits, powers and responsibilities of an urban town. He then proceeded to answer questions from the township board and committee members. During discussion it was stated that just because the township receives the added powers doesn't mean that the powers will be utilized. The main desires for becoming an urban town is the requirement for a five supervisor board and the opportunities for grants that are not available to regular townships and the ability to streamline some of the processes of the township, enabling the township to move through certain steps a little quicker. It was also stated that the will continue to bring make issues and desired projects to the people for input as the board appreciates the opinions and thought of the residents.

Upon discussion, the board and committee learned a township does not have to be urban town to maintain a five-man supervisor board. The township residents may vote on the approval of changing the board size at a township election, thereby enacting the five-man supervisor board.

The committee agreed that becoming an urban town could be a good move for the township. They also agreed that becoming a five supervisor board could also be a very sensible change for the township, especially due to the projected growth of the township and the increasing annual levy. It was decided to bring the urban town information to the residents at the annual meeting for further discussion and the possibility of setting a public informational hearing date for this summer.

A document provided by Reno Wells – Urban Town Powers – An Overview is attached.

Candace Kral
Clerk

Charles Quale
Board Chairman

MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 9, 2023, REGULAR BOARD MEETING