

BEARVILLE TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

March 09, 2021

PRESENT:

Dan Watson, Dave Watson, Laura Gunderson, Martha Laulunen, Julia Laulunen, Tim Bjur, Lindsay Bjur, Brian Wilde, Jenn Cressy, Janelle Driscoll, Michael Laulunen, Jay Madigan, Joel Greaver, Chassidy Greaver, Keitha Sixberry, Gene Baker, Richard Barby, Marcia Stoddard. Also present: Dustin Nelson-Fire Chief.

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Moderator of the Annual Meeting.

Dan Watson voted as Moderator by attendees.

Moderator chose Laura Gunderson to record the minutes.

Keitha Sixberry made a motion to follow the recommendation of the Minnesota Association of Townships due to a pandemic and reconvene on the second Tuesday in August at 6:30pm. Brian Wilde seconded.

Vote on motion:

3-Yes

14-No motion failed.

The minutes of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting were read.

Chassidy Greaver made a motion to accept the 2020 Annual Town meeting minutes as read. Dave Watson seconded. 17 – Yes 0 – No Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Richard Barby read the financial report showing a total in all funds including investments for year ending December 31, 2020 of \$385,044.74.

Mike Laulunen made a motion to accept the financial report. Gene Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Levies

General Fund (2020 - \$0 Proposed by Town Board for 2021 - \$0 - payable in 2022)

Richard Barby made a motion to levy \$0 for the General Fund. Keitha Sixberry seconded.

Discussion: None

Call for the vote: General Fund levy -\$0

Yes – 16 votes

No – 0 votes Motion carried. General Fund Levy- \$0.

Road and Bridge Fund (2020- \$0 Proposed by Town Board for 2021 - \$0)

Jay Madigan made a motion to levy \$0 for Road and Bridge. Dave Watson seconded.

Discussion: Jay Madigan read an email from Sen. David Tomassoni- “So after doing some checking, it appears that the township needs to take over the road management. However, the township isn’t willing to do so because it’s a forest road and would require an upgrade to meet township standards. So, the DNR has committed to working with the township to try to access funds from the State Park

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Road Account, which should be able to provide the funds necessary to upgrade the road. So if things progress smoothly, we should get results. Hopefully, it gets done before next winter.”

David J. Tomassoni
State Senator
District 6

Mike Laulunen: Proposed that the people of Bearville Township need to bring the topic of road use to the Township Board so the Township can discuss road use change.

Dan Watson: Concerned about emergency vehicles not being able to get through the road and deliver care to families on West Sturgeon Forest Road.

Keitha Sixberry: Stated that three platted roads that are serviced by Bearville Township are dedicated to public use.

Dave Watson: There are five new families on West Sturgeon Forest Road in the last year; the Township needs to provide a maintained and plowed road to taxpayers.

Gene Baker: What are the County Road standards? Township Board needs to get data from the County Engineering Department, Karin Grandia, and Ben DeNucci, Itasca County Commissioner to understand how to proceed with concerns of servicing West Sturgeon Forest Road.

Yes – 16 votes

No – 0 votes Motion carried. Road and Bridge Fund levy -\$0

Hall Fund (2020 - \$0 Proposed by Town Board for 2021 - \$0)

Keitha Sixberry made a motion to levy \$0 for the Hall Fund.
Richard Barby seconded.

Discussion: Gene Baker asked if we are updating the kitchen. Mike Laulunen asked what the kitchen committee discovered.

Call for the vote: \$0 Hall Fund levy

Yes – 16 votes

No – 0 votes. Motion carried. Hall Fund levy \$0

Fire Fund (2020- \$15,000.00 Proposed by Town Board for 2021 - \$0)

Mike Laulunen made a motion to levy \$15,000.00 for the Fire Fund Levy. Gene Baker seconded.

Discussion: Mike Laulunen: Apparatus will need to be replaced.

Gene Baker: Pumper engine will need to be replaced sooner rather than later.

Keitha Sixberry: How many Bearville Township Fire Call outs were made in 2020? Why are we contracting and using our equipment in areas outside our township?

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Call for a vote: \$15,000.00 for Fire Levy

16-Yes votes

0- No votes Motion carried. Fire Levy \$15,000.00

Cemetery Fund (2020- \$0 Proposed by Town Board for 2021 - \$0)

Keitha Sixberry made a motion to levy \$0 for the Cemetery Fund. Dave Watson seconded.

Call for the vote: \$0 for Cemetery fund

16 votes – Yes

0 votes – No Motion carried.

Supervisor's Account to the Annual Town Meeting

Gene Baker read the Supervisors Account to the Annual Town Meeting.

Mike Laulunen made a motion to accept the Supervisors Account to the Annual Town Meeting as read. Marcia Stoddard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gene Baker made a motion to authorize the Town Board to contract with Itasca County for Road Maintenance. Keitha Sixberry seconded. Motion Carried.

West Sturgeon Road Plowing:

Mike Laulunen made a motion to address plowing of West Sturgeon Forest Road at a Township Board meeting. Gene Baker seconded.

Discussion: Dan Watson: I would like a township meeting to include Itasca County Engineering Department, Karin Grandia and Ben DeNucci, Itasca County Commissioner, Dist. 5 to understand how to proceed with concerns of servicing West Sturgeon Forest Road.

Jay Madigan: The money to service the road has been found by Sen. David Tomassoni; we need help with this issue, who can help us? We need a voice.

Let's work with the DNR, Itasca County and the Township to get something done about the maintenance on the road and use this found money.

Dave Watson: If the DNR gives up the road to Bearville Township; will the road meet the township road standards to be serviced and maintained?

Motion Carried.

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Health/Social/Recreation, Contract for Services and Holiday Party

Mike Laulunen made a motion to authorize the town board to contract with non-profit organizations to spend \$10,000.00 for Health, Social and Recreational Services to benefit the Township. Gene Baker seconded. Motion carried.

Town Celebration

Laura Gunderson made a motion to authorize the Town Board to spend up to \$2,500.00 for a town celebration. Keitha Sixberry seconded. Motion carried.

Set Times for 2022 Annual Town Meeting

Mike Laulunen made a motion to hold the 2022 Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Dave Watson seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Gene Baker made a motion to continue publishing town notices in the Timberjay and Cook Shopper, Facebook and the website.

Depository

Richard Barby made a motion to keep the depository at Security State Bank, Royal Bank of Canada, Minneapolis. Janelle Driscoll seconded. Motion carried.

Other Town Business

Kitchen- General discussion on bid obtained, Kitchen committee to convene and look over the proposal.

Mike Laulunen would like to give a BIG THANK YOU added to the minutes in recognition of the work by the Bearville Township Board and Supervisors.

Keitha Sixberry made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Gene Baker seconded. All in favor – meeting adjourned.

Signed by: Dan Watson, Moderator.

Submitted by Laura Gunderson, Clerk of the March 9, 2021 Annual Town Meeting.