

Perham Township Annual Meeting Minutes
March 9th, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Marie Ashland, Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Shawn Sweere, Kelly Karsnia, Stanley Marotz, Duane Altstadt, Marie Ashland, Kelvin Rudolph, Jade Berube, via Zoom- Brad Wilson, Chris Schulke, Lutge, Russ Kadow presented Clerk with letter of intent just prior to meeting for attendance due to COVID

NOMINATIONS FOR MODERATOR: Kelly Karsnia nominated Kelvin Rudolph as Moderator for the meeting

Second: Shawn Sweere

Carried: yes

ANNUAL MINUTES READ: The Annual Meeting Minutes from March 10th, 2020 were read by Marie Ashland, Clerk. Kelvin Rudolph, Moderator asked for additions or corrections. Shawn Sweere made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the 2020 March 10th Annual meeting.

Second: Kelly Karsnia

Carried: yes

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT: The Treasurer's Financial Report for 2020 was read by Marie Ashland. Kelvin Rudolph stated that the report was heard. There were no amendments. Kelly Karsnia made a motion to accept the Financial Report for 2020.

Second: Shawn Sweere

Carried: yes

REPORTS:

Hospital Report: presented by Richard Richter. At the end of 2020, Perham Health employed a total of 596 employees, 439 of which are full time. Total salaries paid in 2020 were \$28,195,880 with \$5,868,509 total benefits. Perham Health welcomed four new Providers in 2020 with five more anticipated to join between 2021 and 2023. In 2020, Perham Health added the following new services; total hip and knee surgeries, chiropractic and acupuncture services, speech therapy outreach, low dose CT lung screenings, preferred Provider and Occupational Health services. Steve Richter highlighted that 2020 had the best operating margin in several years, at 3.8%. Perham Health received nearly \$262,000 in grants from organizations such as the MN Dept of Health (MDH), MN Hospital Assoc., as well as person donations. The grants were used for capital equipment, scholarships, COVID-19 supplies. Perham Health acquired several properties around their grounds for future expansion. Perham Living underwent a refresh, including kitchen and bath refreshes. Steve walked through the COVID-19 2020 timeline.

Road Report: Kelly Karsnia presented the Road Report for 2020. The Township was able to crack/fill all

tar roads. Graveling was kept up throughout the year. Perham Township worked with Otter Tail County on Fort Thunder Road maintenance with the use of a recycled surface product. Perham Township and the City of Perham worked together on 450th Ave with a cost share agreement. Work on that road will be finished this Spring. Perham Township took over Turtle Bay Circle Rd in the Turtle Bay development. Perham Township applied for an LRIP grant to reconstruct 450th Avenue and 450th Street, they have not heard back yet if the grant has been awarded. This year, Perham Township is looking at working with MNDOT for help paying for Fort Thunder Rd after the work is completed on Hwy 34. The Township is looking at replacing some signage as well.

There was some discussion on the replacement of signage in the Township. Kelvin Rudolph stated some signs are over 30 years old. There may be programs available to the Township for cost assistance on this.

Shawn Sweere added that work on Aerovilla Road was done this past year with a total reclamation project.

Fire/EMS Report: Shawn Sweere presented the Fire/EMS report. Due to COVID-19, Perham Fire and Rescue did not have an open meeting. They mailed their report out to the Perham Township. Perham Fire responded to 100 calls in 2020, 11 of which were in Perham Township. Perham Township paid \$29,305.75 in annual share to Perham Fire and Rescue. Perham Fire and Rescue was awarded a FEMA grant and a training grant. They are looking at buying a washer, extractor, and dryer for the fire gear with CARES Act funding dollars. Perham Fire and Rescue has a replacement schedule with some of their firetrucks.

Levy Discussion for 2022: Kelvin Rudolph opened discussion for the 2022 Levy. Last year the Levy was set at \$285,000. Discussion included work that would be done on roads, whether the Township was awarded the LRIP grant, payment to the City of Perham when 450th Ave is completed. A motion was made by Stanley Maratz to accept Levy for 2022 be set at \$285,000. There was discussion to table setting the final Levy until August of 2021. That discussion was tabled.

Second: Shawn Sweere

Carried: yes

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorized newspaper for 2021: Kelly Karsnia motioned to authorize the Perham Focus as the official newspaper for the Township in 2021.

Second: Stanley Moratz

Carried: yes

Authorized Bank depository for 2021: Kelly Karsnia motioned to authorize United Community Bank as the authorized bank for 2021.

Second: Stanley Moratz

Carried: yes

Options to build storage units along HWY 108: Don Meyer wishes to address the Board and Residents.

Discussion on matter was tabled until the April Monthly Board meeting.

Donation requests: The following have submitted requests via letter to be presented to the Perham Township Board:

Perham Center for the Arts

Perham Area Library

Otter Tail County Historic Society

East Otter Tail County Agricultural Society on behalf of the EOTC Fair

New York Mills Regional Cultural Center

It was noted that last year, the Township made a total of \$4000.00 in donations to nonprofits that served the Perham Township residents. Donations will be discussed at the April Monthly Meeting. Shawn Sweere made a motion to donate up to \$5000.00 in donations of Perham Township dollars to organizations that benefit Perham Township residents and to take 1st precedence to those that submitted formal requests.

Second: Kelly Karsnia

Carried: yes

There was open discussion among those present as to the status of the City of Perham annexing residents living on Yellow Pine Dr. It was decided at a City meeting on March 8th, 2021 that the City would not be annexing that area of Perham Township.

Shawn Sweere, Chairperson for Perham Township stated that he reached out to the Mayor of Perham to mend any misconstrued relations between the City of Perham and Perham Township.

Kelvin Rudolph, Moderator took a minute during the Annual Meeting to pay tribute to James Osterfeldt, who recently passed away. Mr. Osterfeldt served on the Perham Township Board for many years. He always worked to ensure residents had the lowest possible taxes. He worked hard to not spend Township residents' monies, even turning down a pay increase while he served the Board. His years of service on the Board are appreciated and he will be missed.

Shawn Sweere, Chairperson, invited residents of Perham Township to attend the monthly meetings either in person or via Zoom. He let residents know that Perham Township is working on repairing our website and hope to have it up to date soon.

ADJOURNMENT: Shawn Sweere motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30pm.

Second: Kelly Karsnia

Carried: yes

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April Monthly Meeting will be April 6th at 7:00pm

April Board of Equalization will be April 15th at 1:00pm

The next Annual Meeting will be held on March 8th, 2022 at 7:00pm

Meeting location is 120 2nd Street SE, Perham. A Zoom link will be available on Perham Township Website as well.

Submitted as final by Marie Ashland, Clerk Perham Township