Guthrie Township

Hubbard County Minnesota

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes March 9th 2021

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The Township of Guthrie, Hubbard County Minnesota held its annual meeting on March 9th 2021.

At 7:10 P.M. the Clerk Amanda Fallgren called the meeting to order with the pledge. The sign in roster indicated that ten people attended the meeting.

The Clerk introduced the Board and instructed the people to elect a moderator who was to conduct the remainder of the meeting. David Johnson nominated Steve Rogers and Ivy Knoshaug seconded the motion. No other motions for the moderator were made, Steve Rogers accepted the nomination.

Rebecca Theis read the treasurers report and detailed the data that was approved at the Board of Audit meeting. There were multiple copies of the 2020 financial report made available to the public. Steve Rogers motioned to accept and Ivy Knoshaug seconded the motion. The report was approved as read.

The Clerk then read the minutes of the last year’s Annual Meeting Minutes. Steve Rogers motioned to accept and Ivy Knoshaug seconded the motion. Minutes approved as read.

Mr. Schmidt (Board Supervisor) provided a road report which included the following:

Guthrie Township took over Quite Pasture Drive as a township road after the residents of the drive went through the proper steps following the petition filed with the township to take the road as a township road.

The Guthrie Township board conducts 2 road tours per year. One tour in the spring after roads have dried to assess any needed maintenance or repairs. One tour in the fall to inspect and make any needed maintenance or repairs before the onset of winter. These are both open/posted meetings.

Summer road blading was contracted out again in 2020/2021 on a per time basis, with Gladen Const. All roads are to be bladed every other week at a fixed cost. A couple of our higher traveled east/west roads, 410th, 420th west and 444th are being bladed every week, at a fixed cost, per time.  The only exceptions to these schedules are our smaller, dead end development roads, which are to be bladed at least one time per month. These roads include Quiet Pasture, Palomino Drive and Roxbury Drive. Any additional blading, other than scheduled blading, is done on a per hour basis.

Winter road snowplowing was also contracted out with Gladen Const for 2020/2021. The snow removal on all Guthrie Township roads is to be done whenever a snowfall of 4 or more inches has occurred.

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Plowing is to start after major snowing has slowed or stopped. The Township Hall drive and parking lot are also plowed by Gladen Const. under this contract. When all roads are plowed under this contract it is at a fixed cost, per time. Any additional winter plowing, other than snowfall plowing, is done on a per hour basis, such as ice removal, drift removal or sanding.

Roadside mowing was again contracted out in 2020 with Josh Weiss, owner of Hines Brushing. All Guthrie Township roads were mowed the last couple days in July or the first couple days in August, at a fixed cost for all mowing. Josh's contracted price remained the same in 2020 as it was in 2019. Roadside mowing done this late in the summer helps eliminate the need and the cost for 2 mowing’s.

Guthrie Township roads should not need any road side brushing in 2021 because it has only been 2 or 3 years since it was last done. The board will make a decision on this after viewing road sides during the road tours.

Some spot graveling was done after the Spring Road Tour, only as needed.

A 2" lift of Class #1 modified was spread on 410th and bladed on the first one mile, west of Co. Rd. 36, at a cost of $10,670 dollars. This was done to try and help with the washboard condition on this section of road. In addition to this graveling, the summer road blading was increased to every week, instead of every other week schedule.

A 1" lift of Class #1 modified was to be spread on 275th North (about 1 mile) at a cost of $6417.00.  A 2" lift of Class #1 modified was to be spread on 420th between Co. Rd. 36 and US 71 (about 3 miles) at a cost of $31,806.00. The four miles of graveling was all one 1 bid with a total of $38,223.00 dollars. This project was started last fall but had to be halted because of early snowfall. This project will be completed as soon as possible this spring, with the 2020 quoted price remaining the same to complete the job in 2021. Only $5745.00 of the total bill for this project was paid out in 2020, and was paid for what was done. The remainder $32,477.40 will be paid out in 2021 when this project is completed.

Other projects in the works include:

A sink hole on the west side of Rail Road St., near the culvert, will need to be filled and the culvert apron will need repair.

The possible tree removal and ditching on 245th north of 420th street.

The incline of 440th street's east end where it meets US highway 71.

Township culvert markers and inventory.

The ongoing need for signage repair and replacement.

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The floor was open for discussion. David Johnson inquired about the status of correcting the steep incline on 440th at stop sign (West of County 16 across Hwy 71). Mike Schmidt explained that due to Covid, there has not been any progress or further discussion with this. Tony Collyard, resident on Quiet Pasture Drive, has offered to assist with getting the township in the right direction on who to talk to. Steve inquired about the ditching on 244th. Mike explained that 244th has the least amount of ditching in the township, and it’s been discussed during the last couple road tours, that this may be something the township should consider correcting. This would depend on available funds. Steve Rogers asked for a motion to approve the road report and multiple people motioned to approve. Road Report approved.

Jacque Meyer with Lakeport Medical Responders reported via email, that in 2020 Lakeport Area Emergency Medical Responders, were called to 287 medical/emergency calls within the 236 square miles of coverage area, as well as outlying mutual aid areas. Currently there are 14 volunteer members who respond to these emergencies 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. At present, there is one new member training to become an EMR and there are three members training to become EMTs. A few years ago, Lakeport Area Emergency Medical Responders asked area Townships to consider increasing their donation amount in order to help cover cost of new medications, training and supplies. Recognizing that 2020 has posed many challenges, Lakeport EMR group realizes that many people and organizations are struggling to navigate through this pandemic. Therefore, they are asking that if we are able to donate this year, that we do not increase the amount at this time. Donations will help with ongoing training, equipment, supplies and medications.

Donation requests received were reviewed.

Mr. Ryan Johnson made a motion to cap this year’s donations to $2,300. Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried

Mike Schmidt motioned to leave donations same as last year, donating to Lakeport Medical Responders $2,000.00 and Bemidji Kitchigami Library $300.00 and Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP LEVIES

Mr. David Johnson made a motion to levy $36,000 to the General Fund and Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Schmidt made a motion to levy $50,000 to The Road and Bridge Fund and Mr. David Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Mr. David Johnson made a motion to levy $2,000 to the Cemetery Fund and Mr. Ryan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Ryan Johnson made a motion to levy $7,300 to the Fire Fund and Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried

Mr. Ryan Johnson made a motion to levy $2,000 to the Building Fund and Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Schmidt made a motion to donate $2,000 to the Lakeport Fire and rescue and Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Schmidt made a motion to donate $300 to the Kitchigami Library system and Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The floor was opened for General Discussion

Mike Schmidt suggested adding in more trees at the Cemetery, using the Cemetery Funds. Not as many trees as last time, but maybe 8-10 additional trees. Previous trees that were planted all have survived and are doing well. Alan Davis inquired about the choice of Ash trees that were planted, in regards to the disease emerald ash borer. David Johnson suggests researching trees and shrubbery that may be affected by this disease, before planting any more Ash trees.

Mike Schmidt followed up with John Kincs’ suggestion about trimming the tops of some of the larger trees at the cemetery, to avoid damage to the trees from storms. Mike consulted with Tyler at Nature’s Edge. Tyler went out to the cemetery and assessed the trees, and noted that no amount of top-tree trimming would prevent a storm from blowing down/damaging the trees. Tyler said he would be happy to answer further questions.

Ryan Johnson requested better clean-up and trimming around headstones, especially the flat stones at the cemetery, during busier visiting times of the year (ie: Memorial Day/Veteran’s Day).

David Johnson made mention that anyone can donate at any time throughout the year, to the Township Funds or the YOSG Funds, as they so desire. Doesn’t have to be approved at Annual meeting to do so.

Ivy Knoshaug presented a usage report summary of the Ye Old School Grounds, based off of income and expenses for 2020. Yearly income averages are based off of Rental, Donations, Annual Dinner, Annual Corn Feed. With an overall yearly income totaling $2,775. Yearly expense averages are based off of Yearly Utilities (YOSG Share). With yearly total expenses of $1,761.76, and the difference being $1,013.24. The total number of renters for the year was 6 renters; 2 being Guthrie Township and 4 outside of Guthrie Township. Due to Covid the Annual

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Roast Beef Dinner, Annual Corn Feed, as well as the July Picnic were cancelled. There were several cards received with donations from people recognizing the circumstances of Covid, these donations were all greatly appreciated.

Steve Rogers suggested to re-do the bulletin board at the Townhall, using brick from the only brick building in the town of Guthrie, the Old Bank, First National Bank of Guthrie. Steve will further look into this to see if Joe is willing to donate some brick to do this.

Mr. Ryan Johnson made a motion to have next year’s meeting at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday in March and to have the Bemidji Pioneer as the official newspaper. Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Candy Barthel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Ivy Knoshaug seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: Amanda Fallgren – Clerk

3/10/2021