Guthrie Township

Hubbard County Minnesota

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes March 8th 2022

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The Township of Guthrie, Hubbard County Minnesota held its annual meeting on March 8th 2022.

At 7:00 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 Roger Corson 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 2021 financial report made available to the public. Amanda Lofthus motioned to accept and Roger Corson seconded the motion. The report was approved as read.

The Clerk then read the minutes of the last year’s (2021) Annual Meeting Minutes. Steve Rogers motioned to accept and all approved as read.

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

**2021/2022 Guthrie Township Road Report**

The Guthrie Township board conducts two 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 2021/2022 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 2021/2022. The snow removal on all Guthrie Township roads is to be done whenever a snowfall of 4 inches or more has occurred. 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.

Guthrie Township's summer blading and winter snowplowing contracts have always been contracted together as one (1) contract. One (1) contract, with one (1) contractor, doing all of the road summer blading and winter snowplowing maintenance for the length of the signed contract.  This contract is for one (1) year and runs from July 1st of the signing year through June 30th of the following year. Guthrie Township has issued two (2) year contracts a couple of times when it helps to control costs to do so.

Some of the things that were done in the last year:

Some spot graveling was done after the 2021 Spring Road Tour, only as needed and where needed.

The contracted 1" lift of Class #1 modified was completed on 275th North (about 1 mile) in 2021.

The contracted 2" lift of Class #1 modified was completed on 420th West (about 3 miles) in 2021. This 2" lift was started in the fall of 2020 and was completed in 2021.

The sink hole on the west side of Rail Road St. near the culvert was repaired and culvert apron was replaced.

Roadside mowing was again contracted out in 2021 with Josh Weiss, owner of Hines Brushing. All Guthrie Township roads were mowed the last couple of days in July or the first couple days in August, at a fixed cost for all mowing. Josh's contracted price did increase slightly in 2021. This is the first time Guthrie Township has seen a cost increase from this contractor. The biggest reason for the increase came from the board requesting additional mowed widths on some roads to help with brush control. Roadside mowing done this late in the summer helps eliminate the need and the cost for two mowing’s.

Some spot graveling was done after the 2021 Fall Road Tour, only as needed and where needed.

Spot graveling after 2021 spring and fall road tours included gravel being spread on Guthrie Township's 410th, 420th east, 440th, 255th, 450th and 460th and the town site roads.

Some double ditch removal was done on the south end of Roxbury drive. More work will be needed in this area in the summer of 2022.

Damaged culvert aprons at the south end of Palomino Drive were replaced.

Guthrie Township culvert markers and inventory? This work is ongoing.

The need for signage repair and replacement? This work is ongoing.

The 2021 Guthrie Township summer road grading schedule was tough to follow with such a dry summer. Roads became very dusty and dry. Wash board conditions were almost impossible to control with little to no moisture to help with compaction and dust control. Our contractors did the best they could do with the dry conditions. All of our surrounding townships dealt with these same problems.

The 2021/2022 winter snow removal and ice control on Guthrie Township roads was, at times, a full-time job for our contractors and they did a very good job. With more snow than average, more blowing and drifting than we have seen in years and iced roads in early winter. Almost all snow removal was done with a motor grader to help with the ice removal and to help control winter wash boards and to help eliminate the ice crown in the center of our roads. Plow trucks and front-end loaders were used to remove drifting as needed. Because of these conditions our winter road maintenance costs are going to total higher than we have seen in a few years.

Some of the projects the board is looking into:

Some of Guthrie Township's roads may be in need of road side brushing in 2022 as was noted during the 2021 fall road tour. The board has been informed about brush and trees that are in or have fallen into our ditches on some roads. The board will make a decision on road side brushing after viewing road sides during the 2022 spring road tour and contract this work if needed.

The possible tree removal and ditching on Guthrie Township 245th north of Guthrie Township 420th- The tree removal on this section of road will be discussed with the road side brushing contractor if the board’s decision is to brush road sides in 2022. The ditching will be looked into after possible brush and tree removal.

The incline on Guthrie Township 440th east end where it intersects US highway 71- Mike Schmidt is drafting a letter to the Minnesota DOT, asking the state to address the safety issues that were created on Guthrie Township 440th with the construction of the turnoff lane from Minnesota US highway 71 onto Hubbard County Highway #16. This turnoff lane greatly increased the approach angle on Guthrie Township 440th at the intersection of Guthrie Township 440th and Minnesota US highway 71. This increased angle is a safety issue when vehicles, buses and trucks approach Minnesota US 71 from Guthrie Township 440th or to turn off of Minnesota US 71 onto Guthrie Township 440th. This safety issue is worse when coupled with snow and/or ice during winter months.

Guthrie Township has been approached by another contractor about contracting road blading and snow plowing. The current contact will expire June 30th, 2022 and a new contract will be awarded. (This is the reason no dollar amounts are listed for products or services in this report.)

Gravel prices were contracted out in 2021 on a per yard price per specs, and will be contracted out again in 2022 on a per yard price per specs.

Summer road side mowing for 2022 will again be contracted out with a new contract being let and signed for 2022.

FYI:

With the onset of spring soon comes the possibility of road, ditch and culvert damage caused by a fast-spring thaw and water runoff. We haven't had to deal with this much in the last few years because of low snow accumulations.

The floor was open for discussion.

Steve Rogers noted that Gladen’s has done a good job of plowing at the Town Hall. They do tend to leave a berm at the side walk, Steve requests that they remove the berm when plowing by the sidewalk. No further discussion. Steve Rogers asked for a motion to approve the road report and all in attendance seconded the motion. Road Report approved as read.

Shannon Nelson, EMR with Lakeport Medical Responders reported that in 2021 Lakeport Area Emergency Medical Responders, were called to 416 medical/emergency calls within the 236 square miles of coverage area, as well as outlying mutual aid areas. 25 of the Medical Emergency Calls were from Guthrie township. Currently there are thirteen volunteer members who respond to these emergencies 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. Of those thirteen volunteers seven are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and six are Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs). At present, there are three new members training to become EMRs.

The past two years have been challenging for many in the healthcare field, but is has also brought to light many of the staffing struggles that were already an ongoing issue. Our group has been lucky enough to have interest from several young people in our community who would like to pursue EMR training. Therefore, our group is happy to announce that in 2022 we will be starting an Apprentice EMR program that will allow 16&17year olds to be trained as EMRs and learn how to serve their communities as volunteer responders. Donations will help with ongoing training, equipment, supplies and medications needed to keep our organization running.

Donation requests received were reviewed.

Mr. David Johnson made a motion to cap this year’s donations to $2,000. Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried

Mike Schmidt motioned 2022 donation to Lakeport Medical Responders and Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWNSHIP LEVIES

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

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

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

Mr. David Johnson made a motion to levy $7,300 to the Fire Fund and Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried

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

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

The floor was opened for General Discussion

Mike Schmidt noted that due to the extreme dry year there were no more trees planted at the Cemetery.

Mr. Mike Schmidt 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. Ms. Amanda Lofthus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Mike Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: Amanda Fallgren – Clerk

3/16/2022