Guthrie Township

Hubbard County Minnesota

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes March 14th 2023

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The Township of Guthrie, Hubbard County Minnesota held its annual meeting on March 14th 2023.

At 7:00 P.M. the Clerk Amanda Fallgren called the meeting to order with the pledge. The sign in roster indicated that fourteen 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. Roger Corson nominated Steve Rogers and Dan Rogers 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 2022 financial report made available to the public. Steve Rogers motioned to accept and Ryan Johnson seconded the motion. The report was approved as read.

The Clerk then read the minutes of the last year’s (2022) Annual Meeting Minutes. Steve Rogers motioned to accept and Ryan Johnson seconded the motion and approved as read.

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

**2022/2023 Guthrie Township Road Report**

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, and 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 again in 2022/2023 on a per hour basis with Gladen Const. All roads are to be bladed every other week, with weather or extremely dry conditions being the only factors that could alter the schedule. A couple of our higher traveled east/west roads, 420th west and 444th, are being bladed every week, conditions allowing. 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 also done on a per hour basis.

Winter road snowplowing was also contracted with Gladen Const. for 2022/2023. 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. All snow plowing is done on a per hour basis. 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, in 2022, had requested that Gladen Const. only use a grader to snow plow and not a plow truck. This was done to help eliminate the compacted snow crown that the truck plow was leaving. The plow truck is only to be used as a last resort.

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.

Roadside mowing was again contracted out in 2022 with Josh Weiss, owner of Hines Brushing. All Guthrie Township roads were mowed the first two weeks in August on a per hour basis. Josh's hourly rate did increase slightly in 2022 with the total cost to the Township coming in higher than previous years. One of the other reasons for the increase came from the boards requesting additional mowed widths on some roads to help with brush control. The second reason for the increased cost was the contractor suffered extensive damage to his equipment after not seeing and mowing over a single gang small farm disk left in the ditch. This happened on the first day of mowing in our Township and caused a few days of delay for repairs. Roadside mowing done this late in the summer helps eliminate the need and the cost for 2 mowings.

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

Some spot graveling was done after the 2022 Spring Road Tour, only as needed, and where needed.

The road gravel contracts that were started in the fall of 2021 were finished in the spring of 2022 by Gladen Const.

Some more double ditch removal was done on the south end of Roxbury drive. This work was started in the fall of 2021 but did not meet the boards expectations. The contractor returned in 2022 and completed the job to the board’s satisfaction.

450th street suffered two washouts at two different times; after a spring run-off event,  and after a heavy rainfall late spring on the  south side of the road near Greg Hommerding's driveway.  These were both repaired the same day they were reported.

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

The Guthrie Township board contracted with Gladen Const. in 2022 to spread gravel on Guthrie Township roads 255th, 410th,420th, 440th, 444th, 460th, Quite Pasture and Roxbury Drive. Some of these roads were only contracted to get needed areas graveled, and some were contacted to get lifts of 1 to 2 inches. This contract was started in the fall of 2022 and will be finished in the spring of 2023. The total of this contract is $33,915.24, part of which was paid in 2022 for completed work. The balance will be paid in 2023 after completion.

Projects the board is looking into:

Some of Guthrie Township's roads may need road side brushing in 2023. This will be looked into again during this spring's road tour.

In regards to the incline on Guthrie Township 440th east end where it intersects US highway 71.  A letter was sent to the Minnesota DOT. I asked 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. TJ Melcher, a Minnesota DOT engineer from the Bemidji office, looked at this intersection and said that there were no monies available to address the problem.  I am drafting a letter to Representative Pete Stauber in hopes that he can help Guthrie Township get some financial assistance from the state to address this problem.

Gravel prices were contracted out in 2022 on a per yard price per specs, and will be contracted out again in 2023 on a per yard price per specs.

Summer road side mowing for 2023 will again be contracted out with a new contract being let and signed for 2023.

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 have not had to deal with this much in the last few years because of low snow accumulations. (We did have the 2 washouts in 2022 listed earlier in this report).

The floor was open for General Discussion.

Dan Rogers asked about the issues with the wash outs on 450th St by Greg Hommerding’s. Mike reports that the issue comes from the water overflow in the ditch that the culvert does not have the capacity to handle the excess amount of water.

Ryan Johnson asked about the issue with the steep incline on 440th onto US Highway 71, if Mike has went above TJ Melcher with the state of Minnesota. Mike indicated that he indeed did go above TJ with the results still not being favorable to the township with the state having the funding to get this issue resolved. Mike indicated that as of 2022 it is estimated at $41,000 to fix the steep incline, with an estimated start date of repair sometime in 2024. Dan Rogers suggested to increase the Road and Bridge levy to support the expense of the repair. Bev Haman also suggested reaching out to the two school districts that have buses traveling that road and asking them to speak on behalf of the township of the safety concerns this issue brings.

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.

Elias Carlson, EMR with Lakeport Medical Responders reported that in 2022 Lakeport Area Emergency Medical Responders, were called to 301 medical/emergency calls within the 236 square miles of coverage area, as well as outlying mutual aid areas. 27 of the Medical Emergency Calls were from Guthrie township. Currently there are fifteen volunteer members who respond to these emergencies 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. Of those fifteen volunteers seven are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and eight are Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs). Currently there is one new member training to become an EMT.

In 2023 our group will begin carrying new medications to increase the pre-ambulance and pre-hospital care that they can provide to patients. These new medications are Benadryl for allergic reactions and Albuterol for asthma attacks. These new medications, as well as the equipment needed to administer them will be an added expense to the budget for 2023. Lakeport Area Emergency Medical Responders is one of the only groups in the area that has equipped every responder with an AED. That is largely due to township support and grant funding. Donations will help with ongoing training, equipment, supplies and medications needed to keep our organization running.

Ivy Knoshaug presented the Ye’ Ol School Grounds Annual Report. There was a total of 17 renters with 14 of those being from Guthrie Township handouts were also provided outlying the Income and Expenses for 2022. Total Income $2,984 and Total Expenses $1,825.06

Ivy indicated that recently one of the Electro Thermo Storage heating units at the Ye’Ol School Grounds/Town Hall, needed to be replaced. After rebates and discounts from Beltrami Electric the bill is $1,867.20 and Ivy is asking that the township cover the cost of the entire bill. At the regular February 7th monthly meeting the town board asked that Ivy present this for vote at the Annual Township meeting on March 14th. David Johnson motioned that the township cover the full bill of $1,867.20 and Dan Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ivy also indicated the need to find others to carry on the continuation of the Ye’ Ol School Grounds. Currently Steve Rogers and Ivy Knoshaug manage this, but are looking at the need to bring others in to take this on. After much open floor discussion on this, it was decided to hold a Ye’ Ol School Grounds meeting on April 18th, 2023 at 7:00pm to further promote the school grounds and discuss options, with the Guthrie Town Board members also in attendance.

Donation requests received were reviewed.

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

Mr. Dan Rogers motioned 2023 donation to Lakeport Medical Responders for $2,000 and Mr. Mike Schmidt 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. Ryan Johnson made a motion to levy $70,000 to The Road and Bridge Fund and Mr. Dan Rogers 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. Roger Corson made a motion to levy $7,600 to the Fire Fund and Mr. Ryan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried

Mr. Mike Schmidt made a motion to levy $4,000 to the Building Fund and Mr. Ryan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

No further discussions and,

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. Ms. Candy Barthel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Submitted by: Amanda Fallgren – Clerk

3/15/2023