

Guthrie Township
Hubbard County Minnesota
2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
March 8th 2016

The Township of Guthrie, Hubbard County Minnesota held its annual meeting on March 8th 2016.

At 7:00 P.M. the Clerk Russ Nickerson called the meeting with the pledge. The sign in roster indicated that nineteen people attended the meeting (See last page)

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 John Kinch seconded the motion. No other motions for the moderator were made and Steve Rogers accepted the nomination.

Mr. John Kinch wished to be recognized before the agenda was to take place and the Moderator granted him the floor. Mr. Kinch stated that he thought that the Board of Audit meeting was a “complete waste of time” and a “boondoggle” and wanted follow-up as to the possibilities of abandoning the BOA meetings in the future. Mr. Nickerson stated that the Board is required by law to conduct the BOA meeting, conduct it in a certain timeframe and is required to notify the public of such meetings. Mr. Kinch also stated that he attended the BOA meeting and requested that the minutes of that be amended as he felt that the meeting did not start at 8:00 PM per the meeting notice. Mr Nickerson stated that he would correct the minutes. Mr. Rogers asked Mr. Nickerson if he would look into the possibility of removing the BOA meeting from the Townships duties and Mr. Nickerson stated that he would. SIDE BAR COMMENT: Later in the meeting Ms. Jourdain found the state statute 366.20 that states that a Town Board shall audit and meet each year. This information thus eliminates any further research on this matter and further questions need to be forwarded to the state legislators.

The Clerk then read the minutes of the last year’s Annual Meeting Minutes and asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Ms. Brockman stated that she would like to clarify that the number of responses in the minutes were for the department and not specifically Guthrie Township. The Clerk has noted this comment and will amend the minutes. John Kinch made a motion to approve the 2015 minutes and Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion.

There were multiple copies of the 2015 financial report made available to the public and there were some minor discussion about the report.

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

- What the Board has accomplished in the past year as well as some proposed improvements for 2016.
- Stated that the Supervisors will continue to develop a culvert inventory as well as culvert marking in 2016.
- Stated that \$30,000 was spent on gravel improvement on 420th
- Stated that a five year plan is to place a 2” lift on any roads that is in need of repair – case by case basis
- Stated the Board is aware of the need for improvements to 450th

The floor was opened for comments. Mr Kinch felt that the East end of 450 was in need of repair and that there was not an adequate base on that end of the road and felt that rotor grading was not necessary when the

roads get dry in the late summer. Much discussion was then made about how the Townships road maintenance contracts were written.

Mr. Nickerson stated that one of the main responsibilities of the Board was road maintenance and that they are required to consider public safety when maintaining township roads.

Mr. David Wells commented that the Snow removal company could do a service to people that live on Raven and Rail Road if the move the snow to the side of that road that has no driveways. Mr. Schmidt commented that Gladen Construction has been very accepting of the Township requests and feels that this should not be a problem

Mr. John Kinch made a motion to approve the road report and Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion.

Mr. Wells also requested that the abandoned light post be removed near his house. Mr. Steve Rogers stated that this was not a Township post. However he stated that he would remove it.

Some discussion was centered on the Building Fund and associated future improvements. This included a proposed new heater for the back room, new floor covering and sound dampeners for the building.

Mr. Kinch stated that he feels that the Board should have an inventory list of its assets including the value of its property.

Mr. Terrance Davenport inquired as to the availability of a larger Wi-Fi footprint around the hall as many people have Wi-Fi devices and are sometimes outside the building. Mr. Nickerson felt that was a good idea and volunteered to follow up on that request.

TOWNSHIP LEVIES

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

Mr. Michael Schmidt made a motion to levy \$45,000 to The **Road and Bridge Fund** and Mr. Ryan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried

Mr. Mike Schmidt made a motion to levy \$2,000 to the **Cemetery Fund** and Mr. John Kinch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Schmidt made a motion to levy \$2,000 to the **Fire Fund** and Mr. Robert Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried

Mr. David Johnson made a motion to levy \$7,000 to the **Building Fund** and Mr. Roger Corson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Jackie Brockman presented the people with a Annual Report and a summary of calls that the Lakeport Fire and rescue responded to in 2015. 21 calls of 151 took place in Guthrie Township.

Mr. Roger Corson made a motion to donate \$1750.00 to the Lakeport Fire and rescue and Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. John Kinch made a motion to donate 250.00 to the Kitchi Library system and Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Kinch made a motion to have next year's meeting a 7:00 on the second Tuesday in march and to have the Bemidji Pioneer as the official newspaper. Mr. Roger Corson seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Erin Meyers made a motion to continue to send post cards to the Township residents as a reminder to the Annual Meeting. Mr. Kinch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. David Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mike Schmidt seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: Russ Nickerson – Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russ Nickerson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'R'.

03-21-2016