

ANNUAL MEETING OF
CLITHERALL TOWNSHIP
MARCH 11, 2008
EAGLE LAKE CHURCH
8:05 P.M.

The Annual Meeting of Clitherall Township was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2008 following the closing of the polls. The meeting was called to order by Clerk J. Bruce Larson at 8:05 P.M.

Clerk Larson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ron Sugdon was nominated and elected to serve as moderator of the meeting.

Clerk Larson read the Notice of the Annual Meeting, which has been posted and published w/in timelines. Corrections/Additions?

Clerk Larson read the minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting. They were approved as read on a motion by Jim Miller, 2nd by Rod Broding. M/CU.

Treasurer Polly Berg read a synopsis of the Twp Annual Financial Statements. Homer Saetre questioned as to how close the expected funds were allocated as to how they're been expended. Ms. Berg replied that disbursements were down, so the Township came out fine at the end of the year. Homer Saetre questioned where/why the current surveying is being done. Chairman Davenport answered as to where the year's surveys were done. O. LeRoy Anderson questioned the cost of survey. Chairman Davenport replied that the survey consisted of road right-of-way, recording w/the courthouse, and is quite complex. Also, legal descriptions have been completed for R/W. Also, some challenges of twp R/W have occurred. This further complicates matters. O. Leroy Anderson also questioned crack repair for black-topped roads in the twp. He felt that the adjoining property owners should pay for this. Chairman Davenport said that when a major overlay is done, then adjoining property owners pay, but for regular maintenance, the twp pays. Chairman Davenport left that option open, if that what the twp citizens want. The Treasurer's Report was approved on a motion by Roger Speck, 2nd by Rod Broding. M/CU.

Lyman Trutna gave a report on graveling roads. He reported that some roads need to be rebuilt eventually at considerable expense. Antler Trail is on of those roads. This road is also out of its R/W. Quartz Road has ditches that are full, and heavy rains cause flooding of this road. There are other roads in the twp that have shallow ditches that need to be rebuilt. Twp's legal counsel tells the twp that roads that are black-topped must be in the center of their respective R/W. Chairman Davenport gave examples of roads that are not properly recorded with the county, and the problems that this can cause twp road projects. H. Saetre questioned Lyman Trutna as to which roads will be tarred. Lyman replied that the process for black-topping a road is a long and sometimes difficult process.

Milton Lien questioned who is responsible when a snowplow knocks over a mailbox.

Since no one knows precisely what's in the Mn Dot Transportation bill recently passed over the Governor's veto, it's not clear when, or even if, there will be any money available for twp grants.

Dallas Grewe gave the Battle Lake Motor Patrol Report. He said to call him if a mail box is knocked over. Grewe also reported that it's difficult to not plow gravel off the roads when plowing snow. There will be gravel in the ditches this spring.

Lyman Trutna spoke of the increase needed for the Battle Lake Fire Dept. A new building is needed, as the current one is sinking. Al Domke asked if the new building will be built where the old one currently is. Lyman replied that it would not, and he's not certain where it will be built. There are several possibilities being discussed.

Lakes Area Development Proposal: Don Davenport and Lyman Trutna. Don Davenport discussed declining enrollment in Battle Lake Schools, and what can be done to help alleviate this problem. He spoke of a separate gov't entity that has the power to assess that will promote economic development in the area. Clitherall Twp's attorney has advised that small twps such as ours cannot contribute twp money to this entity. Lyman Trutna spoke in favor of an economic development plan for the Township. He outlined an economic plan that he had experienced in the town where he previously lived, and what type of businesses had been built there. A number of people had questions regarding which twps and other gov't entities are being asked to contribute to this, and who is accountable to whom for public moneys, There are a number of unanswered questions that probably need to be addressed.

A motion/resolution was made by Roger Speck to approve the Board's exploring the Lakes Area Development Proposal. 2nd by David Hofstad. M/CU. (This is as clear as mud).

The proposed upgrade of South Clitherall Lake Road was discussed by Chairman Don Davenport. To repair and upgrade this road would cost approximately \$511,900.00! This would not include blacktopping; only upgrading this road. Don explained the Clitherall Township 6 Year Financial Plan in some detail. Nancy Johnson made a motion to approve delayed implementation of the South Clitherall Lake Road Improvement. 2nd by Rod Broding. The hope is that the twp will be awarded a grant from MnDOT to expedite this plan. M/CU.

JOBZ proposal & Resolution – Don Davenport explained that more study is needed, and the discussion of this proposal was dealt with in the Lakes Area Development Proposal.

The New Town Hall Resolution – presented by Lyman Trutna and Don Davenport. This is part of the Clitherall Township 6 Year Financial Plan. The purpose of this building is for Twp equipment, storage of twp records, maps, office property, and meeting locations. Cost would be approximately \$300,000.00. Don Davenport read a resolution that would provide a twp building.

Homer Saetre questioned if rent is currently being paid. The answer is that the BLMP currently owns ½ of the building currently being used. BLFD owns the other ½, but can't stay in the building much longer, due to its poor condition. So there's no rent being paid by the current occupants of the BLMP. A resolution designating a Township site requires approval of 2/3 of the voters of the twp. Peter Boyum made a motion we table this agenda item and discuss it further at the Summer Informational Meeting. 2nd by Nancy Johnson. M/CU.

Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance – Don Davenport presented the most recent Zoning and Planning maps and Ordinance. The zoning maps are currently on the web site of Community Growth Institute. Don spoke of animal feed lots, and restrictions as to where they should or should not be, numbers of animals allowed, etc. Al Domke made a motion that residential and feed lots be in separately zoned areas. 2nd by Dave Hofstad. 10 opposed. 23 in favor. M/CU.

The levies for 2009 proposed by the Board equals \$325,000.00. This includes increases in the General Fund \$40 - \$45,000, Road and Bridge Fund \$230,000.00 to \$260,000.00, and and the Fire Fund from \$15 - \$20,000.00. At this point, a motion was made by Milton Lien that the budget remain at the 2008 levy of \$285,000.00. 2nd by Pete Boyum. On a hand count, the M/Failed 23 - 10. Rod Broding made a motion the levy be raised as the Board recommends – to \$325,000.00. 2nd by Jeff Stabnow. (See 2008 Agenda). M/C on a hand count 22 – 7.

The election results were as follows:

Supervisor: Dallas Grewe – 50
Gene Smith – 13
Clinton Bengsen – 9
Brenda Burton-Colton – 2

Clerk: J. Bruce Larson – 67
Julie Goodrie – 2
Gene Smith - 2
Al Domke – 1
Arlyn Hustad - 1

Contributions: OTC Historical Society - \$300.00
Battle Lake Rescue Squad - \$2,000.00
Henning Ambulance Service - \$367.27.
Battle Lake Summer Rec Program - \$250.00

Alice Hofstad made a motion to approve the above amounts. 2nd by Lyman Trutna. M/CU.

The Summer Informational Meeting will be held at Eagle Lake Church at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 28th on a motion by Lyman Trutna, 2nd by Roger Speck. M/CU.

A motion was made by Homer Saetre to adopt a resolution establishing a Gopher Bounty of \$2.00 per pair of front feet for gophers trapped in the Township. 2nd by Lyman Trutna. M/CU.

A motion was made by Betty Davenport the Annual Twp Meeting be held Tuesday March 10th, 2009 at Eagle Lake Church at 8:00 P.M. following the election. 2nd by Roger Speck. M/CU.

At 10:55 P.M., a motion was made by Jeff Stabnow to recess this meeting until the Summer Informational Meeting on Tuesday, June 28th, 2008. 2nd by Jim Miller. M/CU.

J. Bruce Larson, Clerk
Clitherall Twp

**Summer Informational Meeting
Saturday, June 28, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Eagle Lake Lutheran Church**

The Summer Informational Meeting of Clitherall Township was held on Saturday, June 28, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Lyman Trutna at 8:58 a.m.

In attendance were Board members Lyman Trutna, Dallas Grewe, and Jan Eitzen.

Trutna explained that no decisions would be made at this meeting. It is an informational meeting only. He opened the floor to questions.

Jay Johnson asked about graveling of the roads. Trutna explained that George was graveling Eagle Lake Township first and then would start in Clitherall. Trutna explained that it takes about two weeks to complete once it is started. He stated that every road will be graveled, some with more than others, depending on need.

Joyce Christiansen asked about information about statutes for Minnesota. Trutna explained that they are available on the Minnesota Township website.

Conversation ensued about road right-of-ways and issues related to trees and brush in the right-of-way.

Joyce Christiansen stated that several representatives were here to express opposition to the paving of Statesboro. She stated that several of them were signing a petition stating their opposition. Trutna suggested they appear at the upcoming hearing and emphasized its importance. Discussion ensued about the petition versus appearing at the hearing. John Krenz asked about the importance of something in writing versus appearing at the hearing. Trutna indicated that we were seeking an attorney's opinion on that. Trutna stated that the letters would be read at the hearing. Discussion followed as to how many parcel exist with

regard to the Statesboro project and how property owners would be assessed and their voting power with the Board.

John Krenz stated that close to 80% of the parcel holders have signed the petition in opposition to the project. He further described that the road is a dead end road, and he is concerned about the increased volume and speed of traffic on the road. His other concern is the cost of the maintenance of a paved road versus a gravel road. He also asked about the rebuilding of the base of the road and if that will come from the Clitherall Road and Bridge fund rather than from assessment of property owners. Trutna explained that many townships are moving toward assessing. Trutna explained that the road was in need of improvements. Krenz also expressed that some will receive more benefit from the road than many of the others. Many residents expressed that the road is now in good condition and is maintained well and they are happy with the current condition of the road. Discussion continued about a proposed change to an adjoining road and how it adjoins Statesboro.

John Krenz asked about the maintenance cost of paved road versus gravel road. Trutna explained that there was an increased cost to maintain a paved road but it is a nicer road to drive on it.

Trutna explained that the Board will vote based on what is they believe is the best option for the road and the residents. They will listen to all the opinions and try to represent everyone.

Discussion continued about the benefit to Rich Jibbens and his development efforts. Trutna explained the levy process in Clitherall Township. Trutna also discussed the planning and zoning effort underway in Clitherall Township to ward off annexation by Battle Lake.

Nancy Johnson asked if the Township received an increased benefit in taxes if more residents are on tarred roads. Conversation ensued about the Township levy and the fact that it is a set amount established by Township residents. The set levy amount is divided amongst the taxpayers. The Township does not receive more taxes if the road is tarred.

John Krenz asked about the assessment amount and how it can't exceed the percentage of increase the improvement adds to one's property value. Trutna confirmed that statement and explained the process.

Jan Krenz expressed again that she wants satisfaction to know that the "80% opposed" will be considered. Trutna responded that the Board will go over all the facts and attempt to fairly address them.

Jeff Stabnow explained the estimate for 402nd and Statesboro. He described the difference in the road improvement and the paving and gave financial details. He said that \$47,000 of the \$288,000 estimate was for the improvements and the rest was for paving. He explained some of the details intended for the project, including road widths.

Grace Berry will call Trutna this week to learn the opinion of Nate Seeger on how the resident letters will be weighted versus residents appearing in person.

Joyce Christiansen asked if there could be information put on a website where residents could get minutes and other information. Many residents wholly supported the idea. Trutna made a motion for clerk Eitzen to research this option and to report back to the Board. Grewe 2nd. Jan Eitzen, clerk, will explore the option of creating a website for the Township. Minutes also will be posted at the Township's official posting place.

Trutna made a motion for an emergency road inspection at Peninsula Trail to improve visibility on the curve. Grewe 2nd. MC/U Road inspection started at Eagle Lake Church immediately after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned on motion by Trutna at 12:00 p.m. 2nd by Grewe. MC/U