

Clitherall Township  
Annual Meeting  
March 17, 2009 8:05 p.m.  
Eagle Lake Lutheran Church

The Annual Meeting of Clitherall Township was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 following the closing of the polls. The meeting was called to order by Clerk Jan Eitzen at 8:10 p.m.

Clerk Eitzen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Eitzen called for nominations for moderator. Steve Berg nominated Homer Saetre to moderate the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rod Broding. Clinton Bengston nominated Larry Nelson, but Mr. Nelson declined the nomination. MC/U.

Approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2008. Minutes stand approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer presented the 2008 financial information included on the summary report, noting the CTAS reporting file was submitted to the State Auditor's office on February 22, 2009. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Betty Davenport. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff Stabnow. MC/U

#### Road Report

Davenport described blacktopping requests from 2008. Three were requested: Statesboro, Westwood and Klar Jo. Westwood was the only one that was blacktopped. Homer Saetre asked if any other petitions were on file. None have been received.

#### Survey of Township roads

During the year the township was subpoenaed in connection with a property sale on Crane Lake Drive. Davenport explained that some roads were recorded from aerial surveys and that is inadequate for determining property descriptions. He stated we are surveying South Clitherall Lake Road and Crane Lake Road. He further explained that there will be hearings on South Clitherall Lake Road, Crane Lake Road and Antler Trail.

#### Sand and Gravel Committee

Trutna reminded the residents of a problem with gravel from this summer. He asked for four residents to participate on a gravel committee to approve the gravel used this summer. Trutna explained the township did a lot of brushing last year and they intend to do a lot more spraying this year. The board has been busy working with culverts and alleviating water problems.

LeRoy Anderson asked about the mud on the roads. Trutna responded that is why the roads need to be rebuilt.

#### Battle Lake Motor Patrol

Grewe presented the report. He described that it is difficult to predict the amount of snow each year. They put wheels on two of the snow plow trucks and those are working well for keeping more gravel on the road.

Homer Saetre asked about the variance on the budget. Grewe explained that income was less than expenses. He further explained that there have been several years of little snowplowing, thus less income, plus a time of increased fuel costs.

#### Battle Lake Fire Association

Trutna presented this report. He states that the Fire Association also has spent more than was received in income during the year. He stated they have raised their rates to offset this. He indicated that there are some plans for a new building; a fire house. He stated the current building is a problem, but that the equipment is in good shape and the manpower is good.

#### Town Hall Resolution

Davenport presented a resolution for a townhall. The board is presenting a proposal for a townhall with an estimated cost of \$125,000.00. He noted that the Battle Lake school may be able to build the townhall for a substantially reduced price, which would include cost of materials. He described the problems associated with voting at the church as the church holds a stew feed on the same night. The Board wants to avoid any potential conflict with existing statutes that require voting take place in a separate location. Motion by Davenport to approve a resolution for a townhall. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trutna.

A resident asked what the hall would look like. The board showed an example of what the hall could be. Saetre explained about the site for the hall. Another resident asked about the cost of maintenance and insurance for the proposed building. Davenport explained that the township pays the church approximately \$2,000 a year for rental. Another resident asked about renting it out. Davenport stated that some townships do rent it out. Some require the renters to have their own insurance or they charge enough to cover the insurance.

Another resident asked if the school would build it and the clerk verified that the school had stated they would consider this project.

Davenport explained that if the school would build the building it would save on the labor costs.

Saetre called for a vote of the residents:

In Favor: 12

Opposed: 20

Motion failed.

#### Levies

Davenport explained the levies being proposed. A resident asked about the collateral used for loans by the township. Davenport explained that townships are allowed to borrow for road and bridge projects against the tax receipts.

Davenport explained that the township had applied for a grant for road work and blacktopping on South Clitherall Lake Road. A resident stated he is going to work

to ensure the township doesn't get the grant. He wants to see a stop to the spending from Federal down to township levels. Another resident asked why all the funds would need to be spent on one road. Davenport explained that the grants aren't issued that way. Another resident asked if Davenport had spoken with the chairman of the Nidaros board. Davenport has spoken with a member of the board, but not the chairman.

Saetre clarified that the proposed levy increases by \$20,000 and asked Davenport to summarize the increase. Davenport referred the residents to the budget and some line items such as resealing some of the roads.

Clinton Bengston stated he is presenting a petition to Amy Klobuchar requesting she not grant the earmark and asked that those who might be interested in signing it see him after the meeting.

Saetre called for a vote to approve the proposed levy for 2010.

In Favor: 21

Opposed: 11

Motion passed approving the proposed levy in the total amount of \$345,000 and broken down as follows: General Fund - \$55,000; Road and Bridge Fund - \$270,000; and Fire Fund - \$20,000.

## Zoning Ordinance

Davenport explained the board was working on rewording the section of the ordinance that dealt with junk yards.

Prior to the zoning meeting, the board will post the changed sections so the residents can see the changes. Some changes were made to the residential section. The map will be updated. Residents asked about specific areas and their zoning. Some discussion ensued regarding zoning.

A resident asked if the county was going to be defining zoning out here. Davenport described that the county doesn't have it on their agenda for at least three years.

Another resident asked how much was paid for defining zoning. The treasurer responded that the total amount paid to Community Growth Institute since 2006 totals \$11,692.56.

Another resident asked if they could make a motion that the zoning ordinance be discontinued. Motion by Clinton Bengtson to discontinue zoning plans. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Nelson. During discussion, Davenport explained that one main reason the board is looking at ordinances is that Battle Lake is looking at methodically annexing a two-mile radius beyond its current limits. They would enforce their own ordinance within that two-mile radius. Davenport sees this as a real threat. He feels their goal is to get more money from this area. He further described the consequences of annexation would be that 1/3 of the Clitherall tax base would be

lost but nearly all of the gravel roads, and thus the expense of maintaining them, would remain with the township.

Discussion ensued about another idea that the township be divided into 5 sections. Saetre questioned the statutory basis for this idea, and it was suggested that this couldn't be pursued for our township.

Saetre asked for some background on the ordinances. This process was started in 2006. The existing ordinance is minimal.

Another land owner encouraged Clitherall residents to work together to resolve the ordinance issues.

Saetre confirmed that there will still be hearing in April.

After a hand vote, the results of which were too close to call, and on request by a resident, Saetre called for a ballot vote on the motion.

In favor: 17

Opposed: 27

Blank: 1

Motion Failed.

#### Township Officer Election Summary

Total Voters: 67

Supervisor (3 year term):

Lyman Trutna: 38

Craig Bengtson: 28

Robert Elhert Sr.: 1

Treasurer (2 year term):

Polly Berg: 57

Connie Brust: 1

Janet Bengtson: 2

Pam Cameron: 1

Clerk (1 year term):

Jan Eitzen: 57

Bruce Larson: 2

Lisa Bengtson: 1

Arlen Husted: 1

Brady Cameron: 1

Jean Boyum: 1

Date for Summer Informational Meeting: June 20, 2009 at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church at 9:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting for 2010 set for Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church.

Donations:

Motion by Trutna to donate \$300 to OTC Historical Society. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Broding MC

Al Domke spoke on behalf of the Lakes Area Community Center and requested a donation, the amount of which would be left to the discretion of the board. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Broding. MC

Motion by Clinton Bengtson to raise gopher bounty to \$3.00 per pair. 2<sup>nd</sup> by LeRoy Anderson. A resident asked if there should be a limit to the amount paid out. \$778 was paid out in 2008. Treasurer Berg noted that in other years the Township has paid out more than \$1,000 in bounties. MC

Motion by Trutna to donate to Henning Ambulance \$367.27. 2<sup>nd</sup> Domke. Discussion followed concerning the issue of Henning Ambulance charging for their services. It was noted that the Battle Lake Rescue Squad does not transport; rather, they respond as first responders and do not bill for their services. They rely on donations to provide this service to the community. Motion failed.

Motion by Davenport to donate \$2,000 to Battle Lake Rescue Squad. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Bengtson. MC

Annual meeting recessed at 10:15 p.m. to the Summer Informational Meeting.

/s/ Jan Eitzen, Clerk

Clitherall Township  
Recessed Annual Meeting  
June 20, 2009  
Eagle Lake Lutheran Church

Davenport opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Board members in attendance were Don Davenport, Lyman Trutna, Dallas Grewe, and Jan Eitzen. Also in attendance

Virginia Delaney spoke on behalf of letters she had sent to the board expressing her desire to not have any road changes on her South Clitherall Lake Road. Davenport responded that the board has hired an appraiser to determine a damage payment to the homeowners for the road move. The board is intending to send her a letter with the board response. She asked about the county taking over the road and Grewe responded that the county will not take over the road. Discussion continued about road improvements and the possible black topping of South Clitherall Lake Road.

A resident asked why roads were being surveyed. Davenport responded that the township had problems with legal descriptions for the roads and were attempting to fix those issues. He further described some of the issues and resolutions.

A resident commended the board on the snow removal this winter.

Davenport stated that the township will be inventorying all the signs in the township and will be replacing them to meet state standards.

A resident asked for a status on Ditch 16. Stabnow gave an update. Engineering report should be done first of September. He was told wetlands management would review that request. Stabnow described three key obstructions; cat tails, culverts at Bonnie Beach are partially plugged, township culvert on North Clitherall Lake Road is too small for ditch design. Discussion continued about Ditch 16 meetings.

A resident asked about townhall plans. The board presented two proposals for town halls. One for a steel building and the other for a building built by the school as a school house project. Davenport mentioned that the township will need to move our elections due to issues with the stew feed. Davenport suggests recessing the annual meeting for three months to get more information on proposals for a townhall.

Davenport suggested the meeting be recessed to September 17, 2009, 7:00. The intended topic will be to discuss townhall options. The meeting will be run by a moderator. Carl Carlson has agreed to be moderator.

Meeting was recessed at 11:15.

Clitherall Township  
Recessed Annual Meeting  
September 17, 2009  
Eagle Lake Lutheran Church

Clerk, Jan Eitzen called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Eitzen called for nominations for moderator. Don Davenport nominated Carl Carlson. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lyman Trutna. Carlson accepted nomination to moderate.

Carlson opened the floor for discussion. Davenport explained to the residents that the board didn't want to spend money on proposals until they had an approved resolution from the voters. The board has prepared some preliminary estimates for constructing a town hall for purposes of presenting to the residents. Once a resolution is in place, the board will develop details specifications and go out for bids.

Davenport explained that an old town hall was sold due to its condition of disrepair. The township then purchased its current lot for \$15000. He described the progression of meeting locations for the township up to its current location at the Eagle Lake Lutheran Church. He explained that the voting in this location becomes a problem due to conflicts with the stew feed the church puts on the same evening. Voting has to be in a separate location from other activities. He also explained the need for storage of town documents and property, which is currently stored in individual board member houses.

Davenport described the proposed town hall layout and functionality. A resident asked how the storage area would be fireproof. Davenport responded that the board still needed to get more information on that but they assumed they would build it out of concrete block. Another resident asked about annual maintenance costs, which the board does not have.

Another resident asked about scanning documents instead of keeping hard copy. The board responded that the board does scan most documents, but we are required to keep some documents hard copy.

Davenport explained some of the details of the proposed site layout and opportunities for future expansion of a garage if it ever became necessary. He also described that a retention pond was planned for run off from truck as they come in the lot so as not to harm nearby animals.

Davenport presented a couple of options for building the town hall, a pole barn and a stick-built. He explained that these aren't firm bids based on specs, thus they aren't an equal comparison. The purpose of the proposals are for developing a range of cost. The board would develop a final spec and then go out for bids.

A resident asked if the site preparation would accommodate a future garage. Davenport responded that the whole site would be prepared.

A resident asked about the township looking at Tom Minten's property that the board toured. Davenport read the minutes of the 9/09 meeting as to why the board was not considering Tom Minten's property.

Another resident presented tax rate figures for three properties he owns in Minnesota and feels the spending is too high in Clitherall. He wants the spending in the township restrained.

A resident asked if the cost was covered strictly by residents or if there was grant funds available. Davenport responded that the board was unaware of any funds available to them.

A resident asked about the importance of being in the center of the township to build the town hall. Trutna responded that there is a concern being close to Battle Lake due to the threat of annexation.

Motion by Mike Allman to call for a vote. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Miller. MC/U. Davenport read the resolution to the residents.

A resident asked about the resolution amount and Davenport explained that the amount was the maximum.

A written vote was taken of all the voters in attendance. All voters stated they were voting residents.

Vote Tally:

Yes: 19

No: 18

Motion by Pat Allman to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Allman. Roll call vote to adjourn. Yes: 18,  
No: 10. Meeting adjourned 8:15.

/s/ Jan Eitzen, Clerk