

Clitherall Township
Annual Meeting
March 9, 2010 8:05 p.m.
Eagle Lake Lutheran Church

The Annual Meeting of Clitherall Township was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 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 from the floor for the moderator of the meeting. Clinton Bengtson nominated Blaine Larson, seconded by Craig Bengtson. Lyman Trutna nominated Homer Saetre, seconded by Carol Farr. Alice Hofstad then made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Dale Cameron. The motion passed. The Clerk then called for a vote on the nominations. Blaine Larson received a total of 31 votes, and Homer Saetre received 32 votes. Homer Saetre took over as moderator.

Approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting of 2010. Minutes stand approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer presented the 2009 financial information included on the summary report. Berg explained that the Township has used the Small City and Town Accounting System (CTAS) created by the State Auditor's office since 2005. The annual financial report the Township is required to file with the State Auditor was submitted on January 19, 2009. Berg explained some details from the summary report outlining receipt and expenditures during calendar year 2009.

Road Report

Trutna described that the township didn't tar any roads this year but did do a seal coat, which was approximately \$90,000. The board is looking into the flooding at 190th street. He stated the board wants to finish some work to resolve wash outs on Statesboro and 405th. He stated there were a lot of roads washed out in the spring. Many culverts were replaced to avoid that again.

Road Right-of-Way; Davenport described that the board has been surveying roads since the discovering problems with aerial surveys from past years. Davenport described an upcoming road move on Crane Lake due to the road encroachment on their property. He states that the best way to handle it is to move the road and record it with the court house. He described encroachments on South Clitherall Lake Road that will be resolved in conjunction with resolving safety issues on road curves. He stated Antler Lane also has some spots where the road is built in a different spot that it was platted. He stated the board is methodically working through these problems.

Saetre asked about the seal coating. Trutna responded that we contract with the county to obtain price reductions.

Battle Lake Motor Patrol

Grewe presented the report. He stated that they are getting caught up financially after years of little snow.

Battle Lake Fire Association

Trutna presented this report. He stated that there is some money on hand that is designated to replace trucks. He stated the equipment is in good shape. There is a building fund started. The building has problems and is sinking. This year the Fire Dept and the Rescue Squad will be joined and each township will fund their services. Several townships have been working on a contract for members. Each township member has part ownership in the association. Sheila Newark, a member of the rescue squad, spoke to the residents about their services. Davenport stated the township's appreciation of their services.

Zoning Ordinance

Davenport stated that the committee is not done and thus did not want to report.

Town Hall Update

Larry Nelson provided the following report.

“Last fall Robert Ehlert, Wayne Nelson, Clinton Bengtson, Bob Farr, Gene Smith and myself, Larry Nelson, were asked by the town board to be on a committee to come up with a building for a Town Hall. We met, I believe, four times. Robert Ehlert contacted some contractors and got an estimated cost. The building we came up with as a committee is a 1,040 square foot stick building with 2x6 walls, handicap doors and also handicap accessible bathroom. Also in the price was the cement work, the dirt work, the sewer, well and gravel on the parking lot. We presented our building to the Town board to accept or reject it. That is what we were asked to do. Questions on cost are in the minutes. I will let the board give you those numbers.”

He stated they decided on 1040 square feet, and presented their proposal to the town board. The committee determined a cost of \$65/sq foot. Nelson stated the figures were strong. Clinton Bengtson stated that the committee voted unanimously to support the recommendation. Davenport pointed the residents to how the room was set up and that it matched the town hall dimensions and set up.

Financial Plan

Davenport distributed a six year financial plan and a list of roads in the township and expected costs. Davenport described the Market Value Unallotments and that the township is receiving less from the state. Davenport planned on the assumption that Market Value Unallotments will not continue throughout the entire Financial Plan.

He discussed South Clitherall Lake Road. He stated that the county is not interested in taking over this road. Davenport stated that the township would like to receive grant funds to upgrade and pave this road because it is an interconnection through road that connects MN State Hwy 78 to County Hwy 5.

He stated the township should not have to pay for extra cost of being an interconnection road, thus the township is asking for grant money to cover the costs of the interconnection and town line roads.

Davenport described the addition of a category of Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund. He stated that the township has applied for a grant through Senator Al Franken's office for building the town hall. He further stated that the township, in conjunction with the City of Battle Lake and Everts Township also applied for funding for doing a Regional Plan. Davenport suggests the township put \$40,000 each year into a fund for the town hall. He stated that the engineering firm supplied an estimate of \$81,000 but did not include water and sewer.

A resident asked where the \$40,000 would come from to put in the town hall. Davenport responded that it would come, in part, from reduced road projects in 2011, not increased taxes.

Another resident asked about 190th and the \$11,000 estimate. Davenport responded that the amount was for maintenance, not to raise the road. The board does not know how high the road would need to be raised to avoiding the flooding and plans to seek assistance from DNR. Davenport responded they wouldn't do anything until 2012. The resident asked for an estimate of how much is tied into that project so far. He estimates approximately \$40,000 in one section and \$60,000 to \$70,000 in another section and that it has a good base.

Saetre asked about a statute that was passed about 15 years ago about trunk highways that went by lakes. Saetre suggested DNR might have been involved in that statute.

Establish Town Hall Capital Reserve Account

Davenport presented information about the Town Hall Capital Reserve Account. Motion by Davenport that a Town Hall Capital Reserve account be set up for the purpose of building a town hall. Second by Pat Allman. Nate Seeger, attorney for the town board, described that the purpose of the account is to have a place to put funding for the town hall. Saetre asked about alternatives if the motion fails. Seeger described that the town hall could be funded from current funds. Another option is through gifts and contributions. Another way to get funding is through a government source, like a grant. Another option is through a levy, established by the town board or by the electorates establishing an amount to levy. Money can be borrowed through a couple of ways. One is bonding, which will need a bonding attorney and a special election. Certificates of indebtedness are for less than 10 years in duration. That funding could go through without voter ballot. Another option is for the voters to set up a reserve fund to put funds toward the building. Another option is to levy each year for a specific dollar amount to pay for specific work.

Nelson asked about the dollar amount for the building. Davenport responded that the board has not gone out for firm bids, but is only relying on the architect's estimates.

Seeger described to the voters that the board cannot go out for firm bids without funding established by the voters.

Seeger further described that the board has authority to spend up to \$157,650. The resolution from Sept. 2009 sets the cap on what can be spent. Now the voters are being asked how to fund it.

A resident asked if it can be built from funds in general fund rather than raising the levy. Seeger responded that it can be build with existing funds, reallocated, rather than raising they levy.

Saetre called for the vote. Chair declared the motion passed based on a show of hands.

Levies

Motion by Davenport to set the levy for 2011 at \$345,000 with General Fund - \$50,000; Road and Bridge Fund - \$235,000; and Fire Fund - \$20,000; and Town Hall Capital Reserve Account \$40,000 .

A resident asked about moving the funds from road and bridge. Davenport stated that some projects may be delayed over the two years. He stated the township is still expecting some FEMA money. The resident expressed his opinion that money shouldn't be moved from Road and Bridge. Another resident asked if the goal was to fully fund the town hall in two years. Davenport stated that a grant application has been submitted to fund it, but the goal is to fund it over two years. Another resident asked what if the fund doesn't have sufficient funds for the building. Davenport stated that some funds may be put in this year and maybe some work could start, but more details will come as firm bids come in.

Davenport further added that the board can shift funds between accounts if there is a surplus.

2nd by Jim Miller on the motion.

Saetre called for a vote to approve the proposed levy for 2011.

In Favor: 33

Opposed: 26

The chair states that the motion passed.

Residents asked about the zoning committee update. One member stated that the committee did not want to report until they were complete with their work.

Township Officer Election Summary

Total Voters: 201

Supervisor (3 year term):

Don Davenport: 83

Craig Bengtson: 117

Blank: 1

Clerk (2 year term):

Jan Eitzen: 178

Blaine Larson: 1

Dale Cameron: 1
Jean Boyum: 2

Donations:

Motion by Connie Brust to donate to the same organizations at the same funding levels as 2009. 2nd Trutna.

OTC Historical Society. (\$300 in 2009)

Battle Lake Summer Recreational Program. (\$250 in 2009)

Lakes Area Community Center. (\$300 in 2009)

Chair called for a vote and declared the motion passed on a show of hands.

Motion by Gene Smith to cancel the summer informational meeting due to lack of interest. 2nd Dale Cameron. Chair called for a vote and declared the motion passed on a show of hands.

Annual Meeting for 2010 set for Tuesday, March 8, 2011 beginning at 8:05 p.m. at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church.

Trutna addressed the residents regarding the number of meetings and special meetings. Trutna suggested the residents consider a 5 member board to help alleviate the issues with open meeting laws.

Motion by Dale Cameron to adjourn the annual meeting. 2nd by Gene Smith. Chair called for a vote and declared the motion passed on a show of hands.

Annual meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.