

ANNUAL MEETING
PARTRIDGE TOWNSHIP
March 8, 2022

The Clerk called the annual meeting to order at 8:16. Those present were Laurie Jorgensen, Odey Wicklander, David and Cindy Durham, Ron and Joan Taylor, Ovid Jensen, Lee Johnsen, Matt Klocke, Scott and Nancy Purrington, Gary Stitt, and Anne Stitt.

Pledge of Allegiance recited. Motion made by Lee to have Gary Stitt act as moderator, 2nd by Ovid, Motion carried 13-0.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were read, Moderator asked for any additions or corrections, none being stated
Minutes approved as read.

Election results were as follows: Total of 40 Ballots cast, Supervisor Lee Johnsen received 12 votes, write in David Durham received 27 and 1 was blank, Clerk Anne Stitt received 35 votes, David Durham received 2, Odey Wicklander received 1 and 2 were blank.

The treasurer's report was read. We had a beginning balance \$248,248.62, receipts totaled \$190,412.82 and disbursements of \$153,142.07 to bring our ending balance of 2021 \$285,519.37. Opened up for questions, none were asked. Moderator asked if they were any additions or corrections, none being stated Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Business from the floor:

Joan Taylor stated they would like the Township to fix the "road" in front of their place on Low Landing Road. There was a lengthy discussion about this process as where they live is not a Township Road, as the township does not have a recorded easement or record of maintaining that same stretch of road for a six year period somewhere between 40 years ago and 25 years ago. Since neither of those exist, the Township cannot maintain the road due to a lack of public road easement. If the Township decided it wants to maintain these roads and if the elector approval is given, the property owners who want the Township to maintain these portions of roads should be asked to provide evidence of the recorded easement that the Township needs to begin maintaining the road and no maintenance would commence until it can be verified that the proper easement exist. This should include sufficient easement for a cul de sac for the Township to turn its equipment around. Without the dedicated easement, the Township has no authority to maintain the road in question, even if the Township wanted to and even if the electors authorized the Township to maintain the road. Joan asked where this information was coming from, explained there is a MN State statute on roads, this is not our process, we have consulted with the MN Association of Townships legal department as well as our Township Attorney and they have researched and provided us with this feedback, this is not a Partridge Township process. Joan said she wasn't told when they bought the land from the Township or County that it wasn't a Township Road, it was explained that the Township doesn't have land to sell, not sure who she purchased it from but that should have been something the agent they used to purchase the land informed them off that would not be the Township's responsibility. Joan said that there is a stretch of their road that was maintained a short way in from Beaver Tail Road, Ovid informed her that yes for as long as he can remember that short stretch has been maintained and because the Township maintained for six consecutive years and still does that is considered a Township road, however, it ends and the portion she has her seasonal cabin on is not a Township road. They are free to fill in holes but they should check with the other property owners to make sure they are not trespassing on their property. They could have a vote of the electors present tonight to see if they give the Board the permission to look at this as a possible project, but without the electors vote in favor of this the Board can not look at it.

Scott and Nancy Purrington have a similar situation on Tamarack Road. They have a permanent home and reside there, they can not get mail delivered there as it is not a township road. It is about 1/10th mile down Tamarack. In the past several years they have had gravel brought in to build it up, they did about 1 dump truck load each year or every other and had Roberts Excavating or Brandon Melzark spread the gravel. They said it would not be necessary for the Township to plow the road, it was explained that if the Township does maintenance on the road that they then are obligated to keep it up to maintenance standards which would include plowing, grading, brushing ditches, etc. We again went over

the discussion that they were present for with the Taylors so they understood the process and procedure about them gaining easements, etc.

Odey Wicklander wanted to make a motion to have the Town Board look at these projects, he was told it had to be specific to the road, he asked the Taylor's if they wanted a motion, they said no, it was explained that this can only happen at the Annual Meeting so if wasn't voted on tonight and they changed their mind it would have to be tabled until the next Annual Meeting, they said no and then left the meeting. Odey than asked the Purrington's if they were interested in moving forward with a motion. They asked about the process. Matt Klocke explained that if there is a motion and it is voted on and approved by the Electors that then the Board could look at it, which that would allow them to start trying to determine what would need to be done, the cost involved, where a turn around could be put in, it is uncertain if this would be something the Board would approve to expend funds on. This would also give the Purrington's time to check on easements and talk to property owners. Then at a later date they could come back to the Board with more information and a discussion could happen, again no decision is being made tonight the vote is just to give the Board the authority to look at this situation. They said yes they would like to move forward with it. Odey Wicklander made a motion to give the Board authority to look at possibly starting to maintain Tamarack Road down to the Purrington's residence to include a cul de sac for Township equipment to turn around. Second by David Durham. Vote taken with 10 in favor, and Ovid Jensen abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Road Report

Road Supervisor Lee Johnsen said that he drives the roads daily and for that reason has been the Road Supervisor, however, Ovid has been keeping track of roads and what maintenance has been completed along with cost estimates. This has been a huge help for the Township records. There was a road project on Pickeral Creek this year that cost approximately \$27,680, it included ditching and getting the road up to specs, Clark Road project was about \$4,000 and that include rip rapping on the outside to try to save the gravel on the road and improve the integrity of the road, we have 28 miles of road and we try to do a rotation so every 3 years each road gets gravel. Of course if an issue occurs then we address that separately. Ovid added that Koland Road is a shared road with Sandstone Township, we had a road maintenance agreement with Sandstone Township where we split the maintenance, in looking at the cost we decided to end that agreement and the Township now maintains the 1st ¾ mile. We can revisit that if need be in the future. No further questions or comments on roads.

Presentation and approval of the levy:

Discussion was held on the rate of inflation, the Township has not increased the tax levy since 2019 and certainly the last year inflation has increased greatly, with the War in the Ukraine we can only anticipate that oil and fuel prices will continue to rise, we anticipate that an increase will be coming from our contractors for plowing, roadside mowing, road projects, etc due to the increased costs they will face. The Board at the Board of Review meeting had come up with a suggestion to raise the levy 10% to offset the increase in costs, this hopefully would be enough that the levy would not have to be increased again next year but time will tell. Lee Johnsen made a motion to increase the levy by 10%, Anne Stitt made a second. Motion carried 8-0, will Cindy Durham abstaining from the vote.

Tax Levy: \$133,100
General: \$17,600.00
Road & Bridge: \$69,300.00
Fire: \$39,600.00
Zoning: \$5,500.00
Building Maintenance: \$1,100.00

Any Other Comments:

Ovid asked about the Town Hall, discussion was held as to people's thoughts on what to do with the building. It was discussed that it is in need or some major work, floors are warping, the building would probably have to be lifted up and reinforced under neath. Ovid has talked to both the City of Askov and Historical Society to see if there is interest in the building. The Town Hall is only used once a year for the Board of Appeal meeting that the County sets, all other meetings are held at the Askov Community Center. The consensus of the group was that we should continue talks with City of Askov and Pine County Historical Society about them wanting the building.

The next regular Board meeting is Wednesday March 9, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.. The reorganizational meeting is set for Wednesday April 6, 2022 at 6:30 at the Askov Community Center. The regular April Board meeting of supervisors will be call to order immediately after the reorganization meeting is adjourned. Public is welcomed to attend.

2023 Annual Election and Meeting is Tuesday March 14, 2023 following the Election ballots being counted at the close of the election at 8:00p.m.

Gary Stitt adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Anne M. Stitt
Clerk



Gary Stitt
Moderator