

**LYNDEN TOWNSHIP
STEARNS COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 8, 2022**

Township Clerk Jenny Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. David L Johnson made a motion to elect Jeff Westrum to moderate the annual meeting, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

8:17: Anne Ackerman made a motion to waive the reading of the 2021 March annual meeting minutes and the continued meeting in Sept, 2021, seconded by Dennis Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

8:17: Tom Plaggerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2021 annual meeting and the continued meeting in Sept, 2021, seconded by David L Johnson, all in favor, motion passed.

8:18: The 2021 treasurer's report was available for review. Treasurer Jean Schermer presented the Board of Audit report and highlights of the treasurer's report. The annual audit was convened on January 26th and the Clerk's and Treasurer's books and Lake Central Bank statements balanced exactly. At the close of 2021, the checking account balance was \$360,261. 2021 revenue was \$702,223, including \$133,434 of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and expenditures were \$551,701. A motion was made by Dennis Niemi to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by David L Johnson, all in favor, motion passed.

8:22: Randy Pullis made a motion to waive the reading of all checks written and received in 2021, seconded by Anne Ackerman, all in favor, motion passed.

8:23: Annandale Fire: Chief Chris Townsend and Dan Edwards represented the Annandale Fire Department. They responded to 325 total calls in 2021, 10 of which were in Lynden Township. Average response time in Lynden Twp is 15 minutes, 40 seconds. With the assistance of Wright Co they have current unit structure numbers. Niemi has met with Stearns Co and obtained our current unit structure numbers as well, which is 169. The Department has 24 members and agrees the fire commission is a huge asset. They purchased a new Heavy Rescue Vehicle which includes a mobile command center. The levy request for 2023 is \$13,323. (no change from 2022).

8:30: Clearwater Fire: Chief Mike Keller and John Schmidt represented the Clearwater Fire Department. They responded to 366 total calls in 2021 with an average response time for Lynden Twp of 8 minutes, 19 seconds. Year 2022 calls have increased and may affect budget numbers due to more fuel costs and staffing. Sharing of this information occurs quarterly thru the fire commission. The preliminary levy request for 2023 is \$93,590 (+0.4%). On behalf of the township, David L Johnson thanked both departments for their service.

8:30: Newspapers: Lynden Township uses Patriot NewsMN (FKA Citizen-Tribune) as its official newspaper for legal publications and notices. We also post notices on the website and at the Town Hall. David L Johnson made a motion to retain the Patriot

NewsMN as our official newspaper, seconded by Jean Schermer, all in favor, motion passed.

8:40: Attorney: Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P. of St. Michael MN continues to represent Lynden Township. Anne Ackerman made a motion to retain Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P. as the Township Attorney, seconded by Tom Plaggerman, all in favor, motion passed.

8:41: Depository of Funds: The Township currently utilizes Lake Central Bank in Clearwater MN. Randy Pullis made a motion to approve Lake Central Bank for depository of funds, seconded by Dennis Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

8:42: Road Report: 2021: Supervisor Dennis Niemi reported: The LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) Grant to increase the weight rating of the roads in the industrial park was not granted to us. The funds we budgeted for engineering the industrial park roads we diverted to engineering 6th Ave and 200 Str. Analysis shows no gravel or engineering is needed and the two roads are ready for bituminous. The application of the base layer of asphalt in the spring of 2022 and the wear course, shouldering and striping in 2023 will be reviewed by the Board. In 2021 class 1 gravel was applied to all gravel roads North of Craigway. Mowing of ditches, grading and packing of gravel roads, and dust control application occurred. The 200 Str E unlevel asphalt near Plum Creek was repaired. 2022 projects included the base course on 6th Ave and 200 Str (pending Board approval), Chip coating Birchwood, 17th Ave and the town hall parking lot. We also will mow all road ditches, blade and pack gravel, and brush where necessary. We are already on the scheduled for an earlier dust control application. Major projects in 2023 include completing 6th Ave and 200 Str (pending Board approval). Per Policy, we do not anticipate assessing asphalt costs to the property owners on this road since it is a thru road.

8:58: Clearwater Public Library: Clerk notes that no request for donation has been received from the Library since 2019. David L. Johnson made a motion to authorize the Lynden Township Board to donate \$2,000 to the Clearwater Branch of the Great River Regional Library as permitted by MN Statutes §§ 134.12 & 365.10, allowing payments to the library for the benefits library services provide locally in that it is a convenience to township residents, serves a public purpose and is in the township's best interest to authorize this donation, seconded by Dennis Niemi, all in favor, motion passed.

9:00: David L. Johnson, Town Board Chair presented township updates which included:

- there were 40 building permits issued in 2021, including 6 new single-family structures with a preliminary valuation increase of \$3.125 million for all permits.
- The Midco Fiberoptic project installed over 300 miles of fiber optic cable with 2 additional Right of Way permits expected this year.
- We hold contracts with Schendzielos for Summer road maintenance, Schabel for snow plowing and Republic Services for recycling.
- ARPA Funding received to date is \$113,434 with another payment expected. A 3 year window to spend exists but specific criteria on allowable projects. One of those criteria is infrastructure so looking at Town Hall improvements of: foundation repair, central air, possibly replace furnace, install LED lighting, additional cameras, improve sound system, and internet upgrade. Initially funds could not be spent on roads but that has since changed allowing use for roads.

- The Board on March 7, 2022, signed a Letter of Intent with the Hazard Mitigation Program with FEMA and Stearns Emergency Mgmt. This allows the Township to make application for federal disaster funds and for mitigation projects. Projects may include the improvement of sirens and identify locations for dry hydrants to draw water from lakes and streams for fire suppression.

Johnson reviewed the components of the proposed 2023 levy, which consists of 4 funds, although we have no firm number for Clearwater Fire.

Johnson presented the proposed levy as follows:

YEAR 2023	PROPOSED LEVY
Road and Bridge	\$ 385,883
General Government	\$ 99,643
Annandale Fire	\$ 13,323
Clearwater Fire	\$93,590
Total	\$ 592,438

- Overall the proposed levy for 2023 is -2.0%

9:16 Tom Plaggerman made a motion to approve the levy as presented by the Board, seconded by Dennis Niemi, all in favor motion passed.

9:19 Election results were announced as follows:

Number of voters: 21 signatures on the polling place roster

Candidate: Tom Plaggerman (Supervisor) Votes Received: 21

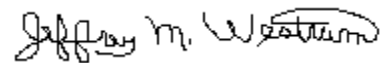
Candidate: Jenny Schmidt (Clerk) Votes Received: 20

The Board of Canvass will meet on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, to review the summary statement and canvass the votes. Tom Plaggerman won the three year Supervisor Term. Jenny Schmidt won the two year Clerk's term.

The Annual Meeting for 2023 will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 8:15 pm. at the Lynden Town Hall.

9:20 Anne Ackerman made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by David L Johnson, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenny Schmidt, Clerk

Jeff Westrum, Moderator