

**Birchdale Township  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 10, 2017 - 8:15 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance**

- a. Clerk Bauer called to order the Annual Meeting of the Birchdale Township Board at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2017 at the Birchdale Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following were present: Supervisors Jim Carstens, Dale Ahrens, Arnold Berscheid, Cathy Lensing and Marc Brinkman, Clerk Jackie Bauer and Treasurer Marlene VanHavermaet. Also in attendance were David and Betty Schwanke, Patsy Ahrens, Gary Roering, Dora Wiegers and Larry Bebus.

**2. Election of a Moderator**

- a. Clerk Bauer announced that the electors would need to nominate a moderator for the meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Marc Brinkman, seconded by Supervisor Cathy Lensing and unanimously carried that Supervisor Dale Ahrens serve as the moderator.

**3. Announce Agenda for Rest of Meeting**

- a. Moderator Ahrens announced the agenda for the meeting.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

- a. A motion was made by Supervisor Carstens, seconded by Supervisor Brinkman, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**5. Reading of Minutes**

- a. Clerk Bauer then read the March 8, 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Supervisor Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Jim Carstens and unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes.

**6. Reading of Board of Audit Report as Posted Prior to Meeting**

- a. Treasurer VanHavermaet then presented and reviewed the Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2017. There were no questions on the report. A motion was made by Supervisor Lensing, seconded by Supervisor Brinkman and unanimously carried to approve the Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2017.

**7. Road Report By Road Subcommittee**

- a. Angler Drive Grant Request – Clerk Bauer announced that this past year, in coordination with Todd County and Grey Eagle Township, a

grant request was written and submitted to the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Park Road Account. Clerk Bauer stated that the Township has been awarded a \$200,000.00 grant and that she had just been notified in the last two weeks. This project will cover the re-tarring of Angler Drive and the project will be completed in 2019. Todd County Engineering will complete the project as they are already doing work in that area in 2019 so this allows the Township to save money on the project by coordinating it with the County. Engineering costs are not covered by the grant so any expenses for this would be covered by Birchdale and Grey Eagle Townships. But, all other costs of the project will be covered by the grant. We are very fortunate to receive the grant because many projects are submitted and only approximately 10-15 are chosen throughout the state.

- b. Dust Control for Township Roads – Supervisors Berscheid and Carstens, who represent the Township Road Committee, reviewed dust control that has been applied on over 8 miles of township roads. They stated that for the coming year, 7 more miles will be added for a total of 15 miles of township roads. Supervisor Carstens stated that by adding dust control on township gravel roads, the overall maintenance costs and condition of the roads are improved.

Clerk Bauer was contacted by Resident Mike Schlicht. He was not able to be at the meeting, but he requested that Amigo Drive be one of the roads that receive dust control if possible.

Dave Schwanke, who was in attendance, asked about 275<sup>th</sup> Avenue and whether this road could possibly be tarred. He stated that the road is in pretty bad shape with lots of pot-holes. The length of the road is about a mile long. The Board will check into the process for this and decide whether to pursue this possibility.

- c. Five Year Capital Improvement Plan – Clerk Bauer reviewed the Birchdale Township Five Year Capital Improvement Plan which outlines what township paved roads need seal-coating and/or striping completed for the next five years.
- d. Treasurer VanHavermaet stated that she had been contacted by Residents Dave and Jan Richter and they stated that the road near Pauly Lake has an area that is soft near the gravel and needs some grave. The Board will direct Mr. Erv Herdering to do this.
- e. Supervisor Lensing brought up the possibility of paying a bounty for coyotes if these animals get to be a nuisance. She stated that in other townships where they pay a coyote bounty, \$10.00 is paid for each jaw.

## **8. Approve Budget, General Levy, and any Depreciated Levies**

- a. After discussion with the Board, Clerk Bauer and Treasurer VanHavermaet are recommending that the Proposed Levy for 2018 be

set for \$158,000.00 which is the same amount as last year. However, their recommendation is that the levy be distributed as follows: \$0 in the Fire Fund, \$123,000.00 in Road and Bridge and \$35,000 in Revenue Fund. This will balance the funds out more evenly.

The 2017 levy was also \$158,000. A motion was made by Supervisor Carstens, seconded by Supervisor Berscheid and unanimously carried to approve the 2018 Budget and General Levy as recommended. 2017 is set at this amount which is for taxes collected in 2018.

**9. Approve Time and Location for the next Annual Meeting and Township Election**

- a. A motion was made by Supervisor Lensing, seconded by Supervisor Marc Brinkman and unanimously carried to set the next Annual Meeting and Township Election for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at the Birchdale Township Hall with election hours to be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the Annual Meeting to begin at 8:15 p.m. Notice of the election and meeting to be published in the Sauk Centre Herald and the Long Prairie Leader and posted on the Township's website and Town Hall bulletin board.

**10. Adjournment**

With no further business, a motion was made by Supervisor Carstens, seconded by Supervisor Brinkman, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jackie Bauer  
Birchdale Township Clerk