

**Birchdale Township
Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 - 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 8, 2016 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 Lelia Ramthun, Donny Gieske, Robert Theisen, Gary Roering, Jan Spehn, Don Spehn, Patsy Ahrens, Jill Holm, Betty Holm, Clara Berscheid, David Schwanke, Larry Bebus, Mary Lou and Ronnie Busman.

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 Arnie Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Jim Carstens and unanimously carried that Supervisor Cathy Lensing serve as the moderator.

3. Announce Agenda for Rest of Meeting

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

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Reading of Minutes

- a. Clerk Bauer then read the March 10, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Supervisor Lensing, seconded by Supervisor Marc Brinkman 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, 2015.

7. Road Report By Road Subcommittee

- a. FEMA Projects – Clerk Bauer gave an update on two road projects in the Township that are being funded through Federal Emergency Management Agency Funds. Both Almond Drive and Angler Drive sustained damage due to summer storms and flooding and have been

approved for FEMA funds. Almond Drive has been repaired and invoices for repair costs have been submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. The repair for Angler Drive is complete also, but plantings need to be finished in the spring after the threat of frost is over. Once these plantings are complete, the Township will submit all final costs for the project to FEMA for reimbursement. Supervisor Carstens added that the additional landscaping will not include any trees, just plants that assist with preventing erosion.

- 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. Supervisor Berscheid asked the residents in attendance, how the roads are. Resident Donny Gieseke said that they are good. Some have dirt that has been pulled in from blading which has made it a little muddier for some roads but the frost boils seem better. Resident Dave Schwanke mentioned that on the road near his residence, dust control is applied but then the road gets graded again which seems to reverse the dust control. Supervisor Berscheid stated that he would mention this to Mr. Herdering who maintains the roads. Resident Gary Roering asked how the Board decides which roads get the dust control applied. Supervisor Berscheid mentioned it depends on the amount of traffic the road receives.
- 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. The Capital Improvement Plan also states that Angler Drive will eventually need reclaiming work however with crack-filling, the condition of the road can be maintained. This past year, the Township, in partnership with Great Eagle Township and Todd County, wrote a grant request to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Park Road Account Fund requesting funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 to complete the reclaiming of Angler Drive. If approved for the grant funds, engineering costs would not be included. Grant award winners will be notified by April 1st, 2017. Todd County also suggested that if the Township would not be approved for the grant, they will be doing reclaiming work on nearby roads in 2018 and could possibly cost-share for Angler Drive with Birchdale Township. This would be a good back-up plan to save on costs.
- d. Resident Donny Gieseke stated that there are some cars that are moving very fast going north on Alcott Drive. He asked if the Township had put up any speed signs around this location. Supervisor Berscheid stated that speed limit signs were put up further down the road.

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 2017 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:
\$23,000.00 in the Fire Fund, \$100,000.00 in Road and Bridge and
\$35,000 in Revenue Fund.

The 2016 levy was also \$158,000. A motion was made by Supervisor Ahrens, seconded by Supervisor Berscheid and unanimously carried to approve the 2017 Budget and General Levy as recommended. 2016 is set at this amount which is for taxes collected in 2017.

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

- a. A motion was made by Supervisor Carstens, seconded by Resident Patsy Ahrens and unanimously carried to set the next Annual Meeting and Township Election for Tuesday, March 14, 2017 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 Berscheid, seconded by Supervisor Brinkman, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Bauer
Birchdale Township Clerk