

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 8:15 p.m. Princeton Township Clerk Connie Wubben called the 2019 Annual Meeting to order.

The Clerk asked for nominations for a moderator. A motion was made by Bill Whitcomb and seconded by Scott Moller to nominate Dan Whitcomb. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Dan Hiller to approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting as printed. Motion Carried.

Joel Minks asked where the disbursement for the new tractor was on the report. Greg Anderson and Eugene Stoeckel stated that was in 2017. Joel Minks questioned why the Township had an \$800,000 balance. He stated it is not the governments' job to collect their money and then invest it. He felt that balance was a pretty stout bank account balance. Mark Riverblood stated that the Township felt it prudent to have that money in the bank for a number of things that could go wrong. That reserve helps for things such as natural disasters and for when equipment breaks down. He stated that they have been able to save money on used equipment and bought the new tractor through the State contract without having to raise the levy. Mr. Riverblood stated that the Board felt it was good to have a reserve and has not had to raise the levy in over a decade. Joel Minks asked when enough is enough and should they keep banking money for the next 20 years. Thomas Duden said the new tractor was never bid out and the local John Deere dealer or the Rogers location, never got to bid on it. He stated that Massey Ferguson is not even on the State bid contract. Greg Anderson stated that it is. Mr. Anderson also stated that the Township has been talking about a fire equipment increase that could be up to \$200,000 that the Township could write a check for and they would not have to raise the taxes to do that, if that is what the public decides tonight. Mr. Anderson also stated that they will need to update the Snow Removal Equipment, and with the terrible winter, there will be a lot of road work that will need to be done. He also stated that there were some sink holes last year that ate up \$50,000 to \$75,000 which was not planned for and taxes did not need to be raised for. He said that was all done without having to borrow money or raise taxes.

Marcia Anderson asked if the equipment dealer where the Tractor was purchased from was on a Minnesota approved list. Greg Anderson stated yes. Mr. Anderson stated that it was approximately a \$30,000 discount going through the state process. Thomas Duden asked how he would know if they never priced the local dealership. Mr. Anderson stated that they priced a Massey Ferguson. They knew what list price was and they went through the government contract process. Thomas Duden stated that it never went through a government contract process, because he has that on file. Marcia Anderson stated that she would like a review of ensuring that the equipment was bought from a dealer on the bid list and that the equipment was on the Minnesota state bid list purchase and that the appropriate process was followed, including any follow-up of any bonuses or anything else that was irregular. Mr. Whitcomb stated that could be brought up in Other Business.

Dan Whitcomb asked if there was approval of the Financial Report. Jerry Sands asked what happens if they do not approve. Mr. Whitcomb stated that they can vote no if there are inaccuracies but the majority carries. Marcia Anderson wanted to know what accounting system was used. Mr. Whitcomb stated that the Accounting standards are set by the State of Minnesota. Tari Zortman asked where the extra money in the budget is coming from and why are people upset by this. Dan Whitcomb stated that the money comes from extra permits that are paid for and from the levy. Tari Zortman asked if the Township could actually lower the taxes. Greg Anderson stated that they checked into that some years ago and were advised by the County not to do that, so they just planned for things coming up, like the fire equipment purchase. Ms. Zortman stated that she also thinks they need to

have extra money set aside. Mr. Anderson stated that the Township has not had a budget increase in over ten years.

A motion was made by Scott Moller and seconded by Jesse Barthel to approve the 2018 Financial Report as follows: Cash balance beginning January 1, 2018 was \$740,111.63; total receipts of \$425,463.07; total disbursements of \$353,076.76; Cash balance on December 31, 2018, was \$812,497.94. Motion Carried with Jerry Sands opposing (possibly one other but undeclared).

A motion was made by Mark Riverblood and seconded by Marcia Anderson to appoint everyone as their own pound master. Motion Carried. Joel Minks stated that the County also has a pound master under contract that will help.

The electorate discussed the amounts on the Road Budget and also what projects may need to be looked at in the following year. Dan Whitcomb explained what happened with the Subordinate Service District. There was discussion about graveling roads versus paving roads. Dan Whitcomb stated that if the electorate wants to tar the roads, they can reject the budget and amend the budget. He stated that a tarred road, if it has a good bed on it, is around \$300,000 a mile. If they want to do a mile or half mile of asphalt a year, they can make reject the budget and make a motion later on to amend the budget, to specifically tar so much road a year. Greg Anderson stated that it is not just the cost of tarring. It includes class five, grading, ditching and any work underneath that needs to be done. Dan Whitcomb stated that the state of Minnesota has charts to build a road from scratch, with culverts, is \$650,000 per mile that they use for bidding, if it is just tarred it is around \$350,000 a mile. Also depending on the cost of oil, it could up or down by \$100,000 a mile. Scott Moller stated that he is in favor of saving money and not having his taxes go up but there were a lot of pot holes on his road (County Line Rd) that need to be fixed. Greg Anderson stated that County Line Road has already been in discussion for this year. He also stated that there are extremely bad muskrat tunnels they have been dealing with for the last couple years. Marcia Anderson asked if there were any bids last year for seal coating. Dan Whitcomb said there apparently were not any.

Jerry Rud, from the City of Princeton Fire Dept. gave an update on the number of calls in the Township, which is up from the past. He explained that they are trying to set up a program for their truck replacements to minimize budget impacts. He explained their fleet is aging and is to the point where repairs are going up and reliability is going down. The biggest expenditure will be on the Engine replacement. They are looking to get a million dollar bond to cover a ladder truck and engine truck with the balance possibly going towards tenders. The annual increase for the Township would be \$22,050 per year for 10 years, in addition to the general budgeted amount. Kathy Kraft stated that the roads and potholes need to be taken care of so the first responders can take care of the people. Jesse Barthel motioned to approve and give the authority to the Township Board to negotiate an appropriate contract for the Township's fire services. Marcia Anderson seconded the motion. Joel Minks wanted to amend the agenda and stated that he thinks they should not write a check for the full amount but rather spread it out over the 10 years because they don't want to suck the bank account dry and have a big wind come through and now have a problem clearing the roads and not have enough money. Greg Anderson stated that the Township can save around 4% if they pay for the cost upfront, and will also then save on interest over 10 years. Jerry Sands seconded the motion for the amendment. Motion Carried. Motion then Carried for the Township Board to negotiate an appropriate contract for fire services to be paid for over 10 years.

The Township had requests for donations from the following organizations, who also submitted the required information: Mille Lacs Agricultural Society, Family Pathways and the Mille Lacs County Historical Society. Eugene Stoeckel motioned to recommend the following donations:

Mille Lacs Agricultural Society	\$ 1,600.00
Family Pathways Princeton Teen Center	\$ 1,600.00
Mille Lacs County Historical Society	\$ 1,600.00

Mark Riverblood seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Marcia Anderson asked what year the levies would need to be set for at the Continuation of the Annual Meeting. The Clerk stated 2020. A motion was never made to accept nor a motion to second, however the Moderator asked for a vote to set the date of the Continuation of the Annual Meeting to set the levies for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Town Board Meeting. The Moderator declared Motion Carried.

Joel Minks stated that the electorate has the power to set term limits on the members of the Planning Commission and Town Board. Mr. Minks motioned to set the term limits at 12 years, total participation on either Board or Planning Commission. David Persing seconded the motion. Mark Riverblood stated that he is not in favor of limiting terms because it is hard enough to find members to give their service and when someone is exceling in a position, they should not have to give it up because they are dedicated. Mary Jensen stated that there is a process to learn everything about the Township and County and it takes time to become educated and after 12 years a person is just starting to get experience. Marcia Anderson stated that term limits are a good thing. After a show of hands, 15 were against and 20 in favor. Motion Carried.

Nancy Moan motioned to have the pledge of alliance recited at all meetings, including the annual meeting. Tari Zortman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The unofficial election results were read by Head Election Judge Connie Wubben as follows:
A total of 295 votes were cast:

For the position of Supervisor #2	James Kusler	117 votes
Write ins:	Bill Whitcomb	137 votes
	Greg Anderson	1 vote
	Dave Whitcomb	1 vote
	Phil Whitcomb	1 vote
Supervisor #4	John A. Roxbury, Jr.	110 votes
	David Persing	156 votes
Write ins	Bill Whitcomb	10 votes

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Jerry Sands to recess the 2019 Annual Meeting at 9:40 p.m. to reconvene on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wubben
Clerk/Treasurer

Dan Whitcomb
Moderator

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Town Board Supervisors met and acted as the Board of Canvass. Supervisors present were Greg Anderson, Eugene Stoeckel, Thomas Duden and Jim Kusler. Supervisor Mark Riverblood was absent. Chairperson Greg Anderson called the Board of Canvass to order at 9:50 p.m. The election results were read as follows:

For the position of Supervisor #2 -James Kusler -117 votes, Write ins: Bill Whitcomb-137 votes, Greg Anderson-1 vote, Dave Whitcomb-1 vote, Phil Whitcomb-1 vote, Supervisor #4; John A. Roxbury, Jr.- 110 votes, David Persing-156 votes, Write ins; Bill Whitcomb-10 votes

A motion was made by Thomas Duden and seconded by Eugene Stoeckel to certify the results of the election with Bill Whitcomb being elected to the position of Supervisor #2 for a term of three (3) years and David Persing being elected to the position of Supervisor #4 for a term of one (1) year. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Thomas Duden to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wubben
Clerk/Treasurer

Attendees: Greg Anderson, Eugene & Kathy Stoeckel, Jim Kusler, Mark Riverblood, Frank Hartmann, Barry Schreiber, Joel Minks, Dan Whitcomb, Jerry Sands, Marcia Anderson, Rodney Burkhardt, Heather Herman-Burkhardt, Thomas Duden, Joe Gerold, Jesse & Amy Zimmer, Jesse & Lynell Barthel, Scott Moller, Dan Hiller, Jerry Rud, Dave & Theresa Persing, Bill Whitcomb, Mary Jensen, Cyndi MacDonald, Tari Zortman, John A Roxbury Jr., Dale Thiel, Jesse Zimmer, Nancy Moan, Kelli Snell, Scott Streeter, Kathy Kraft Michele Anderberg, Tim Wilhelm, Doug & Kandice Hennen,