

Annual Town Meeting
March 13, 2018

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Moderator: Dave Mount nominated Kit Sitter as moderator, Barb Crow seconded the nomination. Kit accepted the moderator position.

Approval of Minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting: Barb Crow made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2017 Annual Town meeting, Corlis West seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Call for Bank of Deposit (*currently The Lake Bank and North Shore Bank of Commerce*): Dave Mount moves that the North Shore Bank and the Lake Bank are retained as the banks of deposit, Corlis West seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Call for Newspaper of Publication (*currently the Duluth News Tribune*): Corlis West made a motion to keep the Duluth News Tribune as newspaper of publication, Barb Crow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Call for Official Posting Places (*currently the Town Hall; Scenic Café; Fire Hall #1 and North Shore Community School*): Barb Crow made the motion to keep the current official posting places, Sherry Rovig seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Budgets:

Dave Mount began the presentation with a PowerPoint overview of the Town Finances and Budgets, the difference of levied and non-levied funds and the fluctuation of town funds by month.

Notices of Appreciation went out to Travis Stolp as outgoing Town Supervisor, thank you for the service you gave as a member of the Town Board. Also thanked were the long term employees who keep the township running.

Motion to approve the total budget of **\$356,025.00**: Don Sitter made a motion to approve the total budget of \$356,025.00, Barb Crow seconded.

Police Department budget of **\$61,880.00** was presented by Chief Shawn Padden, his 30th meeting in Duluth Township. There is a slight increase from the 2018 budget due to an increase to the squad lease payments the squad was purchased last summer. We also hired another part time officer, Paul Johnson. Steve Peterson, Paul and I divide the current hours.

Fire Department budget of **\$67,700.00** was presented by Assistant chief Rob Peldo: Thank you to Dwane Madison who donated a 2000 gallon water tank to the fire department. We responded to over 100 emergency calls last year and have room for 5 more on our roster. The only big change to our budget was fire equipment. Our SCBA tanks have a 15 year life span and are nearing their end they will need to be replaced. At a cost of \$36,000 we hope to get an OSHA grant to help defray some of the cost. Our ending budget last year was \$194,058.69, \$115,000 of that is for the new addition leaving us with a spendable balance of \$79,058.69. The bids for the new addition will be coming in on Thursday.

Question: Do you have an anticipated cost of the addition?

Answer: Dave Mount said the next Power Point presentation will answer that question.

Comment: Last year the Fire Department partnered with the Red Cross to supply free smoke alarms to those who need them, the same offer will be made this year.

Dave Mount did a Power Point presentation of the fire hall addition and it's financing. Our funds in hand are: \$115,000 from the Fire Department; \$15,000 from Roads, \$20,000 from General Fund, \$35,000 from the Community Center; \$7,000 raised from the sale of sprinkler equipment and \$25,000 from the Town Capital Improvement Fund for a total of

\$217,000 which would require the Town to borrow approximately \$163,000. This afternoon the Bank lawyer contacted Dave and said we must do two things: 1. We must approve the project (construction of fire hall improvements, and a total not-to-exceed project cost and 2. Approve a levy that includes an amount allocable (budgeted) to pay the debt service on the loan.

Val Brady made an amendment to the budget motion that the electorate approve construction of an addition to Fire Hall #1, along with needed repairs to the existing building, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, Sherry Rovig seconded. Val and Sherry withdrew their amendment.

Val Brady would like to amend the budget to electorate approve the addition of up to \$50,000 to the Township levy, to service the debt on the Fire Hall construction project just approved, Penny Morton seconded. Amendment to the motion approved unanimously.

Question: next year we won't have any of these requirements?

Answer: Dave hasn't had a chance to meet and discuss any of this with the banks attorney.

Question: If I understand is we are adding \$50,000.00 to the levy that may or may not be spent?

Answer: we are not setting a levy we are setting a cap.

General Township budget of **\$104,875.00** was presented by Dave Mount. We had a change to legal. For many years Tim gave us the "home town rate" and then retired. Thank you Tim for your years of assistance to the Township. Our new attorney comes at a higher rate but is a good attorney with whom we are quite happy. We have increased new equipment because our copy/scanner machine is getting older and will need to be replaced.

Question: is there money set aside for upgrading the audio visual equipment.

Answer: Bids are currently being sought.

Planning and Zoning budget of **\$23,070.00** was presented by Director Sue Lawson: Thank you to the Current Commission members John Schifsky, Chair Jo Thompson, Larry Zanko, Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer and Dave Edblom, Beth Mullan Secretary, Sue Lawson Director and Rolf Carlson Town Board liaison. The proposed budget is down a small amount from last year.

Cemetery budget of **\$7500.00** was presented by Rolf Carlson: repairing headstones and monuments is an ongoing need the remaining expenditures are pretty basic. Many thanks to Molly Tillotson who does a wonderful job.

Emergency Operations budget of **\$1000.00** was presented by Sherry Rovig: Annual request is for supplies and education

Road and Bridge budget of **\$85,000.00** was presented by Corlis West: Grading of Township roads is a bid process, the biggest part of the road budget is ditching.

Question why did they put the culvert on the Clover Valley road where they did?

Question it would be helpful to keep track of how much we are spending per road?

Answer: It's a broad issue and would be handy to have a meeting to discuss the issue and see what options are available.

There is a rumor that the County is trying to push their smaller roads back onto the townships.

Recreation budget of **\$5000.00** was presented by Barb Crow: we haven't had a recreation budget for a couple of years. At the ABC property we have a community space for people to have recreation outside. Skating is one of those recreation projects, the volunteers put in a lot of hours maintaining the skating rinks and warming house. The township will donate funds to a non-profit to give a volunteer coordinator a small stipend and provide funds for small purchases, coordinating for volunteers and maintenance. The town board will not give funds to the skating rink activities until a non-profit group is established. It is anticipated that this will be a yearly expense. We will be contributing to the non-profit yearly and receiving an organized space in return. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is encouraged.

Vote on the motion to approve the total budget of **\$406,025.00**: Motion on the budget passed unopposed.

Val Brady made a motion to the budget motion that the electorate approve construction of an addition to Fire Hall #1, along with needed repairs to the existing building, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, Barb Crow seconded. Motion passed unopposed

Set time and date of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting (March 12, 2019)

Election results:

Penelope Morton received 52 votes.

Concerns from the Audience:

- Arts and Heritage event on April 28th Marlene Wisuri on Sami heritage.
- In the last 6 – 8 months the town hall interior was painted and Dave Mount milled the pieces of wood on which we are hanging a Walker System purchased to hang pictures, and foam boards with pictures on them. Thank you to all those involved in painting the town hall and to Dave Mount for the milled pieces of wood.
- Acknowledge the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District (D/NSSD) they are an uncompensated board and work very hard for the Township. Thank you
- Sherry Rovig has been the recipient of a firewise grant. Last year we had a chipper day at Fire Hall #1 along with a fuel reduction demonstration. We will be doing that again this coming spring but are thinking of Alden Township as the potential recipient with another fuel reduction demonstration and another chipper day.

Adjournment: Val Brady made a motion to adjourn, Penny Morton seconded. Motion passed 10:10 PM.