

**LUTSEN TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2022
Lutsen Town Hall**

Present: Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Carl Friesner, Judy Motschenbacher, Sandy McHugh, Jack McHugh, Matt Kartes, Harold Piepho, Rae Piepho, Steve Duclos, Paul Goettl, Ashley VanDoren, Chris Homyak, Lollie Cooper, Samantha McQuatters-Spangle, Leah Ekstrom, Judy Brisky, Ginny Storlie by Zoom James Belski

Call Meeting to Order: 2022 Annual Town Meeting called to order by Clerk S. Hexum-Platzer at 8:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Flag was presented, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nomination from the Floor for Meeting Moderator: S Hexum-Platzer opened the floor to nominations for meeting moderator. Judy Motschenbacher was nominated by S Hexum-Platzer and seconded by L Cooper. All voted in favor raised their hands or indicated via digital signal for the selection, no objections. J Motschenbacher accepted the nomination and assumed the position of meeting moderator.

Reading and Setting of Agenda: Clerk noted that Commissioner Storlie would present later since she had to attend both annual meetings in Schroeder and Tofte.

Reading and Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting and Continuation of Annual Meeting Minutes. Moderator Motchenbacher suggested dispensing with reading these aloud since these are provided online and in hard copy at the election site: R Piepho made motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes as presented. C Friesner seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Audit Report for 2021. These data were posted and shared in hard copy as required. With documents shown, no oral reading of the data was done. Audit summary data for fiscal period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 reviewed and approved by Supervisors: Beginning Balance: \$501,973.21, Total Receipts: \$386,615.63, Total Disbursements: \$247,225.38, Ending Balance: \$642,623.80 with \$3532.37 in outstanding uncashed checks. [Note: The Disbursements and Receipts included moving funds from checking to Truck Fund and separating the Truck Fund from Operating Money Market Fund thus duplicating some monies] The foregoing summary of receipts and disbursements, as well as the itemized statement of the Receipts Register, Cash Control Statement, Statement of Indebtedness, and the itemized statement of the Disbursements Register inclusive; have been examined and audited by supervisors and were approved the 1st day of February, 2021. All claims and receipts are located in the town office and available for review. C Homyak made a motion to dispense with reading Board of Audit minutes. P Goettl seconded. Motion carried.

Access to Review of 2021 Board of Audit Meeting Minutes and Review of 2021 Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting Minutes. Moderator Mochenbacher asked that since each of these were available online and having been reviewed and approved at previous Regular Board meetings, we dispense with reading them aloud. C Homyak motioned to dispense with reading. R Goettl seconded. Motion carried.

Motions to authorize Board actions – [E.G. MN Statute 365.10 donation allowances] Donation Requests: Clerk Hexum-Platzer explained the read requested amounts with a last one just received from Tofte Township. R Piepho asked why there was no Fall Celebration notice and no sign on Caribou Trail. C Homyak said posters were up. Clerk Hexum-Platzer said over 100 attended the celebration at Granview Park with over 50 children in attendance. Moderator Motschenbacher suggested addressing the donations in one motion. R Piepho made a motion to authorize the Board to accept the donation requests. M Kartes seconded. The motion carried.

1. Lutsen Junior Alpine Ski Team for 2023 - \$ 1500
2. Tofte Township for July 4, 2023 Fireworks Display - \$1500
3. Funding to support Lutsen Community Fall Celebration - \$ 300

Proposed 2023 Township Budget Treasurer VanDoren first explained that the Proposed Town Budget planned on February 1 with the supervisors, the Fire and EMS chiefs. Using the budget handout, she explained the General Town Budget includes township expenses and the Fire District Budget includes items that impact the entire fire district as well as Fire and EMS departments which are under one budget. She noted a specific changes for 2023 from 2022.

She provided details for building maintenance and other fire budget items: yearly Building Loan payment to Cook County [approximately \$19,395] and the Truck Fund which is 25,000. R Piepho asked why election costs varied so much from year to year. Clerk Hexum-Platzer clarified that election [in even years] costs from the County are invoiced to the township in the following year [odd numbers]. In all years, township election judges are included. Moderator Motschenbacher asked what amount is in funds over the levied amount. Treasurer VanDoren provided end of 2021 year amount compared to disbursements and levy: Ending balance \$642, 623.80 Disbursements \$247,

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225.38. [Note these general fund monies must cover at least 6 months of expenses until first payment of levy is paid to Lutsen from the County in June. Second levy [taxes] payment is usually paid to Lutsen in December each year.]

Current 2022 budget plan: General Budget-Township is \$32,900, Fire District Budget, \$33,250, Fire/EMS Budget is \$101,500. Other Fire Budget [yearly payments] \$44,395. For a total fire district budget of \$179,145. Combined 2023 budget of \$212,045. However with expected other source funding the levy is less. See below.

Preliminary setting of 2023 Levy: Total proposed tax levy/budget [including recommended donations, and other yearly payments] is \$180,000. This budget can be reviewed after 6 months finances are checked and accepted/changed at a Continuation meeting in August. A complete copy of the 2023 budget plan is available in the Town office and online.

Annual Town Election Results: From Head election judge Leah Ekstrom, who gave tentative election results; For 3 year supervisor position with incumbent Carl Friesner receiving 40 votes. There was 1 blank ballots for that position. For the 2 year Clerk position, Samantha McQuatters-Spangle received 37; one write in and 3 blank ballots for that position. 41 residents voted. Clerk Hexum-Platzer had S McQuatters and C Friesner stand. Attendees clapped.

Other Business/Citizen Comments:

- James Belski-[via Zoom] He explained his request to move 40 & 60 mph signs further to East and West of the current locations; J Belski explained his conversation with Senator Bakk and the need to slow traffic further out. In Tofte the distance is 1.9 miles whereas Lutsen [on a curve] is .7. After discussion regarding increased speeds seen, dangers for residents year round, S Duclos made the motion have supervisors send request to extend the speed limit zone 1 block to the East of Caribou Trail and 1 block to the West of Alta Mikana Road and to ask for Supervisors to send letter to Senator Bakk. S McHugh seconded. Motion carried.
- Clerk Hexum-Platzer explained the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation grant proposal. The grant will cover rehabilitation and development of the Lutsen Ball Park and surrounding area. Attendees gave suggestions and supported the points covered in the grant draft. M Kartes made a motion for grant to move forward with resident support of the plans. J McHugh seconded. Motion carried.
- Rae Piepho- Started a discussion about voting and need to return to in-person general election voting with paper ballots at sites in the West End. Discussion included costs, need to continue absentee voting and convenience of mail in ballots. Her concern over fraudulent voting was noted in Piepho's message. She will gather cost information and attend the next Regular Board Meeting.
- P Goetl thanked S Hexum-Platzer for her dedication to the township as clerk. Attendees gave round of applause.

Commissioner G Storlie report: Within a few weeks a Housing Authority director will be chosen from 3 finalists. Child care virtual meeting is set for March 10. Link is on Lutsen website. Bill Hansen will lead. Redistricting is complete which means the changes require that ALL commissioners are to be on ballot. The Primary is in August with the General Elections in November. She finished with a funny and old Tofte article about the Tofte Annual Meeting in 1979,

Set next Annual Meeting Date: L Cooper made a motion to set the next Annual Meeting location to be Lutsen Town Hall on March 7, 2023 at 8:05 pm. P Goetl seconded. Motion passed.

C Friesner made a motion to **Continue Annual Meeting to Finalize 2023 Tax Levy** August 16, 2022 at 6 p.m. C Homyak seconded. Motion carried.

Note: Minutes are not word-for-word. Motions are as presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Hexum-Platzer
Lutsen Town Clerk

J Motschenbacher _____
Meeting Moderator