

**TOWN of MAY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
ANNUAL MEETING – OFFICIAL MINUTES  
March 8, 2022**

The Town of May held its Annual Meeting on March 8, 2022 via ZOOM. Those present included: Todd Holt, Cheryl Holt, John Adams, Sheila Hause, John Pazlar, David Szczepanski, Bill Voedisch, Molly Sanford, Leigh Delisi, Cathy Wegener, Cheryl Bennett, Dean Tilley, Mary Tilley, Steve Magner, Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron, Cory Slagle from Washington County Public Works, Jenna Jones from Forest Lake Youth Service Bureau and Clerk/Treasurer Linda Tibbetts. Tibbetts called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

At their February 3, 2022 Town Board Meeting, the May Town Board adopted Resolution 2022-02 allowing the Annual Meeting to be conducted virtually.

**Determine May Township Residents for Voting Purposes**

Tibbetts determined those present with voting rights: Cathy Wegener, Cheryl Holt, Todd Holt, Dave Szczepanski, Bill Voedisch, John Adams, Steve Magner, John Pazlar, Molly Sanford, Dean Tilley, Mary Tilley, Cheryl Bennett, Leigh Delisi, and Sheila Hause.

**Election of Moderator**

Tibbetts asked for nominations from the audience for moderator of the annual meeting. Cheryl Bennett moved, seconded by Bill Voedisch, to nominate and elect David Szczepanski as moderator of the Annual Meeting. Roll call vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

**2021 Annual Meeting Minutes, Reading or Waive, and Accept**

The 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes were posted on the website in March 2021 for review. Szczepanski asked for a motion to read the minutes, or to waive the reading of the minutes and accept. Voedisch moved, seconded by Bennett, to waive the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as presented. Roll call vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

**2021 Financial Report, Reading or Waive, and Accept**

The 2021 Financial Report was posted on the township's website in advance of the meeting. Tibbetts reported as of December 31, 2021 the township's bank balance was \$1,468,037 and was open for any questions or comments regarding any receipts, budget balances, transactions, disbursements, etc. Wegener moved, seconded by Voedisch, to waive the reading and accept the 2021 Financial Report as presented. Roll call vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

**Youth Service Bureau**

Tibbetts reported the town paid \$2,500.00 to Lakes Center for Youth & Families and \$2,500.00 to Stillwater Youth Service Bureau in 2021. The proposed 2023 levy includes the same. Jenna Jones from Forest Lake's Youth Service Bureau was present to relay how much the township's contract help serve the citizens in the township and throughout the area. Voedisch moved, seconded by Bennett, to allocate \$5,000.00 for the local youth service bureaus in the 2023 levy. Roll call vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

### **Proposed Tax Levy 2023**

The proposed 2023 levy was mailed to citizens in the February 2022 Newsletter as well as published on the township's website. The Town Board approved the proposed 2023 tax levy at \$980,920, a 1.75% increase from the 2022 tax levy.

Adams moved, seconded by Pazlar, to approve the 2023 levy set at \$980,920. By Roll Call Vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

### **Legal Newspaper**

Szczepanski noted the township's legal newspaper for 2021 was *Country Messenger*. Hause moved, seconded by Cheryl Holt, to continue using the *Country Messenger* as the town's legal newspaper. By Roll Call Vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

### **Gopher Bounty**

Tibbetts reported that in 2021, the town paid \$0.00 in gopher bounty. Szczepanski moved, seconded by Chris Hause, to continue the gopher bounty at \$1.50 per pair of front feet. By Roll Call Vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

### **Comments/Concerns about Current Permits**

Szczepanski asked if residents had any comments or concerns with current May Township permit holders, which include small business and Conditional Use Permit holders. No comments or concerns were brought before the meeting.

### **Washington County Updates**

County Commissioner Miron was in attendance, as well as Cory Slagle from Public Works. He wanted to report on several projects that impact the township.

#### Road Projects

Miron mentioned the County Highway 3 pavement improvement project is coming up in 2022. This project consists of Olinda Trail from County Road 4 to Old Marine Trail and will include pavement replacement, guardrail replacement, curb and gutter repairs, new signage, and striping. The roadway will remain open during construction, but citizens can expect some delays.

The County Road 15 resurfacing project from Lynch Road to 240<sup>th</sup> Street (county line) and this project will be completed in 2022. Seven locations will have right turn lane improvements and two centerline culvert replacements. The roadway will be open throughout construction with some traffic delays.

The County Road 15 and State Trunk Highway 36 interchange project is underway. This is slated to be completed by the middle of July this year. The county is planning a grand opening to thank the legislature for funding provided, both state and federal, as well as county and city funding.

Miron mentioned the project slated for 2024 of the reconstruction of County Road 55 from County Road 4 to County Road 7 is on track. He has enjoyed and appreciated the partnership with the township, and he is proud of the community input in reaching a design that is well supported.

County Road 15 will have the addition of rumble strips from County Road 12 to 240<sup>th</sup> Street (county line). The county was awarded a federal grant through the Highway Safety Improvement

Program to install centerline rumble strips. This project will be done in 2023 and will warn drivers who cross the centerline.

Regarding the 15/36 interchange, Hause asked for clarification on whether the entrance ramp will change from under the bridge to a straight right entrance to westbound 36 as she has noticed safety issues with the current under the bridge entrance ramp. Slagle said there will be construction of a straight right entrance to westbound 36 as the current under the bridge entrance ramp is temporary in nature. Adams asked when this project would be completed, and it was reiterated that it would be finished in mid-July of 2022.

Szczepanski asked for an update on the future interchange of Lake Elmo Avenue and Truck Highway 36. Miron responded that the county is in the planning process for this project, and they are seeking funding through a state bonding request. The county recognizes Lake Elmo Avenue as the next intersection along 36 that needs improvement. Miron said federal funding is available for the planning stage, but they are looking for building funds. Slagle added that the county has lined up 10 million in federal funds for the construction – he noted interchanges run in the 25 to 35 million range and they are working to fund that gap. This construction is tentatively planned for the 2025-2026 range.

#### Conservation Easements

Miron updated the citizens about work the county just recently approved after discussion with the Town Board. He respects the moratorium the township passed last summer to give them time to update their Town Code on land use items. He has had discussions with the township on planned conservation easements at the Science Museum Research Station and the county, along with the Land and Water Legacy Program and Minnesota Land Trust placed a conservation easement on 129 acres of the Science Museum's property along the St. Croix River in May Township. The county board authorized that action through a resolution and related documents are being executed. The allowable use of that property is not changing and that is one of the discussions Miron had with the town board and, according to Miron, was the reason the county was allowed to move forward with that conservation easement purchase. The county also adopted a resolution to acquire 80 acres of vacant land along 170<sup>th</sup> Street in May Township for inclusion into the Big Marine Park Reserve. Miron said he had discussions with the Town Board back in September regarding this acquisition and that the map boundaries of the Big Marine Park have been in place for many years, and he said have been supported by the township. Miron said the county will continue working with the township on any conservation or park projects in the community.

Miron thanked the Town Board for all their work, as well as Tibbetts who extends communication between the town and the county which he is most appreciative.

#### **Set Time and Place for 2023 Annual Meeting**

It was noted that the Town Hall should be the place to hold the Annual Meeting in 2023. Delisi noted it would be nice to offer a hybrid version wherein Zoom and in-person were available. Tibbetts mentioned this would be a great use of ARPA funds to update the Town Hall for this well used feature. Szczepanski moved, seconded by Holt, to hold the 2023 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 8:15 p.m. at the May Town Hall. By Roll Call Vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

## **Election Results**

Tibbetts provided the Town Supervisor election results as follows: John Pazlar received 29 votes. There were zero write-in votes.

## **Citizen Considerations**

Szczepanski asked those present to bring forward any considerations for discussion.

### High-Speed Internet

Delisi would like to see broadband brought into the township. She is hoping with the infrastructure bill recently passed by the current administration, funding could be found to undertake a town wide upgrade to high-speed internet. She wanted to know how the township was planning to proceed. Tibbetts responded that although there are grants and funding available, May Township, due to its high level of average income/wealth, is not as desirable to be chosen. Pazlar agreed this has been an issue in the past. Also, Pazlar said that the cost to enter such an undertaking would be well into the millions wherein the township would need to cover matching funds. The township has tried twice in the past to come into negotiations with local providers for upgrades which have not been successful. Miron sent a letter to the township on how the county has available funding for broadband, but he can certainly look deeper into this and provide any information from the county to the township. Voedisch noted that a neighborhood in the township pooled their money and paid for the upgrade to high-speed internet. He asked Adams if a pool could be set up wherein if neighborhoods or “pockets of people” want to get the high-speed internet upgrade from their provider, the town could offer matching funds to help subsidize the project. Adams said he would like to get more information before he could provide a full response. Voedisch said the town needs to figure out if this type of matching funding is allowable with ARPA or the Build Back Better funds. Miron said the county has invested in Chromebooks at the local libraries that are available for checkout that provide high-speed internet connection.

### Gravel Road Maintenance

Voedisch noted he has several items to discuss regarding gravel road maintenance. Before the meeting, he sent several photos and a video to Tibbetts to show during the Annual Meeting. However, due to low bandwidth at the Town Hall, where the clerk was located, she was unable to show said photos/videos. Voedisch said without the photos/video, he would not be able to relay his concerns. Therefore, it was suggested to bring it to the April 7, 2022 Town Board Meeting for review and consideration.

### Snowplowing

Szczepanski commented that the company that is plowing township roads this season had done an outstanding job this year. He appreciates the fact that a “beach worth of sand” is not left on the roadway. Further, the sweeping company, in Szczepanski’s opinion, does an excellent job at spring cleanup. Wegener mentioned that a few mailboxes in her neighborhood have been hit by the plow.

### Railroad Tunnel County Road 4/Ostrum Trail

Sanford noted the graffiti in the tunnel on County Road 4 and mentioned a great deterrent of such is to paint a mural by professional artists or organized by community members. The content of the graffiti current on the tunnel is not reflective of the community nor inviting to visitors.

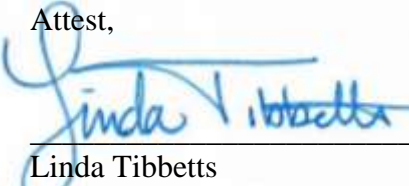
Board Election

Mary Tilley suggested we move the board election from March to November due to the low turnout and the amount of money it cost taxpayers to hold an election in March, as opposed to November. Pazlar noted that, in his opinion, municipal elections are “lost” in the big November ballot, and he is willing to spend money for judges, staff, expenses to hold the election in March. Bennett opined it is tradition and there have been many highly opposed elections. Szczepanski noted it brings the citizens to the Annual Meeting which is an important part of the township.

Voedisch moved, seconded by Bennett, to adjourn the meeting. By Roll Call Vote: ALL YES. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Attest,



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Linda Tibbetts  
Clerk/Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

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Dave Szczepanski  
Moderator