

NEW MARKET TOWNSHIP

ANNUAL MEETING

March 9, 2004

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

Asked for nominations for Moderator.

Motion by Robert Seykora to nominate LeRoy Clausen, seconded by Joy Muscato.

Motion by Kim Popp to nominate John Macho, seconded by Harry Anderson.

The Clerk called for more nominations 3 times. Motion by Leander Wagner that nominations cease, seconded by David Frame.

The people then voted by paper ballot. When the votes were counted the results were, LeRoy Clausen 24, and John Macho 5. LeRoy Clausen was declared Moderator.

Next, results from the Annual election were read -- 190 people voted

For Supervisor, Todd Friedges 64, Clint Olson 59, Harry Anderson 66 - by write ins, and 1 blank.

For Clerk, Albert Zweber 140, all others 24, and 26 blanks.

Minutes from the 2003 Annual Meeting were read. There was some discussion about the \$100,000.00 motion limit on spending that was tabled at last years Annual meeting in lieu of Legal Counsel. Attorney Eric Braaten then explained about the motion and how it could be proposed. It can be passed at the Annual Meeting but the Board can still turn it down later for good reasons. He also stated that the main roll at the Annual Meeting is the levy issues.

Motion by John Macho to approve the 2003 Annual Meeting minutes as read, seconded by Joel Helmberger, motion called, motion carried.

Next was the road report up-date. The Moderator stated the roads that were paved and graveled in 2003 and also what roads are to be resurfaced and repaired in 2004. There are also some roads left to get their final coat.

Old Business --

* Was about the Land Fund and as to how much money is there. It was reported that there were 7 lots sold and with all the expenses including paying off the land loan there is still about \$500,000.00 left. The land levy will be discontinued - \$450,000.00.

It was then explained that the \$450,000.00 left in the Fund will go back to General Fund to use in place of levy money.

Here it was brought up about what to put in the Park. It was explained again that until all the lots are sold, there are three left, nothing will be done.

New Business -- The Levies

Road & Bridge -- suggested was \$180,000.00 - we need to levy this amount in order to get State money. We need about \$260,000.00 for regular expenses. There was a lot of discussion here. It was suggested that we use the money that is left in the Land Fund to cover some of the levy money.

Motion by Leander Wagner to levy \$180,000.00 for Road & Bridge, seconded by David Frame, motion called, 13 ayes, 1 nay, motion carried.

There was more discussion about using the money from the Land Fund, John Macho said * that it should be set aside for a rainy day and not wasted but spent frugally.

Motion by John Macho to move & designate \$90,000.00 from the \$450,000.00 surplus in Land Fund to the Road & Bridge Fund when needed, seconded by Bob Seykora, motion called, 1 nay, motion carried.

Fire Fund -- The Board asked for \$105,000.00. It was explained that as of the end of 2003 the Fire Fund was in the red by about \$25,500.00. It was asked how this was possible and were told that in 2002 the levy was not enough to cover the expenses for the Fire Contract and the payment due on the new Rescue truck that was purchased. There was a * lot of discussion here. Motion by John Macho to move \$115,000.00 from the excess money in the Land Fund to the Fire Fund when needed, seconded by David Frame, motion called, motion carried.

General Fund -- \$100,000.00 proposed. Question asked was how much is left in the Fund, about \$400,000.00 is in the fund now but we owe about \$65,000.00 for Ottawa and Logan Ave. and there also is escrow money and driveway money.

Motion by Doug Quast to move "0" money from the Land Fund, seconded by David Frame, motion called, motion denied.

There was a lot discussion here about what to do with this levy. Question asked, how much money is really spent out of the General Fund for regular expenses, were told * around \$100,000.00. Motion by Leander Wagner to move \$100,000.00 from the excess Land Fund money to the General Fund when needed, seconded by Lori Clausen, motion called, motion carried.

* Ambulance Fund -- \$5,000.00 proposed, Motion by Gary Christensen to move \$5,000.00 from

the Land Fund to the Ambulance Fund, seconded by Bob Seykora.

There was a comment about the New Prague Ambulance service that it takes them so much longer to arrive at a scene than the Northfield Ambulance and they cost a lot more.

New Prague services West of County Road 91 and Northfield does East of 91, should be looked into, motion called, motion carried.

W.M.C. Fund -- This is now taken care of by the County. We do have money in this Fund and it is government money and so should be put into a long term savings account until the time when it is asked for.

Next, where to publish our legal and regular notices.

Motion by Leander Wagner to keep publishing legal notices in the current papers which are the New Prague Times and the Lakeville Life & Times, seconded by David Frame, motion called, motion carried.

Motion by Gary Christensen to reinstate his motion from the last years Annual Meeting which was, "I propose that at an Annual New Market Township meeting that the voters may not vote in any items that costs the Township over \$100,000.00 other than the normal Township levies. A special advertised meeting would need to take place 30-90 days after the Annual Meeting to discuss any items over \$100,000.00. After discussion the voters of New Market Township would then vote on the expenditure. This above proposed motion can not be revoked at an Annual Meeting. An advertised Special Meeting must take place where New Market Township voters may vote this motion in or out." seconded by Leander Wagner, motion called, motion carried. 16 Aye -- 6 Nay

Next, there was a question about putting a building on the Park Land.

Here they started talking about incorporating the Township before building a building. Eric Braaten, Township Attorney, said that there needs to be a lot of research done on this and it is very costly.

* The discussion went back to building a building etc. Motion by Paul Stapf to consider building a Town Hall in the Park land after all the lots are sold and the Township has considered as to what should be done with or put in the park, seconded by Quast, motion called, motion carried.

Then they talked about the Township owning their own road grader. Was said that to lease one would be about \$40.00 per hour -- Rud gets \$70.00 or more per hour. At an annual cost of about \$70,000.00

There was a lot of discussion here, for one, talking about leasing a grader, we wouldn't have any housing up-keep or repair expense, just hourly wage for the operator and insurance. Motion made to charge by the mile, motion failed for lack of a second. Was then decided to let the road grader issue alone.

Back to the incorporating -- open for discussion --

Have the Board look into it and have a special meeting, should have about 3 months notice. To have Townships incorporate we first need a feasible study.

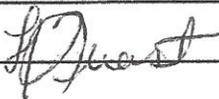
Our County Commissioner, Bob Vogel, was present and said that the County is doing a comprehensive plan and is looking into how Townships will look in the future, mentioning Credit River and Spring Lake along with New Market. He is more than willing to have Townships have meetings and discuss this further.

To incorporate we have more of our own government power, if we are annexed we are under the rule of New Market and Elko.

Motion by Joel Helmberger to have Eric Braaten, Township Attorney, invite a person with expertise in this matter to the May regular Township meeting to discuss about annexation and incorporation, seconded by Quast, motion called, motion carried.

Motion by Gary Christensen to adjourn the Annual Meeting of March 9, 2004, seconded by Doug Quast, motion called, motion carried.

Moderator



Albert Zweber

Township Clerk

