

# West Lakeland Township Annual Meeting

March 10, 2020

Oakland Middle School

## Call to Order

Clerk Carrie Seifert called to order the annual meeting of West Lakeland Township at 8:00 PM.

## Election of the Moderator

Clerk Seifert requested nominations from the floor for moderator of the annual meeting. Mr. Gary Horning nominated Mr. John McPherson. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Steve Ebner. Ms. Teresa Bryant was nominated for moderator, there was no second. With no other nominations, Mr. Gary Horning moved to appoint Mr. John McPherson as moderator for the annual meeting. Seconded by Mr. Steve Ebner, the motion carried. Mr. John McPherson assumed the duties as moderator for the evening.

## Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Brad Cornell moved to approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. Seconded Mr. Thomas Vierling, the motion carried.

## Reading of the Board of Audit

Clerk Carrie Seifert presented the results of the Board of Audit. It represented a 15% random sampling of receipts and disbursements, and the sampling was found to be accurate and true. Mr. Steve Ebner moved to accept the results of the Board of Audit. Seconded by Mr. Gary Horning, the motion carried.

## Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel

Mr. Kriesel presented to the board a packet for each of the board members. He presented a status report of Washington County projects that will impact West Lakeland Township and other concerning projects. For West Lakeland, it includes Phase 3 of Manning Avenue from CSAH 14 to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The improvements are necessary to support the volume of traffic on that road. The plan includes a bike trail on the west side of the road. There will be an evaluation of the traffic control at the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup> street and Manning Avenue. The challenge of this project is to manage the competing requirements of the residents along Manning Avenue and the commuting traffic using the road. This is the third of four phases for this project. Construction is scheduled for 2023.

The next project is pavement preservation from I 94 to Oakland Middle School. Resurfacing with mill and overlay is scheduled for 2020. Washington County will continue to coordinate for improvements at Hudson Road and Manning Avenue, including improved traffic control measures programmed for 2021 near the Holiday Station.

CSAH 21 from I94 to 40<sup>th</sup> Street. Phase 1 was completed in 2018, and included reconstruction near the railroad tracks. Phase 2 preliminary design was completed as part of Phase 1 corridor study. The improvement will consider pavement improvements and drainage, with construction programmed for 2024.

The next project is the intersection realignment at Highway 14 and CSAH 24 with a new traffic signal at this intersection, with a smooth crossing over the railroad crossing, and add a turn lane along Osgood Avenue This is scheduled for project in 2021.

Commissioner Kriesel asked for questions. Mr. Brad Cornell asked about the maintenance and realignment of 30<sup>th</sup> Street, and how the rerouting for construction would be managed. It was noted that the project for Oakgreen Avenue is to be postponed.

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Commission Kriesel noted that Washington County is considering a ¼ cent sales tax dedicated to road and bridges. Each year, there is seven to 10 million dollars unfunded for road projects. This would be in lieu of providing for funding for road projects from property taxes.

Mr. John McPherson asked about continuing the work on Stagecoach. This is programmed for 2024.

## **Washington County Sheriff Dan Starry**

Sheriff Dan Starry appeared before the town with his Chief Deputy, Brian Mueller. Highlights for the 2019 is 2100 calls in West Lakeland Township. Most are for fraud or vandalism. This is about the same as previous years. If you see something suspicious, please call. A first initiative of the Sheriff's department is continuing to work on sex trafficking. Washington County does have an issue with human and sex trafficking in the county. A second initiative is to authorize a grant through the Federal Government for opioid and drug trafficking. Last year alone, used Narcan 24 times in the County. Minnesota is a drug trafficking hub. A third initiative is regarding suicides among sheriff office staff, and providing for employee wellness. The department will also continue to monitor speed compliance in the County. Mental health is also a concern for the department, recognizing a program Stepping Up, to be able to effectively respond to persons in crisis.

Sheriff Starry was asked about the potential for active shooter training. The training is designed to make sure first responders, emergency personnel and school staff are aware of what is expected. An option is to participate in the citizen's academy.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Marsha Olson presented the treasurer's report for 2019. In 2019, the Town recorded \$1,001,681 in receipts. Expenditures totaled \$1,603,083. The Township's ending balance for 2019 \$1,485,307.

## **Township Staff**

The remaining of the township staff was introduced.

## **Town Board Chairman Dan Kylo**

Chairman Kylo noted on the work by the Township on the MS4 compliance to maintain and report on the maintenance of storm water management programs. Currently over 450 culverts are inspected over a 5 year period. At the entrance to the auditorium there are charts that compare West Lakeland's financial position, noting that the cash reserve has been increasing over the past years, and the township has begun to collect funds to be able to repair deteriorating roads. In 2019, there was a levy increased targeted to the capital improvement fund. The township had its first major project in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street loop. Many of the township roads are 20 to 25 years old, and will need repair. The fastest rising expenditures are snow and ice removal. The past 5 or 6 years have been more snow and more moisture. Fire and emergency services are also rising, mainly due to the new fire station. The third major rising expense is for road and bridge repair. The last chart defines the health of the township. The health of the Township is good. Ideally, the Township would have more in cash reserves than it currently had to manage unexpected large expenditures. This year the proposal for the levy is a 5% increase. Even with the increases of last year and proposed for this year, the tax burden for West Lakeland is lower than in neighboring communities.

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## **Town Board Supervisor Dave Schultz**

Thanks to those citizens that participated in the Township election, and thanked the township staff for the hard work. His area of responsibility includes roads and transportation. The annual road report has been posted for review. In conjunction with Lake Elmo, seal coated 3.7 miles of road and reclaimed 1.7 miles of road.

He has represented to the township in the jurisdictional meetings to review road jurisdiction and city, township or county roads. Of concern to West Lakeland is 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue N. That may be turned over to the County, depending on the results of final studies. Project management team meetings for Manning Avenue have been started again. There will be some cost sharing for the intersections as part of this project.

MAC is reconstructing 30<sup>th</sup> Street as part of the Lake Elmo Airport improvement plan, with the intent to have paving completed late summer or early fall. Hopefully, some of the issues on 30<sup>th</sup> Street can be resolved before it is repaved.

## **Town Board Supervisor Marian Appelt**

Supervisor Appelt thanked those who participated in the township election. She was appointed to the position previously held by Mr. Steve Ebner. She thanked the board members and the staff for their confidence and support. She has been a resident of West Lakeland for thirty years. As a board supervisor, she serves as liaison to the Planning Commission. Supervisor Appelt noted that the Planning Commission completed the 2040 comprehensive plan, a significant accomplishment for a volunteer organization. She restated Chairman Kylo's statement that most municipalities of our size spent \$12,000 to \$15,000 preparing their comprehensive plan while our township costs were primarily for printing.

Supervisor Appelt also represents the township on the technical committee overseeing the resolution and implementation of corrective actions for PFAS 3M contaminated water issues as a result of the 3M settlement. Much has transpired since the last annual meeting. Within West Lakeland Township there are a large number of homes that have whole house water filters to provide for the immediate need for clean drinking water. The PFAS plume is more widespread than originally thought. Long term solutions are being considered. The option for West Lakeland Township has not yet been decided upon. An option may be to support a municipal well system.

## **Planning Commission Report**

Mr. Mark Votava, chairman of the Planning Commission, presented the activities of the Planning Commission over the past year. 2019 was the year of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the year of the chicken ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan is completed, and submitted to the Met Council.

In 2019, the Planning Commission presented modification for the ordinance regarding maintenance in the right of way, VRBO, burning, grading and chickens. The planning commission also reviewed a number of variances and other proposals as referred by the Town Board. In 2020, the Planning Commission will be focusing on use permits.

## **Old Business**

No old business was raised by the town.

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## **New Business**

Mr. McPherson asked about the modification of the hours for burning authorized by the burning permits. The town did have an arrangement with the DNR, Division of Forestry, to allow the Township to have leeway in determining when burning could occur. The current regional manager is now enforcing the recommendation that burning should burn over the evening and nighttime hours from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am. Permits issued by West Lakeland can authorize burning in other time periods, noting this is done under a variance.

## **Preliminary Election Results**

Clerk Carrie Seifert presented the preliminary election results, noting the election of Supervisor Marian Appelt for a new term with 56 votes of 58 votes cast.

## **2021 Tax Levy**

The town board proposed a levy of \$873,455, including \$249,955 for the general fund, \$423,500 for road and bridges and \$200,000 for capital improvements. Mr. Steve Ebner moved to approve the 2021 levy as presented. Seconded by Mr. Brad Cornell, the motion carried.

## **2021 Annual Meeting**

Mr. Matt Schmitt moved to hold the 2021 Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8 PM at the Oakland Middle School. Seconded by Mr. Steve Ebner, the motion carried

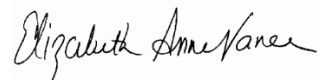
## **Adjourn**

Mr. Gary Horning moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Ms. Mary Vierling, the motion carried. Mr. McPherson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



John McPherson  
Moderator



Elizabeth Vance  
Recording Secretary