

WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP

2018 Annual Town Meeting

March 13, 2018

8:00 PM

Oak-Land Middle School - Auditorium

Call to Order

Ms. Carrie Seifert, Town Clerk, called the West Lakeland Township town meeting to order at 8:05 PM on March 13, 2018.

Election of Moderator

Mr. Gary Horning nominated Mr. John McPherson to serve as moderator for the town meeting. No other nominations were received. Mr. Allen Eisinger moved to name Mr. John McPherson as moderator. Seconded by Mr. Brad Cornell, the motion carried by a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting held March 14, 2017 were presented. Mr. Allen Eisinger moved to accept the draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Brad Cornell, the motion carried.

Reading of the Board of Audit as Posted

The board of audit was conducted on February 12, 2018, and found no discrepancies between the clerk and the treasurer's ledgers. A motion to accept the audit report made by Gary Horning, seconded by Denise Cornell, the motion carried.

Washington County Commissioner Gary Kriesel

Commissioner Gary Kriesel presented an update from the Washington County Board. The first project discussed was the pavement rehabilitation of 10th street from Manning Avenue to Stagecoach Trail, with center turn lanes at Morris Road and Neal Avenue. Construction is scheduled for September to November. The next major project is Manning Avenue (CSAH 15) realignment phase 2. This project includes safety improvements. Estimated cost of \$15.5 million dollars. The projects includes realignment, two signals, pedestrian trails and storm treatment facilities. Construction is slated from May to November.

Commissioner Kriesel noted the County is continuing to monitor the 3M settlement. The County has participated in state led conference calls. Public open houses are expected to be held in mid-March or early April.

Mr. McPherson asked about construction on Stagecoach Trail. Commissioner Kriesel noted there will be work about 600 feet south of the railroad tracks up to CSAH 14. Moving south to 94 will be into the future. Commissioner Kriesel was also asked about repair of Oakgreen Avenue. This is also not on the current schedule.

Mr. Mark Votava asked about the settlement with 3M. There are many in the township that are impacted by the contaminated water. What is Washington County going to do to ensure the funds are spent to improve the water quality for the impacted residents? Commissioner Kriesel indicated the County will be fully engaged to ensure safe water remains the focus of this settlement. This is just the beginning of the process. More information will be forthcoming with the public open houses coming in the future.

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Washington County Sheriff Dan Starry

Sheriff Dan Starry thanked the board for the opportunity to appear before the town members. Sheriff Starry explained text to 911. If you have a cell phone, you can dial or text 911 from your cell phone. Concerned with potential bounce back if in a roaming mode. It was also suggested that the text includes a location. Dialing 911 is preferred because it provides more location information and allows for better communication. Texting is also an option.

The command staff was introduced, and is available for questions.

The opioid epidemic has hit Washington County, with 23 deaths last year from drug overdoses. Did partner with Lakeview and Health Partners, so deputies do carry Narcan for life saving measures. Sex trafficking has also been a focus. One Saturday alone, there was 19 arrests in the city of Woodbury. With the communities and the County attorney, will continue to address these issues.

Asked about specific of instances in West Lakeland. There is about 1200 initial complaint reports per year. Vandalism has gone down. The part one crimes and part two crimes have remained consistent year on year. This is the time of year that the department starts seeing more burglaries. There were six last year.

Chairman Kylo asked Sheriff Starry to remind about Code Red. This is an emergency notification system. This provides a text, email or phone call if there are issues that need to be communicated by the County or the Township. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for this service.

Bayport Fire Chief Allen Eisinger

Chief Allen Eisinger of the Bayport Fire Department appeared before the Town meeting. Chief Eisinger presented a review of the fire department and staff. Bayport fire provides fire protection for Bayport, Oak Park Heights, Baytown Township and West Lakeland Township. With the new fire station, there is more homes that qualify for fire classification 6. The fire department's ISO certification of training also provides for opportunities to lower home insurance rates.

Bayport fire responded to 1,333 calls last year. This is the busiest all volunteer fire department in the state of Minnesota. West Lakeland had a call volume decrease year on year. Working with the Sheriff's department, City of Bayport, and City of Oak Park Heights in responding to calls. West Lakeland had the largest dollar value loss with a home fire.

Chief Eisinger was asked about going to a full time department. They have started to look at that process. The call volume justifies that move. It will be a couple year process to review. In response to a question of false alarms, it was noted that a residence is allowed two false alarms, and then the resident will be charged.

Dan Kylo, Town Board Chairman

Chairman Kylo presented a financial status of the township. The recommended cash reserve is 2.5 the annual expenses to be able to cover catastrophic expenses. West Lakeland is at about twice the annual expenses, and continue to appropriate to build the capital improvement fund. Expenses continue to rise, which is why there is a 9.4% increase in the recommended levy. Chairman Kylo provided a summary of expenses, and noted that roads are becoming of age, increasing the cost to maintain these roads. Road maintenance, snow removal, and fire services are some of the larger expenses of the Township. Funds were saved by elimination of the Clean Up day event and by having the Planning Commission volunteers drafting the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

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A review of the tax status of West Lakeland compared to surrounding communities, noting that West Lakeland has the lowest property tax rate in Washington County, and one of the lowest in the metropolitan area.

Chairman Kylo introduced Ms. Viet-Hanh Winchell as the new township attorney.

Ms. Vivian Votava asked about the general fund, and if there is a fee to operate gravel pits and drive gravel trucks through the township. Chairman Kylo responded that there is a payment of gravel tax from the pits operating in the Township.

Chairman Kylo explained the requirement to update the Comprehensive Plan, as directed by the Metropolitan Council. The draft of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan is completed, and is beginning the initial review.

Chairman Kylo noted a response to a question raised before the meeting regarding the Prairie Island Indian Community proposed change of the property at Manning and 94th. The tribe applied to the Department of Interior to go from Fee to Trust. This moves the property from property from that is taxed and managed by the United States to a Federal Trust Program that allows the native tribe to use the land as part of their sovereign nation. The application can take anywhere from one year to up to six or seven years for the application review to be completed.

Dave Schultz, Town Board Supervisor

Supervisor Schultz spoke before the town, recognizing the staff of the township. Supervisor Schultz is responsible for transportation, township roads. The road report is posted. The township will be partnering again with Lake Elmo on crack sealing of the township roads.

Supervisor Schultz noted that the route of the Gateway Trail has changed, moving south into Woodbury from Oakdale, so West Lakeland will no longer be on the proposed route. As a result, West Lakeland will be withdrawing from the Gateway Corridor Commission.

Supervisor Schultz has also represented the Township with regard to the Lake Elmo Airport Expansion. There is a public hearing for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet April 4th. The proposal is a replacement and lengthening of the northwest southeast runway. This would result in the re-routing of 30th Street. Supervisor Schultz has concerns about the re-routing of 30th Street and the standards to which the proposed road would be constructed. The Township has hired a hydrologist and an attorney to review the EAW on behalf of the Township.

Supervisor Schultz also discussed the PFC water contamination moving through the Township. The state will continue to test wells to monitor the location and potential expansion of the plume. The question was raised if communication on water contamination would address impact on fish, water on gardens, etc. He will investigate.

A question was raised about the possibility of improving 30th Street to make it safer for bicyclists and pedestrian traffic. Supervisor Schultz indicated that a pedestrian trail might be part of the potential reconstruction along the airport. The maintenance of 30th Street is shared with Baytown. On the West Lakeland side, there is little dedicated right of way, so there would need to be property negotiations and watershed review to widen the road. This would be more complicated than it looks.

Steve Ebner, Town Board Supervisor

Supervisor Steve Ebner thanked the board, staff and planning commission over the past year, and special thanks to Dave Dupay for his years of service. Supervisor Ebner reviewed the work of the planning commission on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. There is a draft on the Township website. The

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main changes were to the water sections, to align with the water management organizations. What didn't change was West Lakeland as a rural residential community with limited growth and services.

Supervisor Ebner also serves as the weed inspector. The updated noxious weed list is posted on the township website. There was a significant amount of spraying for wild parsnips last year. The large areas of contamination are along Stagecoach Trail, 30th Street south of the airport, and on 19th just before O'Ryan.

Marsha Olson, Treasurer

Ms. Olson presented the annual financials for the Township. The town recorded \$1,492,116 in receipts in 2017. \$566,800 was property taxes. \$535,500 was from a letter of credit escrow. The town paid out \$804,992 in 2017. Road and bridge expenditures totaled \$308,429. Major expenses in the general fund included fire protection for \$125,756, recycling for \$44,610, and wages and salaries for \$59,994. The balances at the end of the year were \$1,533,276 in the general fund; \$205,816 in the road and bridge fund; and \$643,949 in the capital fund, for a total of \$2,383,041.

Old Business

No old business was raised at this time.

New Business

No new business was raised at this time.

Proposed 2019 Tax Levy

The board proposed a levy of \$636,190, allocating \$230,690 for the General Fund and \$405,500 for the Road and Bridge fund. Mr. Allen Eisinger moved to approve the levy of \$636,190. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brad Cornell, and the motion passed.

Election Results

Mr. David Schultz received 90 votes, and 1 write-In vote. The township has approximately 2,800 registered voters.

2019 Town Annual Meeting

Ms. Carol Swanson moved to hold the next Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 8 PM at Oak-land Middle School's Auditorium, seconded by Gary Horning, the motion carried.

General Discussion

A question was raised if an impact statement was done or concerns about the impact of the construction traffic created by the development on the old Tartan Park property. Supervisor Schultz has worked with the town engineer and Lake Elmo to have the construction traffic diverted earlier. There is still a lot of construction traffic from the construction of the homes. Supervisor Schultz will reach out to the town engineer and Lake Elmo to see if it can be addressed. Supervisor Schultz also noted that spring road restrictions are now in place.

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Adjourn

Mr. Gary Horning motioned to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by Denise Cornell, the motion carried. Mr. John McPherson adjourned the meeting at 9:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,



John McPherson
Moderator



Elizabeth Vance
Recording Secretary



Carrie Seifert
Town Clerk