

The Southside Township annual meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 by Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill. The following people were present: Tim Hable, Jim Hallstrom, John Reynolds, Zane Schaefer, Dana Kjaer, Oscar Laney, Brad Harloff, Matthew Wuollet, Barbara Ostlund, Al Ostlund.

Carmen Merrill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Hallstrom made a motion to appoint Zane Schaefer as Moderator. Hearing no other nominations, the Clerk cast a unanimous vote for Zane Schaefer. Motion carried.

John Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 annual meeting. Dana Kjaer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Hallstrom made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill. Tim Hable seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brad Harloff and Matthew Wuollet were present as representatives of the Annandale Fire Department. Brad is the new Assistant Chief. He has been on the department for 11 years. Matthew has been on the department since 2010. Presently the Annandale department has 27 members. All their equipment is in great shape. They just took delivery of a new tanker in February. The tanker can be used as a 3rd engine. It has an automatic pump and a DNR line for grass fires. Total calls for the department in 2016 were 219 which is up 15 from 2015. Calls to Southside township were 36 with an average response time of 8 minutes 11 seconds. They are asking for \$42, 228 for 2018 which is the same as 2017. They don't expect an increase in the fire assessment for at least 3 years. The department is in good shape financially.

Oscar Laney and Dana Kjaer were present as representatives of the South Haven Fire Department. Oscar has been in the department for 26 years. Dana has been a member for 11 years. Total calls for their department were 122 with 96 being emergency and 26 being other. They have 25 firefighters on their crew. All firefighters are trained as emergency responders. 90% of their calls are medical. They are requesting \$46,925 for 2018.

Zane thanked both departments for their work for our township. He stated he feels good knowing they are well staffed and have good up to date equipment.

Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill presented the request for 2018 tax levy. The request for the general fund is \$100,144. This is up approximately \$8500 from 2017 levy. This is due to an increase in assessor fees, election supplies and payroll taxes. The request for road and bridge levy is \$299,450.00. This is a \$35,000 decrease from the 2017 levy. The decrease comes from engineering costs and snow and ice removal. There is an excess of \$62,000 from 2016 in the snow and ice removal fund so the Board decided to decrease the levy by \$30,000. \$50,000 is slated for street projects. This amount combined with the \$111,000 and the 2017 levy of \$50,000 should be enough to do a road project in 2018.

Total levy for 2018 is \$488,747 – General Fund \$100,144; Road & Bridge Fund \$299,450 and Fire Assessment \$89,153. Jim Hallstrom made a motion to approve the tax levy for \$488,747 as requested. Tim Hable seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tim Hable reported the township has contracted with Wright County Assessor for the township assessor duties. They have been working all over the township reviewing property and updating values. Residents can expect changes in their property values as they are reviewed and more accurate values are assigned. Roads continue to present challenges for the township with water issues being the most challenging. Our contractor Hendricks Sand & Gravel does a terrific job and the township has received many compliments on their work. Norgren Tree Service has been doing a great job keeping our road right of way clear and the sight lines along the roads clear. Grace Cemetery is in great shape. One new issue in the township is the invasive species Starry Stonewort which was found in Lake Sylvia. The Township has committed to providing the lake association support as they work to contain or eliminate the weed. The spread would have a devastating effect on area lakes.

Jim Hallstrom reported the township is still working on water issues in two different areas of the township. The board has obtained property owner consent to build retention ponds to along 100th ST NW but are waiting for Clearwater River

Watershed District and County Soil & Water to produce a plan to deal with the 24" culvert that runs under the road and causes problems for roads and property owners below the culvert. Rockwood Ave NW is also experiencing erosion problems with runoff entering the Clearwater River. The township is waiting for information and control plans from CRWD and S&W for this project as well. Variance activity in the township is up with several property owners looking for variances for building on their property. The Board is willing to look at plans and work with property owners to come to an acceptable plan for both the property owner and the environment.

John Reynolds who is new to the Board as of January 2017 is enjoying his time on the board. John has 25 years of experience on a fire department and has been assigned as the South Have Fire Department representative. He lives on 109th St NW and knows the roads in that area need some work. He experienced working with Hendricks in February when the winter rains caused muddy roads. Hendricks was called out and the road was repaired. He is looking forward to learning more about his new position and the township in general.

In other business Zane Schaefer asked for the residents to approve a donation to Annandale Youth First which is an organization that works with underserved students in the Annandale area. Young students are paired with older students in Cardinal Buddies which has been proven to be a very successful program. High school students serve as mentors to students in grades 2-4. "Big and Little Buddies" are matched for one-on-one activities such as reading, art, crafts and games. They meet as a group with direct supervision by the Youth First Coordinators. The purpose of the group is to inspire the entire Annandale Community to become asset builders for youth. Alan Ostlund made a motion to give \$1000 to Annandale Youth First for 2018. Tim Hable seconded the motion. Tim asked Zane to expand on the program benefits and expenses. Carmen explained funding was reduced by 92% several years ago and the board and its directors decided to try to continue by applying for grants and accepting the generosity of local organizations and people. One of the programs AYF provides is Camp Eastview which is a 6-week camp held in Camp Eastview during the summer. It provides structured activities for students among the nearly 300 families that live at Eastview Mobile Home Park in Annandale. Students join for arts, crafts, reading, sports, games, circle time and snacks. Camp Eastview takes place outdoors at Eastview Mobile Home Park. Tim Hable amended the motion to give Annandale Youth First \$1500 in 2018. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Alan Ostlund thanked the Board members for their work during the year for the residents of the township. Tim Hable made a motion to set the time and place for the 2018 annual meeting for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. at Southside Town hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.