

The Southside Township annual meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 by Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill. The following people were present: Jim Hallstrom, Dale Machovsky, AFD, Horacio Torres Jr, AFD, Kenneth Laney SHFD, Zane Schaefer, David Burd, Eric Hendricks.

Clerk Merrill led the pledge of allegiance.

Jim Hallstrom made a motion to appoint Zane Schaefer as moderator. David Burd seconded the motion. No other nominations were heard a unanimous ballot was cast to appoint Zane Schaefer as moderator.

Dave Burd made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022, annual meeting. Jim Hallstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Merrill presented the treasurer’s report. Cash fund balance for all funds on December 31 was \$765,150.00. General fund intergovernmental receipts were over budget by 85,227 due to funds received from the American Rescue Plan. We were over budget by \$2,505 for LaserFiche Software which is used to scan copies of township documents in the cloud for retention. Legal fees up \$2,903 over budget due to work being done on road vacations. Road and Bridge fund assessments received were \$24,787, for the 62nd ST road project. Over budget on legal fees, engineers, and street projects due to 62nd St NW, 80th St NW and Montgomery Ave NW overlays. Motion by Jim Hallstrom to approve the treasurers report with a second by Oscar Laney. Motion carried.

Annandale Fire Department representative Dale Machovsky reported the department had 334 calls for 2022 up from 225 calls in 2021. Their new rescue rig has arrived and is great to use. Average response time of 9:13. There were 29 calls in Southside Township. They are asking for \$49,752 for 2024 budget.

South Haven Fire Department representative Oscar Laney reported they had 172 calls for 2022. 59 were in Southside Township. They currently have 20 members with 4 applicants for review in April. They are requesting \$50,778 for 2024.

Zane thanked the firefighters for doing their volunteer work and answering the call when paged.

Clerk Merrill reported on the 2024 budget. The Board is asking for \$166,896 for the General Fund and \$666,666 for the Road and Bridge fund. The general fund expenses increased by \$31,851. This is due to deputy clerk salary for 2024 due to Clerk/Treasurer retiring at year end. The township will appoint a deputy clerk in January 2024 to learn through the year from Clerk Merrill. Also increased due to election expenses and salaries. The road and bridge fund budget is going up \$167,150 due to increases in road projects, engineering and legal. The Board plans to continue maintenance and upkeep on the township roads. Cost of oil may impact that as well as professional fees. Dave Burd made a motion to approve the following tax levy for 2024:

LEVY WORKSHEET	2024 LEVY REQUEST
GENERAL FUND	\$166,986.00
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$666,000.00
FIRE FUND ASSESSMENT	<u>\$100,530.00</u>

*ANNANDALE FIRE (629 UNITS)- \$79/unit	\$49,752.00
*SOUTH HAVEN FIRE (629 UNITS) - \$78/unit	\$50,778.00
<hr/> TOTAL LEVY	<hr/> \$933,516.00 <hr/> <hr/>

Jim Hallstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Hallstrom reported the Board has road improvements planned for 90th St NW both sides of Hwy 55. On the east side the chip seal needs work and on the west side the railroad crossing is in need of repair. Two cars cannot meet safely on the tracks. Attempts to contact the railroad authorities have not been successful but we will keep trying. The Board continues work on the 61st NW road vacation that was originally done in 1990. Township Attorney Mike Couri believes he has found a viable solution. With the Clerk retiring at the end of 2024 the township would like to appoint a deputy clerk to start in January so that training can be done throughout the year. The Board is also beginning to think about a new improved township hall. The foundation is sinking on the current town hall so the Board has talked about what type of structure would best serve the township in the future. This is not going to be done soon but the Board would like to get input from residents about what they'd like to see in the town hall.

David Burd addressed those present to ask for funding for Annandale Youth First. In the past years the township has donated \$1500 to the organization that targets at risk youth in the Annandale area. The kids get great benefits from the programs let by coordinators Mary Barkley Brown and Pam Wurm. Several organizations in the area also raise money for the organization. Jim Hallstrom made a motion to approve \$1500 for Annandale Youth First. Oscar Laney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Oscar Laney made a motion to set the 2024 Annual meeting for Tuesday, March 12, at 8 p.m. at Southside town hall. David Burd seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

No other requests or comments were heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.