

The Southside Township annual meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 by Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill. The following people were present: Jim Hallstrom, Matthew Woullet, AFD, Horacio Torres Jr, AFD, David Burd, Dan Berg and Marty Ferguson.

Clerk Merrill led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Jim Hallstrom made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023, annual meeting. Marty Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Merrill presented the treasurer's report. The cash fund balance for all funds on December 31 was \$1,027,401.00. General fund I receipts were over budget by \$27,000 due to \$9,054 in excess receipts. We were under budget on expenses of \$18,023. Road and Bridge fund assessments received were \$10,603, for the 62<sup>nd</sup> ST road project. \$39,634 over budget on snow and ice removal which was due to the winter snow in January, February, and March. We were under budget on road repairs by \$61,790. The Road and Bridge fund finished the year receipts over expenses by \$234,346. Motion by David Burg to approve the treasurers report with a second by Jim Hallstrom. Motion carried.

Annandale Fire Department representative Matthew Woullet reported the department had 269 calls for 2023. 23 were in Southside Township. They currently have 25 members with 5 new members in training. The department needs to replace two vehicles, a 1990 tanker and a 1997 engine. The engine will be the first to be replaced. The cost to replace is estimated at 1.2 million and will take 4 years to build. They are setting up a capital fund to save money for the replacement tanker in a few years. Saving for the tanker and paying cash will save the department money. Marty Ferguson thanked the department for their work and expressed his appreciation of their work. David Burd echoed that sentiment as well as the community work the department does. Annandale is asking for \$62,190 for 2025.

Dan Berg reported on the South Haven Fire. They had 180 calls with 26 in Southside Township. 5% were fires, 65% were rescues, 15% good intent and 5% false calls. They currently have 22 members with 3 new members in training. Their equipment is good and no replacement is needed at this time. They are asking for \$52,301 for 2025.

Clerk Merrill reported on the 2025 budget. The Board is asking for \$155,790 for the General Fund and \$826,097 for the Road and Bridge fund. The road and bridge fund budget is going up \$159,431 due to planned road projects, engineering and legal. Jim Hallstrom made a motion to approve the following tax levy for 2025:

<b>LEVY WORKSHEET</b>	<b>2025 LEVY REQUEST</b>
GENERAL FUND	\$155,790.00
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$826,097.00
FIRE FUND ASSESSMENT	<u>\$114,491.00</u>

*ANNANDALE FIRE (625 UNITS)- \$100/unit	\$62,190.00
*SOUTH HAVEN FIRE (625 UNITS) - \$84/unit	\$52,301.00
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TOTAL LEVY	\$1,096,378.00
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Dan Berg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Supervisor Dan Berg reported the Board is working on 90<sup>th</sup> St NW railroad track crossing. The work began last fall and we are waiting on the railroad to complete the repair. The chip seal on 90<sup>th</sup> from County Road 3 to Hwy 55 is in bad shape and in need of repair. Supervisor Jim Hallstrom reported the township is considering closing the road or replacing the chip seal. The road is broken up due to semis using it to access Hwy 55 even when it is posted as a 5-ton road. The cost to pave is over \$1million. Supervisor Bergs stated the road tour this month will determine what road improvements will be done. Supervisor Ferguson stated we must start doing some work on our paved roads or we will lose them. This will cost more money than maintaining. Supervisor Berg stated the township hall foundation is failing and the Board will be exploring repair or replacement. 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. Clerk/Treasurer Carmen Merrill will be retiring in January 2025. We are advertising for a deputy clerk to work with her for the remainder of the year and take over in 2025. There is an ad in the Advocate and on the website.

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 led by coordinators Mary Barkley Brown and Pam Wurm. Some of the programs they lead are After the Bell, Cardinal Buddies, and Camp Eastview. Jim Hallstrom made a motion to approve \$1500 for Annandale Youth First. Marty Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marty Ferguson made a motion to set the 2025 Annual meeting for Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at Southside town hall. Dan Berg seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

No other requests or comments were heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.