



“New York of the West”

NININGER TOWNSHIP
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

8 pm (Following the counting of ballots)

12390 Ivanhoe Way

Hastings, MN 55033

Present: Randy & Kelly Sorg, John Bremer, Bea Westerberg, Tony & Rose Dockendorf, Steve Bloomstrand, Terry & Margaret Flower, Harrison Benjamin, Butch Kummer, Gary Rotty, Karen Bremer, Jaci & Terry Crisp, Janet Bremer, Karla Bingham, Larry Neuman, Robert (Bob)Rotty(19 present)

Karla Bingham spoke regarding several bills in the Senate. She stated that Federal money from the American Rescue Plan will be used where appropriate. Several ideas are being investigated. She has signed on to the bill to decrease/eliminate Social Security tax. She is retiring from the Senate this year and will be running for election for Washington County commissioner. She thanked everyone for coming and congratulated the winners of the election.

1. **Meeting Called to Order by Margaret Flower, clerk** at 8:50 pm following the counting of the ballots.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.**
3. **Nominations for Moderator**—John Bremer moved to elect Bob Rotty moderator. Seconded by Larry Neuman. All ayes.

4. **Report of Election Supervisor**

David Bauer 111

Terry Crisp 36

Clerk

Margaret Flower 134

Write in 2

Undervotes 11

Total 147

5. **Official Proof of notice of annual meeting**—Margaret stated that the meeting notice was published in the Hastings Journal and posted on the board at the town hall.
6. **Agenda**—There were no additions to the agenda. Terry Flower moved to approve the agenda and seconded by Harrison Benjamin.
7. **Review and approve the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting** . Tony Dockendorf moved to dispense with the reading approve the minutes as written, seconded by Steve Bloomstrand. All ayes
8. **Board of Audit Report** Margaret read the board of audit report. Terry Flower moved to approve the Board of Audit report as presented. Seconded by John Bremer. All ayes.

9. Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$207,384.49
Total Receipts	\$403,954.61
Total Disbursed	\$280,411.60
Ending Balance	\$330,927.50

Janet Bremer briefly explained the report. Harrison Benjamin moved to accept the treasurer report as presented. Seconded by Terry Flower. All ayes.

10. Town Board Report—Bob Rotty asked for questions. There were no questions

11. Old Business—The following items will be voted on as a block.

- a. **Set the Polling Place**-- Nininger Town Hall
- b. **Set the meeting business hours**—The Board of Supervisors will meet the third Tuesday of the month every month at 7 pm. The Planning commission will meet the first Monday of the month at 8 PM at Nininger Town Hall but will be rescheduled if a holiday.
- c. **Gopher bounty pay** will remain at \$2.50
- d. **Election judges pay** will remain at \$13.00
- e. **Designate official newspaper**-The Hastings Journal will remain the official newspaper.
- f. **Designate road maintenance** Luhman's construction will continue with road maintenance. Terry Flower moved to accept the above items as written. Seconded by John Bremer. All ayes.

12. New Business

- a. **Rural Fire Association costs** Larry Neuman reported that there was a 2.5% increase in the contract with the Rural Fire Association. We are paying approximately \$29,000 twice a year the rural fire association. The fees include fire and ambulance service to all residents within the fire area. The Hastings Fire Department has the largest area in the 7-county metro area. It is felt that a new fire hall may be built in the near future due to increase in demand and the large area. Costs will continue to increase.
- b. **Report on Vermillion Watershed**—No report
- c. **Report on Roads and Bridges**—Bob Rotty stated that striping of Lock Blvd will be done this year. We were unable to do in 2021 due to availability of paint. It will be completed as soon as possible this spring.
- d. **Planning commission report**—John Bremer—No report
- e. **Set conditional use permit fees.** John Bremer suggested that we keep the costs the same. Karen Bremer moved to keep the Conditional Use Fees the same. Seconded by Harrison Benjamin. All ayes.
- f. **Set chloride costs**—Bob Rotty report that the chloride costs will decrease one cent this year. The application will remain the same as previous years. If a resident wants extra chloride, they will deal directly with Luhman's Construction.

- 13. Review levy for 2023**—The levy was not raised for 2022. The planning commission is recommending that the levy be raise \$20,000 this year. The levy would be \$285,000 for 2023. With the increase in inflation and other costs it is felt this is necessary. The levy will be effective in 2023. The cost to the homeowner would by approximately \$5.33 per month. There has not been a raise for 2 years.
- 14. Motion to approve general levy for 2023** Harrison Benjamin moved to increase the levy \$20,000 to \$285,000 for 2023. Seconded by Janet Bremer. All ayes
- 15. Motion to set time and location for 2023 annual meeting.** Randy Sorg moved that the annual meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Nininger Town Hall, 12390 Ivanhoe Way, Hastings, MN. Time is immediately following the counting of the ballots for the township election. Seconded by Terry Flower. All ayes.
- 16. General Discussion of Items of Concern**—Randy Sorg was interested in the salary of the Board members and if an increase was necessary. No increase has been given since 2015. The board members felt that the salary was within reason. After discussion Harrison Benjamin moved to keep the salary the same this year and discuss in 2023. Seconded by Terry Flower. All ayes. Margaret will do some research on the comparison of salaries from other townships. She will contact MN Association of Township regarding the salaries throughout the state. **Mike Slavik** stated the tax statements were being mailed this week. The property valuation has a 17% increase this year. This is the highest in county history. Individual taxation meetings are all done at county and done on a 1:1. If you have concerns regarding your taxes you will need to contact the county for an appointment. The county is down 120 employees. They are reviewing if they will replace all of them. Dakota County has the lowest tax portion of all counties and they have no debt. There is minimal road work and forest restoration being done now. MN Lottery is funding the bison project for Dakota county. The bison will be coming this fall. It will cost the county approximately \$30,000 per year for the herd. The herd will start with 13 increasing to 30. No shelter is needed for the herd. It will cost approximately \$1000 for hay if the prairie grass is not adequate. Broadband—Approximately ½ of Nininger resident have high-capacity internet, and ½ do not have high-speed capacity. Email Mike if you have concerns regarding high-speed internet.
- 17. Adjourn** Larry Neuman moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM. Seconded by Terry Flower. All ayes. The Board of Canvas will meet immediately following the adjournment.
- 18. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Flower,
Nininger Township Clerk

