

ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP
P. O. BOX 308
1767 MELRUDE ROAD
MELRUDE, MN 55766

ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING

March 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 pm in the Melrude Town hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Residents and guests present were Chairman Arrlette Krog, Vice Chair Beth Caple, Supervisor Kevin Davidson, Clerk Cindy Brown, Travis Denzler, Terry Giernett, Lee Voigt, John Upton, Dale Wick, Heidi Yokel, Tim Linder, Scott Streitz, Stephanie Upton, Jeff Dulinski, Rita Giernett, Loren Mesedahl, Donna Cline, Laurie Mesedahl, Loren Mesedahl Jr, Jeff Johnson, Susan Carlsness and Greg Jacobson.

Present via Zoom was Deputy Treasurer Aubreanna McKeever.

Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Beth Caple as moderator for the meeting, Heidi Yokel second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

Clerks’ minutes for the March 2021 Annual Meeting were read.

The year-end financial report as prepared by Treasurer Elaine Wick, was read by Clerk Cindy Brown.

2021 Year End Financial Report:

As of 12/31/2021								
Fund	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Sale of Investments	Transfers In	Disbursements	Purchase of Investments	Transfers Out	Ending Balance
General Fund	86,842.88	85,981.61	0.00	0.00	64,604.28	611.57	5,000.00	102,608.64
Road and Bridge	21,725.04	23,241.96	0.00	0.00	12,847.50	0.00	0.00	32,119.50
Fire	0.00	49,536.19	0.00	0.00	27,036.19	0.00	0.00	22,500.00
Cemetery	7,086.68	3,600.00	0.00	0.00	4,157.30	0.00	0.00	6,529.38
ARPA	0.00	11,911.77	0.00	0.00	961.94	0.00	0.00	10,949.83
General Capital Projects	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Total:	125,654.60	174,271.53	0.00	5,000.00	109,607.21	611.57	5,000.00	189,707.35

Loren Mesedahl made a motion to approve the financial report as read, Heidi Yokel second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

Review of 2021 activities for:

Cemetery – Chairperson Arrlette Krog reported that Phase II is being mowed and looks nice. Brushing has been done by the pine trees There were 5 burials in 2021. Cemetery fees were reviewed and will remain the same for 2022.

Roads – Vice Chair Beth Caple reported that a large rock has been removed from Waterhen Rd. One cartway was granted in 2021 which presented a learning opportunity for the town officers. Edwards Oil,

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through an error on their part, did not chloride our roads in 2021 but we will ensure it does get done in 2022. New road signs with breakaway posts have been ordered from Mesabi Signs and will be installed in the spring. A new bridge was installed on County 59 this summer

Buildings – Supervisor Kevin Davidson reported not much maintenance had to be done to buildings in 2021 other than some weatherstripping to the Bass Lake Fire Hall.

Website – Chairperson Arrlette Krog reported that the website has been going well with updated information added regularly.

Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Chief Loren Mesedahl gave a detailed report on 2021, some of the highlights are: there are currently 20 members, they responded to 36 emergencies in 2021 (15 fires, 21 medical), mutual aid was provided to other departments 14 times and they received aid 2 times. All vehicles were serviced and hoses were professionally tested for strength and leakage. The Fire Department participated in the July 4th festivities, Melrude Winter Frolic, National Night Out and community meals at Old School Lives. They are always looking for new members, especially on the Melrude Rd/W Melrude Rd side of the township. He talked about the space issues at the Melrude Fire Hall and the recent Special Town Meeting where the issues were outlined and the Melrude Fire Hall Committee presented an option to remedy the issue.

Other Township Business - Moderator Beth Caple asked if anyone had additional questions or concerns that they would like to discuss. There were no questions or concerns from the residents and guests present or on Zoom.

2023 Town Levy as suggested by the supervisors.

General Fund	\$150,000.00
(includes a one-year only addition of \$100,000 for Melrude Fire Department building)	
Road Fund	\$25,000.00
<u>Fire Fund</u>	<u>\$45,000.00</u>
Total	\$220,000.00

Prior to the suggested levy being read to the residents a portion of the Special Town Meeting presentation from January 18th was shown to the residents. This was done so residents that were not at the special meeting could see what was recommended as the remedy to the Melrude Fire Hall issue, followed by Chairperson Arrlette Krog and Vice Chair Beth Caple talking about changes they thought may be needed to the plan that was presented.

A lively discussion was held among residents, board members and fire hall committee members. Several residents expressed concerns that they were being asked to approve the one-time levy increase without a clear plan to remedy the fire hall issues. After much discussion it was decided since our levy is not certified until September, we would hold a vote for one of two options regarding the one-time levy increase of \$100,000. Option 1 was a vote to approve the one-time levy increase at this meeting and go

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forward with the plan as presented by the Melrude Fire Hall Committee at the Special Town Meeting and Option 2 was to continue the meeting and reconvene at a later date to vote on the one-time levy increase after a revised plan including estimated costs from the Melrude Fire Hall Committee is presented. A show of hands was counted for each option, Option 1 received 7 votes and Option 2 received 13 votes. Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to reconvene at a Special Board Meeting to be held on July 12, 2022 (time TBD), Stephanie Upton second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

Contract for Health, Social and Recreational Services from non-profit organizations – Per statute the township supervisors can spend no more than \$10k per year. Laurie Mesedahl made a motion to give the town board approval to spend up to \$10k based on statute, Heidi Yokel second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

Fund Town Celebrations and Recognition of Service – Per statute, residents must give approval and spending limit. Donna Cline made a motion to approve a \$1000 limit for town celebrations and recognition of service, Dale Wick second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

Township Officer Election Results -

The Canvass Board certified the official election results as follows:

	Candidate	Votes
Supervisor:	3-year term	
	1. Arrlette Krog	15
	2. John Upton (write-in)	20
Clerk:	2-year term	
	1. Cindy Brown	33
	2. Heidi Yokel (write-in)	1

Moderator Beth Caple thanked Chairperson Arrlette Krog for her service to the community and welcomed John Upton as a new supervisor.

Cotton Chronicle Donation - Chairperson Arrlette Krog made a motion to request a sponsorship ad of \$250.00, Laurie Mesedahl second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

2022 Election Polling Hours – Rita Giernett made a motion to approve Melrude Town Hall polling hours to be 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm for the state primary and general elections and 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm for the 2023 township election, Vice Chair Beth Caple second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

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2023 Annual Meeting Date – March 14, 2023 is the second Tuesday in March. Donna Cline made a motion to approve the meeting date, Heidi Yokel second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

As there was no further business and the meeting will be continued, the meeting ended at 9:51 pm.

Cindy Brown, Clerk

Beth Caple, Moderator

Date