

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

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the Township Clerk Annette Millsop at 7:00pm on March 17, 2009. All present said the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk asked for nominations for Moderator three times: Arrlette Krog was chosen to officiate.

CLERKS MINUTES: The minutes were read; corrections made on the 2008 minutes were in the Fire Fund to \$38,000.00 from the incorrect of \$39,000.00, minutes were accepted, with the corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Shelly Stallcop reported the finances as:

BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$77,724.18
Receipts:	122,051.05
<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>130,287.70</u>
Total Ending Balance:	\$69,487.53

CD's: Total of 8 in 3 different banks

Beginning Balance:	\$94,264.80
<u>Interest for the Year:</u>	<u>3,129.46</u>
Ending Balance Total:	\$97,394.26

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$47,254.11
Receipts:	62,366.96
<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>71,492.76</u>
Total Ending Balance:	\$38,128.31

Road and Bridge

Beginning Balance:	\$30,470.07
Receipts:	17,865.09
<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>16,975.94</u>
Total Ending Balance:	\$31,359.22

Fire Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$.00
Receipts:	41,819.00
<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>\$41,819.00</u>

Total Ending Balance: \$.00
Review of 2008 Activities and Plans for the Future

Keith Fulcher brought a picture and drawing with dimensions of a new Town Hall/Fire Hall/Post Office from Morton Builders. He spoke about grants and funds available for this endeavor and the cost of the Building of \$677,xxx.xx for a turnkey operation. He also asked about how the township citizens feel about spending money for feasibility, architect, soil and land survey to see if the project has a chance of making it possible to get a grant. Discussion followed. Keith Fulcher also said that he didn't know if we would need to use all union workers for the project because of using grant money. There is no guarantee we would get any grants. Questions from the citizens were: 1) Are there any strings attached to the grants for Federal or State? 2) Should the Board send out post cards or mailings to the residents/owners in questionnaire form about a new Building? 3) Do we have enough land? Shelly Stallcop and Denzlers want input from the residents. Ralph Weeks said we should get more than one architect to do a study and something to send in with the grant. Kevin Cavanaugh did not want to spend the money for something we may not get. Arrlette Krog asked if the new building was because of the problems of the fire hall and if so why not just build a new fire hall. Keith Fulcher explained we would still have to make repairs to the hall and other building. Stanley Peterson said we needed to spend money to insulate the hall and Ralph Weeks said they spent money to make the office and that was expensive then. Mr. Denzler said if it is an historical building maybe we could do something with that. They also suggested we should put something on the web. No motions at this time.

Cemetery: Kevin Cavanaugh explained that he checked into the redoing of the lawn at the cemetery and the price was way out of line. He also said that we are planning to replace the crosses that are rotting with flat stones. Arrlette Krog suggested we use the Lazar Plaques and Kevin will follow up on this. Arrlette also suggested we use a local landscaper to help with the lawns at the Cemetery. His name is Brad Matuzak on Berg Lake here in Ellsburg. Kevin will get in touch with him in the spring for help and information. Motion to use Brad by Stan Peterson and 2nd by Ralph Weeks; motion carried.

Fire Department: Greg Millsop said we have 4 new members and 1 member reinstated. Lori Brown and Mike Kuriatnyk are attending firefighter 1 class and Barb Cavanaugh will be going to first responder class. We have a lot of projects going on. We have taken 2 trucks back and a large pumper to the DNR. We have a 6x6 truck we have purchased that we will be fixing into a tanker this year. Then we will get rid of another truck. We didn't apply for a grant this year but we do have \$50,000.00 in CD's. We paid off the Engine #1 in January and will be putting \$7,000.00 in a savings account toward a new truck. We have had 19 calls this past year: 13 first responder; 3 fires; and 3 non-fire. Mike Levig from the ATV Club put in for a grant for a rescue sled and was awarded \$9,800.00 from Yamaha. It will be stored here at Melrude for the new ATV trail being built and also will be used by surrounding departments and St.Louis County Sheriff's rescue with permission from our fire department. Keith Fulcher also said the unorganized township by Colvin asked our fire department to service them with fire/ first response and has contacted him and St. Louis County about it and it would bring in revenue of \$5,000.00 to the fire department if St. Louis County approves. It should happen in the near future. We still have a long way to go but we will be better by the end of the year.

Road and Bridge: Keith Fulcher we had Young Lake and Cemetery Road Brushed by Wood Forest Products for \$7,100.00 this year. Mink Road, Blackburn and Waterhen were all graded and chloride was used on them. Gravel and grading was done on Young Lake Road, Nelson Road and Cemetery Roads too. Today there was a washout at Nelson Road and the County will take care of it until the road restrictions go off.

Web: Keith Fulcher passed out web cards. We spent money to update our web page with a new company. We have a lot of information including: minutes from board meetings, agendas, weather, fire department, post office, state and federal officers, cemetery (book for printing off), Library information, events etc. Work in progress that we add new things to it all the time. It cost \$1,400.00 and a new web master, Lady Karolyn Boucher who is helping us to add new things all the time. We also have a contest for "ice out" on Denim Lake, West Bass Lake and East Bass Lake and you can enter on our Web.

Levy:

General Fund:	\$53,500.00
Road & Bridge:	\$24,200.00
Fire Fund:	\$38,000.00
<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>.00</u>
Total Levy	\$115,700.00

Motion to approve the levy Arrlette Krog; Greg Millsop 2nd; motion carried.

Stanley Peterson made a motion to use \$15,000.00 for grant money 2nd Keith Fulcher; show of hands motion carried.

Brady Miller new Fire Chief said we really need new people and they have to be committed to volunteering. They will need to be trained in firefighting and this all costs money and we now have to maintain the trucks, fire halls and equipment for first responders and wild land fires. The DNR changed their frequencies and so we will need to get some new radios for the personnel.

Health, Social and Recreational Services: We have given money to the Cotton School for the graduation party, Meadowlands Ambulance, Old Time Fiddle Festival, etc. Keith Fulcher made a motion to have \$2,000.00 available for these donations; 2nd Greg Millsop; motion carried.

Township Election Results:

Supervisor: Kevin Cavanaugh39 votes
 Jeff Dulinski.....14 votes

Treasurer: Shelly Stallcop.....51 votes

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS: Kevin Cavanaugh Supervisor and Shelly Stallcop Treasurer.

The next Annual Meeting will be on March 9, 2010 at approximately 8:30pm.

Ralph Weeks brought up the \$10,000.00 he had made a motion to be given to the fire relief as an annual payment. Keith Fulcher said the board dropped it to \$3,400.00 because the board thought it was too much. Discussion followed.

Ralph Weeks made a motion to put \$10,000.00 in the relief Association Annually and \$3,000.00 for the fire department members for clothing, gas etc. Stanley Peterson 2nd. Motion carried.

Stanley asked if we are going to have someone talk to Brad Matuzalak. Kevin Cavanaugh will call him and find out if he can help restore our cemetery grounds.

Greg Millsop made a motion to adjourn; Ralph Weeks 2nd; Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted By

Annette Millsop Clerk