**ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING** March 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm in the Melrude Town hall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Residents and guests present were Chairman Beth Caple, Supervisor John Upton, Clerk Cindy Brown, Treasurer Elaine Wick, Deputy Treasurer Scott Streitz, Arrlette Krog, Travis Denzler, Lee Voigt, Tim Linder, Heidi Yokel, Loren Mesedahl, Dale Wick and Shellie Tomlin.

Deputy Treasurer Scott Streitz made a motion to nominate Chairperson Beth Caple as moderator for the meeting, Heidi Yokel second, all residents agreed via show of hands, motion approved.

Clerks’ minutes for the March 2022 Annual Meeting and July Continued 2022 Annual Meeting were read.

The year-end financial report as prepared by Treasurer Elaine Wick was read.

**2022 Year End Financial Report:**



Review of 2022 activities for:

Cemetery – Chairperson Beth Caple reported that the cemetery will be surveyed and each grave marked in early 2022. The remaining ARPA funds will be used for this project. She also stated she will reach out to Eagle Scout Troops (or similar) to see if they would like to take on some of the beautification projects needed at the cemetery.

Roads – Chairperson Beth Caple also gave a road report as Vice Chair Kevin Davidson is traveling. Ditching was done on the Mink Rd in 2022 and will be monitored through the spring of 2023 to ensure there are no further issues. Supervisors denied a request to turn a portion of Blackburn drive into a minimum maintenance road. The township will begin the process of requesting an inspection in 2023 for the bridge on Cemetery Road.

Buildings – Supervisor John Upton reported that the residents approved an increase on the 2023 levy for the purpose of building a new 24’ x 32’ garage for the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department next to the Melrude Fire Hall. Economy Garages was awarded the contract for the dirt work, slab and building shell. Supervisor John Upton will oversee the rest of the project with the contractors needed to complete the building. The work will begin after road restrictions are lifted this spring. John applied for, and was awarded, a grant for $79K through the IRRRB. When an electrician is on-site for the new building John will ask for a quote on replacing the lights in the other two buildings leased to the fire department. The quote will then be brought to a board meeting for supervisor discussion. Minimal work was needed at the Bass Lake Fire Hall building in 2022.

Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Chief Loren Mesedahl gave a detailed report on 2022, some of the highlights are: there are currently 22 members, they responded to 33 emergencies in 2022 (14 fires, 19 medical), mutual aid was provided to other departments 8 times and they received aid 4 times. The Fire Department participated in the Melrude 4th of JulyParade, Melrude Winter Frolic, Big Trucks Night in Cotton and at South Ridge School and hosted National Night Out. They are working towards replacing their 1995 Ford Engine, Zodiac inflatable boat and their radios in 2023.

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.

2024 Town Levy as suggested by the supervisors.

General Fund $ 50,000.00

Road Fund $ 25,000.00

Fire Fund $ 45,000.00

Total $120,000.00

Resident Arrlette Krog made a motion to accept the levy as suggested by the town supervisors, Heidi Yokel second, all residents agreed via show of hands, 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. John Upton made a motion to approve up to $10k, Dale Wick second, all resident agreed via show of hands, motion approved.

Fund Town Celebrations and Recognition of Service – Per statute, residents must give approval and spending limit. Scott Streitz made a motion to approve a $1000 limit for town celebrations and recognition of service, Travis Denzler second, all residents agreed via show of hands, motion approved.

Township Officer Election Results -

The Canvass Board certified the official election results as follows:

 **Candidate Votes**

**Supervisor: 3-year term**

1. Beth Caple 34
2. Arrlette Krog (write-in) 1

**Treasurer: 2-year term**

1. Scott Streitz 34
2. Arrlette Krog (write-in) 1

Moderator Beth Caple thanked Chairperson Elaine Wick for her service to the community and welcomed Scott Streitz as the new treasurer.

Cotton Chronicle Donation­ - Heidi Yokel made a motion to request a sponsorship ad of $250.00, John Upton second, all residents agreed via roll call, motion approved.

2024 Election Polling Hours – Tim Linder made a motion to approve Melrude Town Hall polling hours to be 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm for the 2024 Township Election, Dale Wick second, all residents agreed via show of hands, motion approved.

2024 Annual Meeting Date – March 12, 2024 is the second Tuesday in March. Arrlette Krog made a motion to approve the meeting date, Scott Streitz second, all residents agreed via show of hands, motion approved.

When moderator Beth Caple asked the residents if they had any other items of business to discuss, resident Travis Denzler asked that we make a resolution to ban nuclear weapons in the township and stated it is being done in Duluth. Supervisor John Upton said he would get a copy of the Duluth resolution and the supervisors can discuss this topic at a future board meeting.

Supervisor John Upton stated that the clerk is going to inquire with our MAT attorney to see if the town can have the culvert on Lake Wilson inspected as a safety courtesy to our residents without taking on the responsibility to make that section of Blackburn Drive a town road.

Arrlette Krog, on behalf of the fire department, stated that due to security concerns they will be installing additional cameras on the buildings they lease from the township.

As there was no further business Scott Streitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John Upton second, all residents agreed via show of hands, motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

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Cindy Brown, Clerk Beth Caple, Moderator

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Date