

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

ELLSBURG TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING

March 9, 2021

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 Arrlette Krog, Vice Chair Beth Caple, Supervisor Kevin Davidson, Treasurer Elaine Wick, Dale Wick, Heidi Yokel, Jeff Dulinski, Lee Voigt, Loren Mesedahl and Clerk Cindy Brown.

Present via Zoom were Deputy Treasurer Aubreanna McKeever, Wendy and Jason Stenberg, John Upton, Arnold Carlson and Cindy Johns-Giesen.

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

Clerks' minutes for the March 2020 Annual Meeting were read.

Heidi Yokel made a motion to approve the minutes, Supervisor Kevin Davidson second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

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

2020 Year End Financial Report:

Beginning Balance:	\$112,992.40
Receipts:	\$157,714.27
Disbursements:	\$144,849.70
Investment Interest	\$758.37
Fund Transfer In	\$5,000.00
Fund Transfer Out	\$5,000.00
Total Ending Balance:	\$125,098.60

General Fund:	
Beginning Balance:	\$74,353.09
Receipts:	\$80,071.58
Disbursements:	\$62,379.42
Investment Interest	\$758.37
Fund Transfer Out	\$5000.00
Ending Balance:	\$86,286.88

Road & Bridge:	
Beginning Balance:	\$24,410.63
Receipts:	\$21,406.50
Disbursements:	\$25,092.09
Total Ending Balance:	\$21,725.04

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Cemetery:

Beginning Balance:	\$8,228.68
Receipts:	\$3,700.00
Disbursements:	\$4,842.00
Total Ending Balance:	\$7,086.68

Fire:

Beginning Balance:	\$0.00
Receipts:	\$52,536.19
Disbursements:	\$52,536.19
Total Ending Balance:	\$0.00

Capital Improvements

Beginning Balance:	\$5,000.00
Receipts:	\$0.00
Disbursements:	\$0.00
Fund Transfer In	\$5,000.00
Total Ending Balance:	\$10,000.00

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 2020 activities for:

Cemetery – Supervisor Arrlette Krog reported that Phase II was completed with the triangular shape being hayed and seeded, to be mowed beginning 2021. There were also new signs put up. There were 3 burials in 2020 and some plots purchased. The cemetery has been well maintained.

Roads – Supervisor Kevin Davidson reported that in his short time as supervisor the roads have been well maintained.

Buildings – Vice Chair Beth Caple reported that all repairs and replacements from the 2020 Town Hall break-in have been completed. We have added Nest cameras at the Melrude Town Hall to deter future break-ins, new outlets were installed at the town hall to accommodate the cameras. The CARES Act funds have allowed the township to purchase a monitor to use for Zoom Meeting, hand sanitizer and masks. We donated funds to assist in the completion of the dry hydrant project. She reports that the clerk and supervisors have been doing a great job!

Website – Chairperson Arrlette Krog reported that Clerk Cindy Brown made some improvements to our website, which were implemented by Stan Johnston, to give the website a more polished look and make it more user friendly.

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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 39 emergencies in 2021 (11 fires, 28 medical), mutual aid was provided to other departments 14 times and they received aid 5 times, they received help from 12 departments on the large grass fire on October 13, in conjunction with the Cotton Fire department they completed the Comstock Lake/Waterhen Road dry hydrant, they have been working on renovations to the Bass Lake Fire Hall and the Fire Chief mentioned that they could use additional volunteers on this side of the township as they only have two volunteers on the Melrude and W Melrude Roads.

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

2022 Town Levy - The levy suggested by the supervisors was read.

General Fund	\$50,000.00
Road Fund	\$25,000.00
Fire Fund	<u>\$45,000.00</u>
Total	\$120,000.00

As there were no questions or concerns a motion to approve the levy with the break down as presented was made by Vice Chair Beth Caple, Dale Wick 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. Moderator Arrlette Krog made a motion to give the town board approval to spend up to \$10k based on statute, Vice Chair Beth Caple 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. Heidi Yokel made a motion to approve a \$1000 limit for town celebrations and recognition of service, Elaine 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. Kevin Davidson	25
	2. Ron Saauko	1

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Treasurer: 2-year term

1. Elaine Wick	26
2. Aubreanna McKeever	1

Cotton Chronicle Donation - Heidi Yokel made a motion to donate \$250.00, Elaine Wick second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

2021 Election Polling Location and hours – Vice Chair Beth Caple made a motion to approve Melrude Town Hall as our official polling location and allow later opening voting hours, Dale Wick second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

2022 Annual Meeting Date – March 8, 2022 is the second Tuesday in March. Supervisor Kevin Davidson made a motion to approve the meeting date, Loren Mesedahl second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved.

General Discussion – Several items were briefly discussed: How to get Monthly Zoom info (contact clerk) how many residents in Ellsburg Township (162 registered voters and approx. 230 total residents), it was shared with residents that town officers are researching ideas on how to improve the Melrude Fire Hall to fit the fire department vehicles better and it was also shared that the Community Club is undecided at this time about holding a 4th of July celebration but Melrude Whistlestop will hold their Annual 4th of July Celebration.

As there was no further business Vice Chair Beth Caple made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Heidi Yokel second, all residents and guests agreed via roll call, motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.