

Wabedo Township
Annual Meeting
March 8, 2005

Present: Bill Bliss, Patrick Butler, Ralph Schmidt, Alicia Burgers, Craig Anderson and Barbara Anderson

Residents & guests: 34 the sign in sheet is attached to the original minutes of this meeting.

1. Call to order – Clerk Barbara Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.
2. Election of Moderator – The clerk asked for nominations for moderator. Bill Bliss was nominated and then nominations were closed. Bill Bliss was appointed moderator for the meeting.
3. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approve the agenda – Bliss asked if there was anything to be added to the agenda. There was none. MOTION: Phil Larson/Jim Emerson/passed: Approve the agenda as written.
5. Approval of last year’s minutes – Bliss asked that one correction be made – On page 1 under approval of agenda. The minutes read “Bliss noted that the off-sale liquor license would not be discussed at this meeting” (add) on advice of the lawyer for Minnesota Association of Townships. MOTION: Bill Berger/Toni Sausman/passed: Approve the minutes of the March 9, 2004 annual meeting as corrected.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Deputy Treasurer Alicia Burgers gave the treasurer’s report for the year 2004. A copy is attached to the original minutes of the meeting. Beginning balance in all accounts was \$71,010.29 and the ending balance in all accounts was \$70,232.86. Bliss stated that the ambulance payment was made in January of 2005; therefore, it is not reflected on the 2004 report. MOTION: Bill Berger/Patrick Butler/approved: Accept the treasurer’s report for 2004 as presented.
7. Election Results – Bliss read the election results as prepared by the election judges. Treasurer: Carole Houghton – 31 votes and Tom Buss – 1 vote; Bill Bliss – 33 votes. Bliss announced that Houghton was elected treasurer and Bliss was elected a supervisor. He also explained that there is a period for the election to be contested.
8. Road & Bridge Report – Ralph Schmidt - Schmidt had prepared a hand out of projects completed in 2004, 2005 road project suggestions and plans for the future. He discussed these hand outs He explained that magnesium chloride will be sprayed on the roads this year in place of calcium chloride. Magnesium chloride is more environmentally friendly and more cost effective. He also discussed the 5-year road graveling plan that the township has been using.

Bliss discussed North Bay Drive. He explained that North Bay Drive is a Department of Natural Resource (DNR) road at the present time. The DNR has a public access at the end of the road. The DNR is willing to give the road to the township, but they want to continue to have access to their property at the end of the road. Lowell Jaeger of the DNR, the property owners, and the township have been working together on this project. The township will not accept the road in its present condition and the DNR has agreed to bring the road up to a condition that the township can accept. There will be little cost to the township for this project. The DNR needs a resolution from the township before work can began. MOTION: Phil Larson/Jim Emerson/passed: Move that Wabedo Township inform the Minnesota DRN that the township will accept transfer of the easement rights for

Wabedo Township annual meeting March 8, 2005

North Bay Drive NE at such time as the township determines that North Bay Drive NE is in maintainable condition. Bliss explained that the DNR has closed the public access by water. The access is open to public by ATV, snowmobiles, and walking.

9. Set the road levy for 2006 – The Board recommends \$75,000. MOTION: Phil Mix/Toni Sausman/passed: Set the road levy for 2006 at \$75,000.

10. Fire Department Report – Patrick Butler Butler explained how the fire taxing district works and how the budget is set. There are 25 volunteer firefighters at the present time. Each firefighter has \$750 put into a retirement fund annually. This has been working very well. He explained that Wabedo Township's levy for 2006 is \$18,514.

11. Set Fire Department Levy – MOTION: Bill Berger/Ken Sausman/passed: Set the fire department levy for 2006 at \$18,514.

12. Longville Ambulance – Wilma Griffin: Griffin talked about the proposed taxing district for the Longville Ambulance Service. She explained that Longville Ambulance must respond to all ambulance calls and their payment is what ever the insurance pays. In 2004 there were 19 calls for Wabedo Township. She encouraged everyone to support the ambulance taxing district.

The concerns from the residents were will all the townships and cities in the Longville Ambulance District participate in the taxing district or will they have the options not to participate? Griffin said at this time it is an option. The residents wanted it so that there was no option and all governing bodies paid their share. The residents asked who would hold the license for the ambulance service. Griffin said the City of Longville will continue to hold the license. The residents wanted to see the license held by a group equal to the Longville Fire Department. The taxing district should have bylaws and perhaps a joint powers board. Each township and city should have a representative on the board and the board would run the ambulance service.

Bliss said he met with State senator Moe and Representative Ruud about this very thing. How do we make it so governing bodies in an ambulance taxing district must financially participate? Moe & Ruud will be looking into this.

MOTION: Bill Hansen/Bob Adelman/passed with two no votes: Go ahead and participate with the taxing district while getting all units to participate. Berger added: Each governing body has a representative on active operating board.

14. Set Ambulance Levy – Bliss reminded everyone that the township is in a contract to pay \$4,500 per year for the ambulance building. MOTION: Mary Jacobson/Bill Berger/passed: Set the ambulance levy for 2006 at \$4,500. The question was asked is the City of Longville going to buy the townships out of their contracts. Griffin responded that the City is setting a meeting date to discuss this.

15. Donation Requests: Bliss explained that the Board was asking for a levy of \$30,000 plus donations. Last year the residents gave about \$10,000 in donations. Donations come out of the general fund. So this year the board agreed to ask for the basic levy plus donations so the township would have enough money in the general fund for the year. According to Cass County an additional \$12,000 levy on a \$100,000 house the property taxes would increase by \$8.00.

Wabedo Township Annual Meeting March 8, 2005.

With this in mind the residents discussed the donation requests. There actions are as follows:

Lake Country First Responders: MOTION: Don Waldera/Lorin Neuenfeldt/passed: Donate \$3,000 to the Lake Country First Responders.

Friends of the Library: MOTION: Bill Hansen/Ken Sausman/passed: Donate \$1500 to the Friends of the Library.

Family Safety Network: MOTION: Phil Mix/Phil Larson/passed: Donate \$1,000 to the Family Safety Network.

Longville Area Family Center: MOTION: Lorin Neuenfeldt/Gladys Berger/passed: Donate \$1,500 to the Longville Area Family Center.

Young At Heart Club: MOTON: Bill Berger/Lorin Neuenfeldt/passed: No donation to the YAH club this year.

Cass County Historical Society: MOTION: Jim Emerson/Patrick Butler/passed: Deny the request for a donation from Cass County Historical Society.

Longville Centennial Events & Projects – Kathy Renning talked about the Longville Centennial plans for 2006. The theme will be “Remembering the past and looking forward to the future”. She asked for residents of Wabedo to donate their time as well as their money. MOTION: Jim Emerson/Phil Larson/passed: Donate \$500 to the Longville Centennial as seed money.

Lakes Area Dive Team – Butler reported that the Dive Team has received some very large donations. MOTION: Patrick Butler/Bill Berger/passed: Do not donate to the Lakes Are Dive Team this year.

Longville Ambulance – no request

Bliss reported that the donations equal \$7,500.

16. Set the general levy – Bliss reported that the Board recommends \$37,500 for the general levy. MOTION: Bill Berger/ Patrick Butler/passed: Set the general levy for 2006 at \$37,500.

17. Select the official newspaper- MOTION: Phil Mix/Bill Hansen/passed: Appoint the Pine Cone Press-Citizen as the official newspaper.

18. Select Financial Depository – MOTION: Don Waldera/Phil Mix/passed: Select Woodland Bank as the financial depository.

19. Planning Commission Report – Craig Anderson (A copy of his hand out is attached to the original minutes of this meeting.) Anderson reported that a draft of the Comprehensive Plan is on the township website for people to review. There will be two open houses for the public to come and comment on the comprehensive plan. The dates for these open houses are: Friday, May 20th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 21st from 9:00 am. to noon. There will be a public hearing on Thursday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. All of these will be held at the Town Hall. Anderson reviewed his hand out. There were 59 zoning applications, 8 variance applications, 13 shore land alterations and no plats in 2004.

20. Old Business:

- Selling the town hall to Lake Associations or Leech Lake Water Shed - The Board contacted the DNR about purchasing the town hall and property. There was no interest. Pat Larson of the Leech Lake Water Shed Foundation asked the board to put together the information and then the foundation will consider it.

Wabedo Township Annual Meeting, March 8, 2005

- Don Waldera asked about the new town hall. There was a short discussion about a new town hall.

21. New Business

- Off-sale liquor license law suit – Bliss explained that the township is being sued by Patrick Tabaka because the township denied an off-sale liquor license to Ridgewood Golf Course. The matter will be heard on Thursday, March 10th at 1:00 p.m. by the Court of Appeals. The hearing will a video conference with the judges will be in St. Paul, Mr. Cayko attorney for the Tabaka’s will be in Bemidji and we will be in St. Cloud. The proceedings are open to the public, but seating is limited. If you are interested please talk to the clerk after the meeting.
- Cable Franchise – Bliss explained that the township has been contacted by Arvig Communications Systems (ACS) about a Franchise Agreement. Fifteen years ago the township signed an agreement to not collect a franchise fee from property owners in Wabedo Township that have cable TV thru ACS. It is now time to decide if the township wants to collect a franchise fee for the next 15 years or not. Based on the present number of property owners in Wabedo Township using ACS cable, the township would receive \$44.60 per year. ACS does not provide cable access to all of Wabedo Township. There was a very lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of this agreement. MOTION: Bill Hansen/Phil Larson/tie vote: yes-13, no-13 and 1 abstaining: Collect the franchise fee from ACS the same as the City of Longville. The Board will make the decision at their monthly meeting.

22. Set next years annual meeting date and place – Bliss explained that Minnesota Law states that the township annual meeting must be held on the second Tuesday of March. MOTION: Tom Buss/Ed Hammersten/passed: Set the 2006 annual meeting for the second Tuesday in March at 8:05 p.m. at the Town Hall.

23. Adjourn - MOTION: Lorin Neuenfeldt – adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Anderson, Clerk