

CANOSIA TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2015

The 2015 Canosia Township Annual Meeting was held at the Town Hall on March 10. Thirty-one people were in attendance. Clerk Krasaway called the meeting to order at 8:18 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Kevin Connick nominated Kurt Brooks as moderator for the meeting. Clyde Mortinsen seconded the nomination. After three calls, there were no additional nominations and Brooks was elected.

After introducing the town board supervisors and township treasurer, the moderator announced the agenda for the rest of the meeting. The Proctor School District asked to be added under General Discussion.

Motion by Mortinsen, seconded by Connick, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mortinsen, seconded by Tim Walburg, to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Angela Christianson read the Board of Audit Report. Resident Rita O'Connell questioned why the numbers did not add up properly. After checking her computer files, Christianson later reported it had been a simple transcription error. Residents were provided with updated copies of the audit report (see attached).

Moderator Brooks read the election results, which named him as the newly elected supervisor (3-year term). Brooks received 98 of the 107 votes cast. The rest were write-in votes for Jeff Lundholm (3), Mike Podgornik (2), Mark Swanson (1), Tim Zebott (1), David Kehtel (1) and Jeff Houlmann (1).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

A. Newsletter: Ideas/Suggestions for Content?

Brooks explained that the township newsletter is now sent out four times per year and includes advertisements that help offset the cost of printing. When asked about ideas for content, Rita O'Connell said she enjoys the historical elements. Several people said they enjoyed the recent article about Audrey Eaton written by her friend Millicent O'Connell. A few people indicated they may be interested in additional articles about aquatic invasive species. Clerk Krasaway said anyone is welcome to email or telephone her with ideas for future newsletters.

B. Year-End Reports (all reports will be attached to official meeting minutes)

Moderator Brooks explained that all township departments had prepared reports for the annual meeting and asked that a representative discuss each report:

1. SCOTT CAMPBELL: Town Board Chairman Scott Campbell submitted a statement regarding his township duties and the meetings he attends in a supervisory role. He also touched briefly on some township developments including the upcoming watercraft inspections that will again take place at the Pike Lake Landing. Campbell also mentioned the proposed \$16-million Arrowhead Regional Health and Wellness Center proposed for Hermantown.
2. FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Gene Stevens said the department responded to 139 calls in 2014 (the department's average is 110, when tallying the past seven years). He also read from the report which catalogued the 80 hours of training each member puts in annually (see attached). Assistant Chief Clyde Mortinsen said he believed the department's community fire safety education efforts are paying off since there were no house fires at all in Canosia last year.

Later in the meeting, the Chief asked for additional time in order to discuss the possible purchase of a new fire vehicle in 2016. He explained that the department is hoping to replace an old rescue truck with a new mini-pumper rescue truck which would likely cost between \$220,000 - \$240,000. Right now the "truck replacement fund" has roughly \$105,000 in it, with possibly another \$45,000 coming next year if the levy is approved. The Chief asked whether they could gauge the community support for such a purchase by taking a vote. The moderator explained that any such motion/vote would only be a recommendation for the board to follow; the electorate only has the power to set the levy amounts, not determine exact purchases.

Motion by Gene Stevens, seconded by Dan Jezierski, to support the purchase of a new mini-pumper rescue truck in 2016. Discussion: Millicent O'Connell asked whether they could get any money by selling the old rescue truck. The Chief said the old one is a 1991 extended cab pick-up so it would likely not bring in more than a few thousand dollars. Rita O'Connell asked where they would come up with the rest of the money if they only had \$150,000 in the truck fund next year. Fire Department member Percy Johnson explained that they would finance the remaining amount. Motion carried unanimously.

3. PLANNING & ZONING: P&Z Director Tim Walburg read from the commission's annual report (see attached): There were 28 permits issued last year (10 for new single family dwellings, 17 garages, 5 storage buildings and 1 addition to a home). These new structures added an estimated \$2,271,430 value to the township. There were two public hearings in 2014, and a total of \$5,075 was collected in permit fees. Walburg said there has also been an increased interest in developments within the township.
4. RECREATION AREA: Rec Director Mike Ellingson was not in attendance, but submitted a report for the residents to review (see attached).
5. ROADS: Town Board Supervisor Kevin Connick read from the road report he had submitted for the meeting (see attached). He publically thanked Gary Oswell for his years of

service to the township (Oswell is still Road Foreman, but recently closed his company which had done work for the township for over two decades).

Cominck also touched on the following issues: 1) the township is still deciding on how to integrate Requests for Proposals (RFP's) into township projects. 2) The town board will reinstate the annual road tour after determining it was not a good idea to get rid of it last year. 3) There was not much road work done in 2014 due to disagreements among the town board; however, the roads are still in fairly good shape. 4) Brush cutting will need to be a top priority this spring/summer. Scott Campbell later added that the company the township has previously used just went out of business and that was part of the reason it was not done last summer.

6. **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**: Millicent O'Connell read from the annual historical society report (see attached). The society has items stored in several places around the town hall; with the help of new members, they are cataloguing them all and planning to rotate which items are on display. Millicent also explained how the society accepts donated artifacts and has the donor sign a release to avoid future ownership disputes. In addition, she pointed out the various paintings and sketches done by local historian Kathryn Adams, the co-author of the centennial township history book which is still available for purchase in book or CD form (Clerk Krasaway will add this to the next newsletter). Millicent also mentioned the historical pictures now on display at the Pike Lake SuperOne, as well as the new Canosia cemetery index put together by the Twin Ports Genealogical Society. The index is available at the public library for people looking to research their ancestors.

C. Proctor School District Update:

School Board member and Canosia Resident Louise Lind gave an update on the district. This included the following: Bayview Elementary is near completion; Enrollment is up again this year (this year's graduating class will have 116, but the following classes have up to 150); A hockey rink/multi-sports complex is still in the works as the district looks for funding; there is a new Proctor Schools smart phone app that provides automatic updates about school closings, etc.

2016 COMMUNITY EXPENDITURES

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Mortinsen, recommending a \$300 donation to both Proctor and Hermantown's Chemical-Free Graduation Parties in 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Mortinsen to once again set up an account of \$1,000 within the general fund to deal with Community Recognition Expenditures. (This would not change the levy, and would only be used if needed). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Comnick, seconded by Mortinsen, to once again create a \$1,000 account within the Fire Department fund to be used for volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention (i.e. awards, end of year dinner, etc). This would not change the levy, and would only be used if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 LEVY

The Canosia Town Board recommended the following for the 2016 levy breakdown:

- **Total Levy Amount: \$297,700**
- **General Revenue Levy: \$112,600 (up from \$105,500 in 2015)**
 - General \$88,600 (down from \$90,000)
 - Parks & Rec \$20,000 (up from \$13,000)
 - WLSSD \$4,000 (up from \$2,500)
- **Fire Department Levy: \$106,000 (up from \$100,000 in 2015)**
 - Fire Department \$45,000 (no change)
 - Fire Relief \$16,000 (up from \$10,000)
 - Fire Truck \$45,000 (no change)
- **Road & Bridge Levy: \$79,100 (down from \$91,700 in 2015)**

The clerk explained that the board had *not* intended to increase the levy but had mistakenly thought the 2015 levy was \$297,700 when it was in fact \$297,200; therefore \$500 would need to be subtracted from somewhere if the residents choose to keep the total the same again this year. All three supervisors indicated they would prefer the \$500 be taken from the general fund.

Motion by Connick, seconded by Mortinsen, to levy \$112,100 for the General Fund.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Connick, seconded by Mortinsen, to levy \$106,000 for the Fire Department Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Connick, seconded by Mortinsen, to levy \$79,100 for the Road and Bridge Fund. Discussion: Although this is a decrease in the road portion of the levy from the previous year, Supervisor Kevin Connick said there will still be a sufficient amount of money in the account to properly take care of the roads. Millicent O'Connell asked whether there is still a long-term plan to blacktop the remaining two-and-a-half miles of gravel roadway owned by the township. Chairman Scott Campbell said the county has recommended townships stay with gravel since it is much more cost-efficient to maintain them; to pave a road, it now costs roughly one million dollars per mile.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION

Motion by Clyde Mortinsen, seconded by Rita O'Connell, to hold the 2016 Election and Annual Meeting at the Canosia Town Hall on the second Tuesday in March. Voting will be from 12:00 noon to 8 p.m. with the Annual Meeting to follow at 8:15 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the Election and Annual Meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in March. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Connick, seconded by Mortinsen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Krasaway, Clerk

Kurt Brooks, Moderator