

Dead Lake Township Annual Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

Kimberlie Wells, Clerk/Treasurer, called the 2022 Dead Lake Township Annual Meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. There were 17 voting residents present. (Sign in sheet attached to permanent record.)

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk called for nominations for moderator. Jeff Wells nominated Justin Kirchenwitz. Steve Langlie seconded the nomination. Clerk called for nomination once more with no response. Clerk called for a vote. Justin Kirchenwitz received unanimous vote for moderator. After the vote, Justin Kirchenwitz became the moderator and conducted the rest of the meeting.

Moderator called for any additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda. Justin Kirchenwitz made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Steve Langlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator called for the reading of the meeting minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. Arnold Gietzen moved to waive the reading of the minutes and approve as written. Justin Kirchenwitz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator called for the reading of the 2021 year-end financial report. Moderator requested a motion to waive the reading of the detail of the financial report. Arnold Gietzen made a motion to waive the reading of the detailed report and to read only the summary. Justin Kirchenwitz seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Clerk read the year end totals for 2021. A motion was made by Justin Kirchenwitz to approve the 2021 financial report. Steve Langlie seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Moderator called for the election results. Clerk reported that the election results were not finished at that time.

Moderator called for the ARP Funding report. The Clerk read the report. Dead Lake Township received \$27,101.99 in 2021. The provides funding for Minnesota Cities & Townships due to the COVID-19 responses. The Township is able to use these funds for general government services. On February 1st 2022 the Township transferred the ARP fund to the General Fund & the Road & Bridge Fund. The amount transferred to the General Fund was \$13,550.00 and \$13,551.99 to the Road & Bridge Fund. Clerk also reported that another distribution of ARP Funds may be distributed late summer and/or early fall of 2022.

Moderator called for the Hospital Board Report. Spencer Schram, the Hospital Board Representative for Dead Lake Township was not able to be at the meeting. Schram made sure the hospital report along with the financial report was supplied to the Township. Schram also had his phone number on the report so that anyone that has questions can call him.

Moderator called for the Dent Fire Department Report. Justin Kirchenwitz informed those present that the Fire Department Report is included in the handout. He also reported that they are going to purchase another truck. The Fire Department had 41 total calls in 2021. They did have one more member join the fire department so now the total of members is 17.

Moderator called for the EMS Report. Justin Kirchenwitz reported that their 2021 calls for first responders reached triple digits. The ambulance revenue increased over 20%. Ernie West mentioned that the first responders are top rate and they are a very important service.

Moderator called for the road report. Arnold Gietzen gave the road report and the report was included in the hand out. Arnold reported the road ditches were mowed twice and that the ditches were sprayed for weeds. Chloride was applied on areas of township roads. Township spot graveling used close to 1,000 yards. There were trees and brush cut in road right of ways. There were 5 culverts replaced. There was ditch shaping & tree removal along with 2 culverts on South Marion Drive. There were a lot of frost boils removed on 6 township roads. On 360th Street, the potholes were repaired on the asphalt. There was crack sealing done on Marion Lodge Road & Trail. He also reported there has been over 418 hours of snow removal done this winter season compared to the usual 120 hours of snow removal in past years. He also reported the township purchased a 2006 Freightliner snowplow truck for \$51,550.00 and the township sold the 1986 GMC snowplow truck for \$2,500.00. Gietzen also reported the upcoming projects. There still is a need for gravel. There are 5 areas in the township that need to have turn arounds for the grader & snowplow truck. There is also a ditch to be rebuilt on the end of Cozy Cove Road and rip rap on Beaver Dam Road (Honer Addition). There are more trees and brush removal that need to be cleared in the road right of ways. Justin Kirchenwitz added that we have sink areas on 375th by the swamp area that will need to be addressed. Also, Kirchenwitz mentioned the township is working with Mike Kawlewski to possibly get more gravel on his property that is connected to the gravel pit. Also, the township has added chloride in 2021 to Beaver Dam Road for testing to see how it holds up, and the amount of grading and gravel that could possibly be eliminated. The township also plans to chloride test Dead Lake Road because of the heavy traffic due to the access.

Moderator called for the Historian report. Ernie West reported that the Otter Tail County Historical Society has been closed due to the pandemic. Ernie West mentioned that due to the pandemic, it is very hard to gather the information on the history of the township. He did report on the resorts in Dead Lake Township that have had name changes over the years. Ernie asked the residents if they can gather history from their relatives or neighbors to report back to him. Justin Kirchenwitz made a motion to keep Ernie West as the Dead Lake Historian. Steve Langlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Page 3

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Moderator called for the election results. Clerk reported that the question on the ballot to abandon the 5 member board to a 3 member board was YES votes 46 and NO votes 15. Votes for Supervisors on Seat A was Arnie Gietzen – 37 votes and Duane Ard – 16 votes. Votes for Seat B was Duane Ard – 40 and Arnie Gletzen – 1. Seat E votes were, Steve Langlie-4, Jeff Wells-3, Duane Ard-1, Megan Kirchenwitz-1, Judd Palubicki-1, Daryl Ruther-1.

Moderator called for the reading of requests for donations. Jim Hatlevig made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire requests, and to dispense with not giving any donations. Hatlevig was interrupted by Kathy Baker's questioning of how it works to go back to a 3 person board. Kirchenwitz explained that the occupied seats would only stay, which was seat A, seat C, and seat E to fill out their terms. The two seats, seat B and seat E would be eliminated as they were the seats that were up for re-election. Justin Kirchenwitz and the Clerk worked with the County Auditor's office & MAT on abandoning the five person board. Karl-Christian Johannessen (MAT Attorney) sent the statute on abandoning the five person board and how it was supposed to be on the ballot.

Justin Kirchenwitz went back to Jim Hatlevig's motion of dispensing with the donations. Steve Langlie seconded. Motion passed to not donate any monies to requests received.

Moderator called for the Road and Bridge Levy for 2023. Justin Kirchenwitz explained the need for gravel and the upcoming projects in the Township in need of getting finished. The rising cost of fuel prices will also affect the township. Steve Langlie made a motion to maintain the levy amounts at last years levy, the Road and Bridge Levy at \$155,000.00 with \$15,000.00 going to equipment, and the General levy staying at \$45,000.00. Ernie West seconded. Justin Kirchenwitz asked for discussion and any questions on the levy numbers. No questions were asked. Justin Kirchenwitz asked for all in favor. The motion carried unanimously in favor. Justin Kirchenwitz made a motion to leave the Fire levy at \$16,000.00. Steve Langlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Moderator called for setting the 2023 Township Annual Election and Meeting. According to Minnesota State Law, the annual meeting must be held on the second Tuesday in March, making the date March 14, 2023 at 8:15 p.m. with the minimum voting hours from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Justin Kirchenwitz made a motion to keep the voting hours and the location the same as it is currently. Ernie West seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

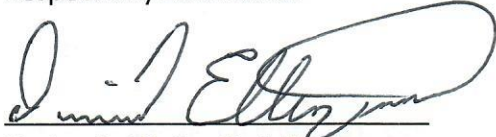
Moderator called for confirmation of the newspaper for legal notice publishing and announcements. After discussion, Justin Kirchenwitz made a motion to keep the Perham Focus as the legal newspaper and to run for 2 weeks at a time. Steve Langlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Langlie made a motion to keep the gopher feet rate to \$3.25 per pair of feet. Jeff Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the Audience: There was none.

Hearing no further business, Justin Kirchenwitz moved the 2022 Annual Township Meeting to be adjourned. Joan Varholdt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Kimberlie Wells, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:



Moderator

These minutes will be approved at the Dead Lake Township Annual Meeting in March 2023.

Since no signature was obtainable by the previous clerk who wrote the minutes, Dave Ellingson, a supervisor who attended the meeting will sign as submitting the minutes.