

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018.

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Grant Valley was held at the Grant Valley Town Hall on the second Tuesday in March 2018, that being the 13th day, beginning at 8:15 p.m. Nine (9) residents were present.

The meeting was convened by Clerk Schmidt followed by the pledge to the flag.

MODERATOR CHOSEN:

The Clerk asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be Moderator or would like to nominate a Moderator and no-one spoke up. After asking again Todd Moudry volunteered. He was given the Moderator's Oath and took the chair.

TELLERS APPOINTED:

Moderator Moudry appointed Russ Hiltz and Noah Fuller to serve as Tellers for the evening.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:

Shirlee Maertens indicated there were two corrections on the minutes that needed to be made. One was that there were going to be 1 roundabout built in 2017 and 3 roundabouts built in 2018. She would also like the vote number to be read for the elections as is normally done but was not last year. Russ Hiltz a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them as corrected. Motion was seconded by Noah Fuller and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Gerald Maertens made a motion, seconded by Russ Hiltz to waive the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried on unanimous voice call vote.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Russ Hiltz reported that the Township Assessor had been at our February meeting and indicated we had 12 new houses, 2 new assisted living facilities, a new school and a new gravel pit. He also reported that all the roads in the township were brushed in 2017. Whisperwood and Kimmer were graveled along with some spot graveling. Thoring's Grading is still doing our snow plowing and road grading. Dale Vogt does all our gravel. The road work will be going out for bids again this year on a two-year contract. Averi Circle will be paved this year as the residents of that development brought forth a petition and it was accepted. His feelings are that we should possibly pave another road this year as we have the funds but not sure what road that would be. That will be discussed on the road tour. The township will possibly spray the ditches this year since they were brushed last year. Division Street will be closed June, July and August this year to do work on the roundabouts and road out to Wilton.

Russ Hiltz also reported on the Fire Association indicating there were 1985 calls to the rural fire and 18 of those calls were to Grant Valley. Some are building fires, rescues and a couple false alarms. There are 8 full-time and 3 part-time fire fighters. The dues we will pay this year are \$59,865.00 and next year will be approximately \$61,947.00. The dues are up because the airport is doing their own fire safety now so the rural doesn't have that contract anymore. The rural still has a fire truck housed out at the airport.

Discussion on where all the detours will be this summer. If Division St is closed all summer Grant Valley's roads will be used hard. Russ also went over numbers for the levy funds indicating it was the town board's recommendation to stay the same for the general fund and the road and bridge fund but raise the fire fund to alleviate some of the increase.

DONATIONS:

Many letters were received from organizations that did not have anyone here to speak on their behalf. Russ Hiltz spoke on behalf of the First Responders indicating they respond to all emergency calls outside the city limits and he feels they are extremely important. Gerald Maertens asked what the amount we allocate for donations was and it was indicated by the Clerk that it was \$1500.00.

Gerald Maertens spoke on behalf of the Senior Citizen Center. They are still doing the tax program and the 55-alive program and do much more for seniors.

Todd Moudry spoke on behalf of the Great River Rescue indicating he felt their work was important.

Todd Moudry made a motion seconded by Althea Miller to divide the \$1500.00 we have allocated for donations equally between the three organizations. Motion carried on unanimous voice call vote.

SETTING OF LEVIES:

Gerald Maertens made a motion to set the General fund levy at 43,660.00 which is the same as last year. Noah Fuller seconded motion. Paper ballots were used, and the vote was approved on a vote of 9 yes and 0 no.

Althea Miller motion to set the Road and Bridge levy at \$294,100.00 which is the same as last year. Russ Hiltz seconded motion. Paper ballots were used, and the vote was approved on a vote of 9 yes and 0 no.

Mel Spies asked why the Fire fund was recommended to go up again and it was indicated the airport had pulled out which is the main reason. Discussion held. Mel Spies made a motion to set the Fire levy at \$57,000.00. Gerald Maertens seconded motion. Paper ballots were used, and the vote was approved on a vote of 9 yes and 0 no.

ELECTION RESULTS:

The Clerk read the election results as being Russ Hiltz being elected as Supervisor for a three-year term with 17 votes, Angela Schmidt being elected as Clerk for a two-year term with 17 votes, Tony Cramer receiving 2 votes and Lester Hiltz receiving 1 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Althea Miller asked about election judge pay and should the hourly rate be raised. Discussion held. Gordy Pierce indicated he felt it should be raised to \$15.00 an hour from the \$12.00 an hour it is at. Shirlee Maertens asked why it was felt it should be that high. Gordy indicated other townships were higher and he knew Turtle Lake Township was at \$16.00. Clerk Schmidt indicated she agreed with any raise requested as it is terribly difficult to find election judges and it is a long day when they serve. The \$15.00 recommendation will be brought forth to the town board at the next meeting and if approved the election judges from today will be paid the \$15.00 an hour.

5-person board discussed. A resident approached Russ Hiltz and felt it would be a good idea. We have a hard time finding 3 people to serve on the board and a 5-person board would be nice but unsure how we would find more people. The process is that 15% of the electors at the previous year annual meeting would petition the board for the 5-person board and then that vote would be put on the ballot at the next annual meeting. Todd Moudry and Russ Hiltz both indicated it was kind of a thankless job. Mostly complaints at all hours of the day and a lot of the complaints are on issues the township has no jurisdiction over. Shirlee Maertens asked if the board members received retirement like the fire fighters do and it was indicated no, there is a PERA account set up that town board members can put their money in instead of putting it in their

social security, but they are paid so little the amount is very small. Shirlee thanked the board members for all they do in their serving on the board.

No other business was brought forward.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING:

Russ Hiltz made a motion to set the 2019 Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m. at the Grant Valley Town Hall on the 12th day of March, that being the second Tuesday. Gerald Maertens seconded motion and it carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Russ Hiltz made a motion to adjourn. Shirlee Maertens seconded motion and it carried on unanimous voice call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Schmidt, Clerk

Todd Moudry, Moderator

3/14/18