

Town of New Independence 2016 Annual Meeting

MINUTES

March 8, 2016

8:00 P.M.

Town Hall

The 2016 Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Clerk Sandra Lee Olson.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a motion was made by Mike Maish and seconded by Kurt Johnson to nominate Jay Tremblay for the moderator position. Immediately upon making the motion, Mike Maish made another motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to cast a white ballot. The motion for a white ballot was passed by a majority vote and Jay was asked to serve as moderator.

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were read aloud by Clerk Sandra Lee Olson. Mike Maish made a motion to accept the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Jon Olson and passed by a voice vote in favor of the motion. The clerk explained that a Summary of Finances could be given in lieu of reading all the checks written for 2015. Kurt Johnson made a motion to dispense with the reading of the checks and opt for a summary of the Summary of Finances. The tables below were submitted by the clerk. The Cash Balances represent money held in checking accounts. The Investment Balances is a summary of money held in savings and certificate of deposit accounts at Wells Fargo.

CASH BALANCES FOR 2015

Name of Fund	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$102.89	(\$7,459.57)
Road and Bridge Fund	\$21,617.55	\$29,450.41
Sowle Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total	\$22,220.44	\$22,490.84

INVESTMENT BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

<i>Investment</i>	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
Certificate of Deposit	\$25,916.10	Total Amount is General Fund
Certificate of Deposit	\$25,916.10	Total Amount is General Fund
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00	Total Amount is General Fund
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00	Total Amount is General Fund
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00	Total Amount is General Fund
Certificate of Deposit	\$25,427.41	Total Amount is General Fund
Business Premium	\$28,900.66	General Fund \$21,980.73
Market Rate Public		Road & Bridge Fund \$6,919.93

The next item of business was to set the time for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Because the date is set by law in Minnesota, Kurt Johnson made a motion to commence the 2017 Annual Meeting at 7:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Mike Maish and passed by a voice vote in favor of the motion.

In 2016 New Independence, will conduct a Primary Election, a General Election (which includes the township election), and any Special Elections that might be required. Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to have the polls open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM for all elections held in 2016. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote in favor of the motion. The clerk noted that there is always a need for election judges and asked individuals to consider working in that position. An election judge does not have to live within the

township to serve as an election judge for the township, but judges do need to declare party affiliation with the clerk. Supervisor A, Supervisor B, and Treasurer will be up for election in November 2016.

Constituents of New Independence are responsible for setting the annual levy. The summary below was presented by the Town Board to assist in setting the 2017 Levy. The tables show the levies from previous years and percentage increase and the impact on the final levy.

- Levy from previous years

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-2014	2015	2016
General Fund	\$22,224	\$22,224	\$23,120	\$23,582	\$24,054	\$31,753	\$40,153
Assessor Fund	\$ 7,116	\$ 7,116	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,548	\$ 7,699	-----	-----
Road & Bridge Fund	<u>\$12,394</u>	<u>\$14,431</u>	<u>\$15,764</u>	<u>\$16,079</u>	<u>\$16,400</u>	<u>\$16,400</u>	<u>\$8,000</u>
<i>Total Levy</i>	<i>\$41,734</i>	<i>\$43,431</i>	<i>\$46,284</i>	<i>\$47,209</i>	<i>\$48,153</i>	<i>\$48,153</i>	<i>\$48,153</i>

- Levy Options for 2017

	0%	1%	3%	5%
General Fund	\$40,153	\$40,555	\$41,360	\$42,160
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,080	\$ 8,240	\$ 8,400
<i>Total Levy</i>	<i>\$48,153</i>	<i>\$48,635</i>	<i>\$49,600</i>	<i>\$50,560</i>

The Town Board of New Independence made a recommendation to continue with the existing levy, which would represent a 0% increase. Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to accept the recommendation of the Board and opt for a 0% increase in the 2017 Levy. The motion carried by a voice vote. The clerk noted that if the Board sees a change in finances, it can call a special meeting to re-evaluate the levy.

Jon Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Maish, to have the *Voyageur* of Floodwood serve as the official newspaper for New Independence. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Meetings for New Independence Board of Supervisors are scheduled for the first Monday of each month unless it is a holiday. Meetings are held at the Town Hall

and commence at 7:00 PM. The following list was included in the agenda for residents:

Board of Supervisors' Meetings for 2016

April 4, 2016	July 11, 2016	October 3, 2016
May 2, 2016	August 1, 2016	November 1, 2016
June 6, 2016	September 12, 2016	December 5, 2016

2016 Board of Appeal and Equalization (set by County)

April 20, 2016	6:00-7:00 pm
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▪ **St. Louis County Association Township Officers' Meeting (7:00 PM Meeting Time) 2015**

March 23, 2016..... 6:30 PM Monthly Meeting	Cotton Community Center
April 1, 2016..... MAT Spring Short Course	Black Bear—Carlton
April 13, 2016..... MAT L & R Best Western Plus Capitol Ridge	St. Paul
April 21, 2016..... MAT Legal Short Course	Best Western Premier Nicollet Inn, Burnsville
April 27, 2016..... 6:30 PM Monthly Meeting	TBA
May 25, 2016..... 5:30 PM Annual Meeting & Election.....	Cotton Community Center
June 30, 2016..... MAT Summer Short Course IN THE "PM".....	Black Bear—Carlton
August 2016	MAT District 10 Meeting..... TBA
Sept. 21, 2016..... 10:35 AM MAT Fall L&R	St. Cloud Holiday Inn

The clerk noted that Minn. Stat. 365.10, subd. 14 provides that the electors may authorize the town board to contract with a non-profit organization for health, social, or recreational services not to exceed \$10,000. If approved, however, the town board is not mandated to enter into a contract, and if the donation does not meet the actual criteria of the statute, the board needs to say "no" even if it contradicts the desires of the electorate. The agenda included the following summary of contributions given in the past.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
• Tester Niemi Post	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	-----
• AlBrook All-Night Grad	\$200	\$500	\$300	\$250	\$250	-----	-----	-----	-----
• South Ridge All-Night Grad	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
• AlBrook Academic Boosters	\$200	\$200	\$250	\$250	\$250	-----	-----	-----	-----
• South Ridge PTSO	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$250	-----	-----	\$250
• AlBrook Band	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	-----	-----	-----	-----
• South Ridge Band	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
• Alborn Little League	\$300	\$300	-----	\$200	\$200	\$100	-----	-----	-----
• St. Louis County Fair	-----	-----	-----	\$100	\$100	-----	-----	\$100	\$200
• Burnett Winter Fest	-----	-----	-----	\$150	\$150	-----	-----	-----	-----
• South Ridge Nature Club	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$250	\$250	\$266.64	\$300	-----
• South Ridge Science Club	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$300	-----
• Brookston Youth Baseball	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$200	-----
• South Ridge Elem Football	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$250

Nine requests had been received. Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Kurt Johnson, to donate in the following manner:

- Brookston Legion Ball.....\$150
- Brookston Youth Baseball ..\$150
- South Ridge All-Night Grad Party... ..\$250
- South Ridge PTSO.....\$200
- South Ridge Band..... \$100
- South Ridge Soccer..... \$200
- South Ridge Nature Club ... \$350
- St. Louis County Fair \$0
- Tester Niemi Post..... \$350

Mike Maish, who served as the supervisor responsible for overseeing the roads, gave a report on the roads. He stated that all roads have been graded and gravel applied as needed. A culvert was installed on North Johnson Road. A culvert was removed on South Schelin Road. He also reported that there had been a wash out on South Schelin Road that was repaired. North Johnson was brushed by residents on that road.

Jay Tremblay presented a report on behalf of the Alborn Fire Department. He indicated that 8 members are from New Independence. As a part of his report, he handed out a summary of responses for 2015 and a financial report. Those reports were placed on file with the clerk.

The Alborn Fire Addition was discussed at the Annual Meeting. Attending residents were informed that New Independence offered \$100,000 toward the facility with a stipulation that the money would be returned without interest if the joint powers is dissolved. Mike Maish served as the contact person for New Independence, while Kurt Johnson continues to serve on the Joint Powers Committee for the Alborn Fire Department.

Reports from Supervisors were read by each supervisor summarizing what each of them had done during 2015. Those reports are on file with other reports from the meeting.

The moderator asked if there were other items to be discussed. Because nothing was presented, Jay called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. That motion was presented by Kurt Johnson, seconded by Jon Olson, and passed with a voice vote in favor of the motion. Jay adjourned the meeting at 9:16 PM.