

# *Town of New Independence 2015 Annual Meeting*

## *M I N U T E S*

Clerk Sandra Lee Olson called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM and asked those in attendance to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was elect a moderator for the meeting. Jon Olson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Maish, to nominate Jay Tremblay for the moderator's position. Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Kurt Johnson, to close the nomination process. Jay Tremblay was unanimously elected to serve as moderator for the 2015 Annual Meeting.

After the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were read, Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Kurt Johnson, to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Report included a motion by Kurt Johnson, which was seconded by Mike Maish, to dispense with the reading of all the checks. The motion carried and was passed by a unanimous vote. The Financial Report also included a summary of finances for the year ending on December 31, 2014. Clerk Sandra Lee Olson noted that the books were audited and found to be in order by the Board of Supervisors on March 2, 2015. Copies of the records were available for review. Ending balances for the various accounts were provided as part of the agenda material.

CASH BALANCES FOR 2014

Name of Fund	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Fund	\$8,314.88	102.89
Assessor Fund	\$1,216.46	-----
Road and Bridge Fund	\$15,353.29	\$24,402.35
Sowle Fund	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total	\$24,884.63	\$20,691.20

INVESTMENT BALANCES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

<i>Investment</i>	<i>End-of-year Value</i>	
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	\$25,056.22	Total Amount is General Fund
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	\$25,056.22	Total Amount is General Fund
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	\$25,130.47	Total Amount is General Fund
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	\$25,287.94	Total Amount is General Fund
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	\$25,799.74	Total Amount is General Fund
<b>Certificate of Deposit</b>	\$25,799.74	Total Amount is General Fund
<b>Business Premium</b>	\$53,654.47	General Fund \$46,734.54
<b>Market Rate Public</b>		Road & Bridge Fund \$6,919.93

The next item on the Agenda was to set the meeting time for the 2016 Annual Meeting. The date of the meeting is set by law as the second Tuesday of March, so the 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on March 8, 2016. By State law, Annual Meetings cannot be held between six and eight pm for towns holding elections. New Independence has gone to November elections and is not bound by the 6-8 pm restriction. With that in mind, Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Kurt Johnson, to convene the 2016 Annual Meeting at 7:00 pm. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There are no Primary, General, or Town elections scheduled for 2015. However, there is always a possibility that a special election will be needed. In the event that a special election occurs during 2015, Kurt Johnson made a motion, which was seconded by Mike Maish, to have the polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm for any special election. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Each year, the voters of townships set the levy for the following year. To assist New Independence constituents in setting that levy, the Board of Supervisors provided a summary of levies from prior years and a recommendation for a zero percent increase in the 2016 Levy. The summary provided to the voters is shown below:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-2014	2015
General Fund	\$22,224	\$22,224	\$23,120	\$23,582	\$24,054	\$31,753
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>
<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>

The Board of Supervisors also recommended that the 2016 Levy be distributed in the following manner and noted that the major increase in expenditures is typically due to fire protection, which will increase by 3% for 2016:

	<u>0%</u>
General Fund	\$40,153
Road & Bridge Fund	<u>\$ 8,000</u>
<i>Total Levy</i>	<i>\$48,153</i>

After the data was presented, Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to use the guidelines set by the Board of Supervisors and have a 0% increase in the 2016 Levy and to distribute it in the manner suggested by the Board. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to have the *Voyageur*, formerly the *Portage News*, out of McGregor serve as the official newspaper for New Independence. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

To keep residents informed of dates for upcoming meetings, the agenda included a summary of remaining meeting for 2015. They are listed below:

**Board of Supervisors' Meetings for 2015**

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

April 6  
 May 4  
 June 1

July 6  
 August 3  
 September 14

October 5  
 November 2  
 December 7

**2015 Board of Appeal and Equalization**

The date and time for the Board of Appeal and Equalization are set by the St. Louis County Assessor’s Office

- May 6 6:00-7:00 pm

**St. Louis County Association of Townships**

Meetings for the St. Louis County Association of Townships are held at various locations throughout the County and convene at 7:00 pm unless noted otherwise.

- March 25..... Regular Meeting .....Cotton Community Center
- April 2.. ..... Annual Meeting .....Cotton Community Center
  - ... 5:30 PM Meet and Mingle
  - ... 6:00 PM Meeting
  - ... 6:30 PM Meal
- May 27. .... Regular Meeting .....Greenwood Town Hall

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 such 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. Those attending the Annual Meeting were provided a list of contributions that have been given since 2007. The summary is below:

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

Each year New Independence receives requests from numerous organizations that serve our residents. As of the Annual Meeting, requests had been received from:

- St. Louis County Fair
- South Ridge PTSO
- South Ridge Elementary Football
- South Ridge Band
- South Ridge All-Night Grad Party
- South Ridge Nature Club (requested no money be given for 2015)

A motion was made by Mike Maish, seconded by Kurt Johnson, authorizing the Board to distribute funds in the following manner for 2015. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- St. Louis County Fair.....\$100.00
- South Ridge PTSO .....\$250.00
- South Ridge Elementary Football .....\$250.00
- South Ridge Band.....\$200.00
- South Ridge All-Night Grad Party .....\$250.00

As the Supervisor Responsible for Roads, Mike Maish gave a summary of road condition and work done during 2014. His report included that all roads had been graded and plowed in a timely manner. Gravel had been applied to town roads as determined by the Board during its annual review of roads. Brushing will done as part of next year's projects.

Reports were provided by all supervisors outlining responsibilities that were completed during 2014. Those written reports are included with the clerk's records of the Annual Meeting.

Jay Tremblay, Alborn Firefighter and New Independence resident, gave a report on behalf of the Alborn Fire Department. As part of his report, Jay indicated that there are five new fighters; one of those is also a first responder. The total number of fire fighters is now at 23 and four additional members who will be trained. He also gave a summary of a training session simulating a bus accident, the Homeland Security training on decontamination, CNN Training, ad

information on the purchase of a new Arctic Cat side by side with tracks and its use to date. Mike Maish made a motion, which was seconded by Jon Olson, to send a thank you note to the Arctic Cat dealer for the effort the put forth in dealing with the fire department when they purchased the equipment. Local dealers were not as responsive as a dealer out of the area. Motion carried unanimously.

Because there were no additional items on the Agenda and none from the floor, Jay asked for a motion for adjournment. Mike Maish made that motion; Kurt Johnson seconded the motion, which was then passed by a unanimous vote. At 9:12 pm, Jay adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Lee Olson, Clerk