

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING,
TUESDAY MARCH 14TH, 2023.**

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Grant Valley was held at the Grant Valley Town Hall on the second Tuesday in March 2023, that being the 14th day, beginning at 8:15 p.m. Eleven (11) residents and One (1) non-resident were present.

The meeting was convened by Clerk Stevens 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 Lora Bertelsen volunteered. Lora Bertelsen was given the Moderator's Oath and took the chair.

TELLERS APPOINTED:

Moderator Bertelsen appointed Jamie Listebarger, and Cassandra Hiltz to serve as Tellers for the evening.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES:

Jerry Maertens made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes and accept them. Motion was seconded by Russel Hiltz and carried on unanimous voice call vote.

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Bob Hiltz reported on Animal Control. We belong to BRACO and the current Animal Control Officer is Keith Christianson. In 2022, \$7,932, proposing \$7,480 in 2023, up from last year. Sherrif issues citations now, helps Officer Christianson.

Bob Hiltz also reported on the Covid money we have left, \$197,316.39. We have spent some money on A/C, new furnace, propane tank, sidewalk, tables and chairs. We are looking at what else we may spend this money on. This needs to be spent by the end of 2024, we now have a COVID fund to help track the spending.

He also reported on JAYZB, Airport land use and zoning, standardizing how it is zoned and variances issued for land rights. They have had 1 virtual meeting and 2 in person.

Russel Hiltz reported on the Fire Association. He is also the chairman of the Rural Fire Association; this includes 15 townships and 2 cities. There was \$1.9 million loss and \$71.1 million of property saved. Purchased this year was 12 new turnout gears. The Rural has received a new pumper truck (costing \$785,000) and it is in service as of February, along with a new tanker truck (costing \$400,000) arriving in 3 months. They have a loan from the City of Bemidji for \$500,000 and will pay this back at 1% over the next 5 years. The cost of trucks is going up the next truck they purchase will take over 3 years to get and

cost \$992,00. They need a new truck online in 2 years. The cost of renting station 4 is \$22,000/quarter. Grant Valley had 3 fires this year, 1 building, 1 heavy equipment and 1 rubbish fire, with 14 calls total for Grant Valley. Discussion on IOS rating, keeps insurance down, need to keep the rating at a 3. This is how the Fire Station is rated, fire hydrants and pumpers help this rating, resident asked the closest fire hydrant to us, it is near Gene Dillion. The proposed levy is going up because the Fire Chief wants to hire eight more full time fire fighters along with POC firefighters. Trucks are a major expense in the levy. The Rural raised Grant Valley's minimum levy for 2024 to \$121,340.00. Grant Valley owes \$108,901 to dues for 2023. Discussion on the cost per person right now Bemidji is at \$31 per person, the national average is \$165 per person. Discussion on how the rural comes up with this number for Grant Valley's levy. Discussion on possible locations for Bemidji City Hall and the Fire Station in the future. There was no loss of life for Bemidji this year! Last year there was 3 lives lost.

Russel Hiltz also reported on roads. Last year we spot graveled, class 5 on Buchanan, Old Willow Ct, River Crossing Rd, Sunset Meadows, East Fern Lake and reshaped Birch Ln Road along with adding a culvert. \$113,00 was spent on Class 5 in 2022. Budget is \$90,000, in the years past we haven't met the budget. Grant Valley agreed to split the cost with Rockwood Township to add Class 5 to Beltrami Line Rd, not to exceed \$25,000. We will do our road tour in May; Clerk Stevens will take notes. It was noted that we haven't paved a road in four years, the last road was Stone Lake Road, Knife River gave us a good deal per mile of \$210,000-215,000 per mile. We put \$140,000 in paving projects. Many paved roads need major work, chip seal on three roads, overlay will need to happen soon, this cost approx. \$130,000-\$150,00 per mile. Funds look good but once we pave a road the funds go down. We put in for a grant last year on Fern Lake Rd, budget of \$906,000, the grant was denied from the State, work does need to be done on that road, we are patching the best we can. Country Side Road- two years ago a resident wanted to cut trees to widen road for equipment to go through. The road was surveyed and is not where it should be, it is currently on State land (State, School Tax Forfeited land) It is now up to the State on what to do. If the road needs to be moved, it would become too close to a resident's house, if the road stays where it is the resident does not have access to their house. Grant Valley will look at doing work on Fern Lake Rd once known what needs to be done with Country Side Road, we can incorporate the work into one application, the application cost \$2,000 and would be good for two maybe three years. We are expecting to know more the first half of this year.

Clerk Stevens read Marlys Eckman's report. She mentioned the possibility of new election equipment coming plus our need to add more voting areas, as the number of registered voters is increased and we want to be efficient and accommodate them. We have 1450 registered voters. We are continually updating our "Developer's Agreement" along with looking at the possibility of requiring mailbox post pipes. She noted our website and how to utilize it, along with the Board Members Contact information. (Clerk Stevens did note that the website did an automatic update and is currently down). The last thing she added was the cost to rent the town hall, it is \$75 to rent to a resident and was rented approximately 10x last year. To rent this, contacting Clerk Stevens through phone or email is best.

DONATIONS:

There was \$1500 set aside for donations. Many letters were received from organizations that did not have anyone to speak here on their behalf.

Terry Matson spoke on behalf of Let's Go Fishing, Russel Hiltz spoke on behalf of the First Responders, Jerry Maerters spoke on behalf of Bemidji Senior Center and Merri McCarthy spoke on behalf of First

Call. Jerry Maerters made a motion that funds will be disbursed evenly before the four organizations that are represented tonight, the motion was seconded by Merri McCarthy. Paper ballots were used, and the vote was approved 11 yes and 0 no.

ELECTION RESULTS:

The Moderator read the election results- Supervisor Marlys Eckman was re-elected to her position on a vote of 20 yes (1 vote, the bubble was not filled in correctly), there were four write in votes for Josh Burnham.

SETTING OF LEVIES:

Russel Hiltz made a motion to set the General Fund Levy at \$47,000. Merri McCarthy seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used, the vote was approved with 11 yes and 0 no.

Susanne Rabel made a motion to set the Road and Bridge Levy at \$338,000, Shurler Maerters seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used, the vote was approved with 11 yes and 0 no.

Lester Hiltz, Jr. made a motion to set the Fire Levy at \$125,000, Merri McCarthy seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used, the vote was approved with 11 yes and 0 no.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.

2024 ANNUAL MEETING:

Lester Hiltz, Jr. made a motion to set the 2024 Annual Meeting at 8:15 p.m. at the Grant Valley Town Hall on the 12th day of March, that being the second Tuesday. Bob Hiltz seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous voice call vote.

Bob Hiltz made a motion to adjourned. Merri McCarthy seconded the motion and it carried on unanimous voice call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayley Stevens, Clerk

Lora Bertelsen, Moderator

03/16/23