

TOWN OF FALL LAKE

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

The annual meeting was called to order at 12 Noon when polls were declared open and voting continued throughout the day until 8:00 PM when the polls were closed, and ballots tallied. There were 17 citizens in attendance, including the moderator and town board.

The Board of Canvass met at 8:10 PM. Votes had been canvassed and Sheila Gruba declared elected for Supervisor 3-year term. The total counted votes were 67: Sheila Gruba received 61 votes and there were 6 write-ins Dean Barrett receiving 2 votes, Nancy McReady receiving 2 votes, Emily Seliskar receiving 1 vote, and Rod Gruba receiving 1 vote. The election judges were Teresa Sagen, Nancy McReady & Cheri DeBeltz.

Meeting to conduct annual business convened at 8:15 PM with Clerk DeBeltz called the meeting to order with the Pledge recited by all. Clerk DeBeltz called for nominations from the floor to appoint a moderator for the meeting. Motion by Craig Seliskar and second by Nancy McReady to appoint Teresa Sagen. Teresa Sagen accepted and roll call taken, with her being appointed moderator by unanimous yea vote by citizenry.

Sagen took over as moderator & for everyone to read over last year's minutes. Minutes of the March 11, 2023 annual meeting approved with a motion by Emily Seliskar, second by Janelle Hart. Motion passed by unanimous yea vote.

The treasurer recapped the Disbursements & Receipts for the 2023 year. It included an explanation of the proposed Tax levy increase to \$500,000. Each line item was reviewed. The Moderator asked if there were questions throughout the explanation. Question was asked why the General Account amount is so much more? The explanation for that is the Ambulance Building will need improvements and additional monies needed for 1st Responders. No other questions were asked.

Discussion for choosing a newspaper for publicizing all our legal notices took place. Motion by Ernie Seliskar, second by Joe Baltich to keep the Ely Echo as our official newspaper. Motion passed by unanimous yea vote.

Motion by Janelle Hart, second by Sheila Gruba, that the tax levy be accepted as recommended by the town board in the amount of \$500,000 broken down into the following funds: General \$267,000, Road & Bridge \$150,000, Fire \$80,000 and PERA \$3,000. Motion passed by unanimous yea vote.

Motion by Craig Seliskar, second by Eric Hart, that the next annual meeting be held on March 11, 2025. Polls will open from 12 Noon to 8 PM with annual meeting to reconvene at approximately 8:30 PM on same day (after votes have been tallied) and after the polls have closed, votes tallied the Board of Canvass has met. Motion passed by unanimous yea votes.

Discussion took place on recreation funds. We received \$10,400 in 2023. It was set at \$10,400 for 2024 by the Lake County Recreation Board and the Lake County Board. Not known yet what has been set for 2025 by Lake County. Joe Baltich will keep an eye on.

Matter of Information: In past years \$2,000 was set aside in a fund to be used for community celebrations, honoring a citizen, or for plaques, memorials & flowers, etc. This money will be replaced when the fund is depleted.

Library Donation. A motion was made by Emily Seliskar to donate to the Ely Public Library in the amount of \$3,000.00, Sheila Gruba seconded the motion. Clerk DeBeltz advised the circulation that the library did in the year of 2023 their circulation was 69,192, Fall Lake Residents circulation was 7.5% of that with an amount of 5,167. Motion passed by unanimous yea vote.

Mike Harri, Morse-Fall Lake Fire Department, provided a detailed recap of the 2023 Annual Call Report. There were 87 calls for Fire and 178 First Responder calls were received. There were 70 in Fall Lake Township alone. Call types included general medical, motor vehicle accidents, lift assists, water emergency, Mental Health, calls involving access to Boundary Waters Canoe Area- 19, call involving multiple patients (2 or more) -9, and medical standby at local events -12.

Mike Harri also brought some extra COVID tests for our residents to have. They are on the back table to take.

New Business brought by the citizens.

Commissioner/Citizen Joe Baltich talked at our last monthly meeting on March 11 about a meeting he had attended that day in Duluth with the US Forest Service and the Undre Secretary of Agriculture Department. He had advised previously that he did not feel that meeting was very informative. Today it was published in the Duluth New Tribune how successful that meeting was, and the Superior National Forest will get upwards of 20 million dollars in 2024 to help with the clearing of the dead balsams, with emphasis on the Fernberg Corridor (in Fall Lake Township).

Janelle Hart opened a discussion about forming a committee of citizens and board members to start looking into building a new community center here in Fall Lake. Making it a multipurpose space, gym, kitchen, pickleball, and be able to hold community events. Janelle Hart made a motion to explore forming a committee of township board members & citizens to investigate building a new community multipurpose center in Fall Lake Township, Emily Seliskar second the motion. Motion passed by unanimous yea votes.

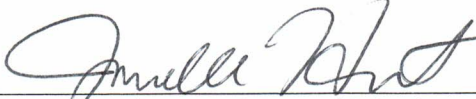
Nancy McReady advised of an occurrence that has happened with the town board. They have received donation requests from a group and due to 2 of the 3 supervisors have to abstain from the vote the group was not able to receive a donation from Fall Lake Township. The supervisors abstained from the vote due to both having children in the group. She started a discussion that the citizens should make a motion that in all future occurrences the supervisors can vote in these circumstances.

Joe Baltich made a motion that all donation requests that come before the Fall Lake Township board of supervisors are treated as equal no matter if the supervisor could potentially have a conflict. Craig Seliskar 2nd motion. Motion passed by unanimous yea votes.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm by Nancy McReady 2nd by Janell Hart. The motion passed by unanimous yeas and the meeting adjourned.



Cheri DeBeltz, Clerk – Town of Fall Lake



Janell Hart, Moderator of Annual Meeting

Janell Hart