

March 14, 2017
Oxford Annual Meeting Minutes

Steve Kingsbury called the meeting to order. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, and then Steve nominated Pat Davis to be the moderator. Sandy Hagan seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steve read the minutes from the 2016 annual meeting. Bob Kollmer moved to approve the minutes and Lee Kingsbury seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The financial report was read. Donna Setter moved to accept the financial report. Wally Nielson seconded and the motion passed.

Levies: Mike Miller reported that the state of Oxford Township's financials has never been better. He noted that new homes have contributed to a favorable situation. Mike recommended a 2% inflation increase in the levy. Bob Kollmer made a motion to increase the levy by 2% for the 2017 budget. Lee Setter seconded and the motion passed. Mike reported that the 2% increase would cover the cost of updating our voting machines for the 2018 election, which has been required by the county.

Contract for Services: The limit for township donations to nonprofit organizations is 1% of the annual budget which is \$2,119.00 for 2017.

Bob Piechel reported that **the Isanti Safety and Rescue** now has 14 volunteers which are up 2 from 2016. In 2016 a total of 3674 volunteer hours were logged, an increase of 6% from 2015. Equipment upgrades in 2016 allowed volunteers to spend 110 fewer hours on maintenance tasks. The equipment upgrades and the corresponding decrease in maintenance hours are largely due to donations received from Oxford Township and others. Bob reported that 2017 donations will be added to a fund to replace their primary emergency vehicle, a 2004 Ford 350.

Kathy Lentz reported on the importance of donations for the critical services provided by the **Family Pathways and the Refuge**. Last year they received donations from 27 townships. One of their biggest services is a mobile food shelf which delivers food to people who cannot travel to food shelves. She said 10% of the population in their organization's service area received services last year. Some of these services included help for seniors and shut-ins, youth programs, and food shelves. The Refuge provides services for victims of family violence. They are seeing larger numbers of male victims and an increasing focus is on breaking the cycle of abuse by dealing with abusers. The Refuge served 30 Oxford residents in 2016. Kathy explained that often there are multiple contacts with individual clients. She also said the new Family Pathways building at the North Branch Outlet Mall was made possible with significant help from the North Branch community.

Jim Corcelius provided an overview of the **Senior Federation and the Historical Society** and their needs. Both organizations are in need of funds in order to provide their services. The Historical Society has a new Director and a new handout describing historical happenings for Oxford Township.

Wayne Boettcher, the President of the **Isanti County Agricultural Society** reported that 20,000 people attended the 2016 Isanti County Fair. That number was slightly down from the previous year due to weather issues. The dates for this year's Fair are July 19 – 23. There is a new livestock building on the Fair Grounds.

Donna Setter thanked Oxford Township for its 2016 contributions to **Let's Go Fishing** and happily reported that her group wasn't asking for any contributions this year.

Wally Nielson moved to provide support for those organizations who requested donations from Oxford Township not to exceed the 1% limit in our budget. Bob Kollmer seconded the motion. The motion passed with the understanding that specific dollar amounts will be determined by the supervisors at a later date.

Wages: Bob Kollmer praised the township supervisors for their good work in running the township. He moved to increase salaries for the supervisors, clerk and treasurer by 2% for the upcoming year. Dennis Peterson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Meeting times: Dennis Peterson moved to keep the monthly meeting dates and times on the second Tuesday of March at 7:30 pm. Bob Kollmer seconded the motion and it passed.

Annual Meeting: Bob Kollmer moved to keep the annual meeting on the second Tuesday of March at 7:30 pm. Donna Setter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Resident concerns:

1. **Isanti County Bike Trail Study.** Pat Davis reported on a request from the county for \$1,000 for a study of a countywide bike trail. The study is needed to qualify for grant funding. Dennis Peterson moved to wait on a decision to donate until more information is received. Russ Ahlmendinger seconded and the motion passed.
2. **Isanti Fire District update.** Al Jankovich reported the following:
 - 6 of the 28 firefighters are assigned to station 3;
 - In 2016 there was a total of 803 calls from all service areas with 29 calls from Oxford Township;
 - 5% of the 803 calls were for fires;
 - 69.84% of the 803 calls were for medical reasons;
 - The 2016 Isanti Fire District budget was \$580,357 and the 2017 budget is \$588,853. Oxford township's share is \$32,386.88 (5% of the budget);
 - Oxford's percent of the total call responses is 3.6%. Our share is determined by a formula that considers total taxable value of homes and the number of fire/medical calls for our township;
 - Of the 29 calls for Oxford Township in 2016, 2 were fire calls - a brush fire and a structure fire, 22 were medical calls and 5 were "good intent" calls.

Bob Kollmer questioned the charges for 3 calls that were cancelled en route. Mike Miller said that the cost savings from those 3 calls would be very small and that all fire departments have the same responsibility for cancelled calls.

Al Jankovich reported that the auto aid agreements with Linwood and Stacy-Lent Fire Departments have been approved by the respective boards but that some minor details still needed work. These agreements refer only to confirmed structure fires. Steve Kingsbury wondered why the auto aid agreements only covered fire and not medical calls, when there are many more medical calls and response times are critical. Al agreed to look into expanding the auto aid agreement with Stacy-Lent to include medical calls as well. Pat Davis asked about the potential for one department providing more aid than others. Al said he didn't see the potential for disparity as a problem at this point. Dennis Peterson asked whether there was an aid agreement with North Branch Fire Department. Al said there is an aid agreement in place between the IFD and Nbfd but it only works one way. The IFD provides aid to Nbfd, but they don't reciprocate. Al praised Oxford Township for our plan to put up fire signs in front of each residence. He said there are occasions when those signs save valuable time in responding to an emergency.

3. Lee Kingsbury reported that 80 contiguous acres has officially been added to **Anderson Park**. That addition doubles the lake frontage in the park and brings the total acreage to 250. Lee said in 2016 670 community members attended 6 programs; 18,000 – 20,000 people visited the park; two large metal sculptures - pair of sandhill cranes - were added to the entrance of the park, and an Open House was held for community members on additional development activities planned for 2017 and 2018.

Dennis Peterson expressed concern about after hour's visitors in the park. Lee said an upcoming meeting to discuss security issues is being planned with Isanti County Sheriff Chris Caulk, County Parks Director Barry Wendorf and members of the Friends of Anderson Park. Bob Piechel noted that sometimes car headlights seen in the park after hours could be those of the Isanti County Safety and Rescue volunteers on patrol.

4. Joe Palawa reported on a grant Oxford Township has been approved to receive for \$452,000 to help with the projected \$482,000 cost of black-topping the township's part of Typo Creek Drive. There

are still some details to finalize and the grant is available for our use in either 2017 or 2018. Mike said the township's **Road and Bridge** budget is approximately \$135,000 per year, so this grant is the equivalent of a threefold increase in that portion of the township's budget.

Kerry Olson of Dunaway Construction asked to bid for Oxford Townships' road maintenance contract. Mike said the supervisors would discuss whether the possibility of requesting bids would make sense and Mr. Olson would be informed of the decision.

Mike Miller reported that the supervisors previously agreed to purchase and install emergency signs for each township residence. He advocated for also upgrading all of the township road signs to state standards at the same time. The cost estimate for upgrading the emergency signs is \$13,500 and the road signs would be an additional \$10,000. Bob Kollmer expressed concern about locating the underground power and telephone lines during the sign installation. Mike said it was the contractor's responsibility to locate all underground lines [Mike did suggest that he and Sandy had experience locating lines if the contractor needed help!]. Dennis Peterson supported replacing the stop signs as the one on 275th Street has little paint left on it.

5. Mike Miller reported the township has contracted with the Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation Service to assess and monitor **water quality** in seven lakes and two streams in the township. Included are: Upper and Lower Birch, Hoffman, East and West Twin, and Horseshoe and Horseleg Lakes. This is a five year commitment subject to renewal or cancelation each year. The initial cost will be approximately \$10,000 to determine the current status of these bodies of water.
6. Russ Ahlmendinger moved to increase the **gopher bounty** to \$2 per animal. Bob Kollmer seconded the motion and the motion passed.
7. Commissioner Susan Morris complimented the volunteers involved in the Friends of Anderson Park. She said the Commissioners view them as "Rock Stars" and their work is highly valued. Commissioner Morris then shared the following:
 - Broadband service for the county is being studied with the help of a grant from the Blandin Foundation with the purpose of qualifying for state and federal funds for broadband service to all county residents;
 - The Isanti County Sheriff's Department is now located in the old Hayford Ford building. The move increased both the Sheriff's Department and the 911 Call Center's square footage to 15,000 while saving the county half the cost of renovating the old office space;
 - There are many residents who use bikes on county and township roads that are unsafe. A plan for a countywide bike trail is needed in order to qualify for federal funds. The plan will identify bike routes and county and township roads that need paved shoulders;
 - The county is in the process of establishing a vision and goals statement in order to provide direction for future decision-making. There is a need for a financial plan to help the county deal with the peaks and valleys of the economy and local government aid.

Commissioner Susan Morris shared a story about a time Russ Ahlmendinger offered to help her in his neighborhood by taking her on door-to-door campaign visits. In her version of the story, they were approaching a house when two barking Rottweilers ran menacingly toward them. Russ abruptly turned and ran back to their car, leaving her to deal with the threatening canines. Having no time left to run, Susan bent over and greeted the dogs saying, "Hi puppies, good puppies!" The dogs did not attack. In Russ's version he was much more heroic.

Dennis Peterson moved to adjourn, Bob Kollmer seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Steve Kingsbury
Substitute Oxford Clerk
March 14, 2017

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