

March 2010
Oxford Annual Meeting Minutes

Linnea called the meeting to order. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, then Linnea made a motion to elect Pat Davis as moderator and Mike Miller seconded it. Linnea read the minutes from the 2009 annual meeting and there were no additions or corrections. Bob Kollmer made a motion to accept and Wally Nielsen seconded it. Linnea asked for a motion to waive reading of all checks written and received, and to read just a summary. Maurie Anderson made a motion to waive reading all checks and Harlan Bellin seconded it. The financial report was read and a motion to accept was made by Bob Kollmer and Mike Miller seconded it.

Levies: Linnea reported that levies across the board increased by **0%** last year. Mike Miller presented the financial report and discussed last year's deficit from disbursements as compared to Oxford's receipts. Steve Kingsbury asked how much cost has risen in the last year, and Mike replied that the cost for fire protection has escalated in the past 2 years. He also mentioned that the majority of our budget is for road improvement, but we can control those costs to some extent. Bob Kollmer made a motion to have no increase in levies across the board. There was discussion about the economy and worries that Oxford will run short of money if we don't increase the levy. Mike responded that the 25 miles of road in Oxford township are in pretty good shape and that with the new fire station we may be able to re-shape our fire protection budget. Wally Nielson then seconded Bob Kollmer's motion. The motion was passed by the electorate.

Contract for services:

Russ Almendinger talked briefly about how the 7 county senior federation has helped him this past year. **Isanti County Community Education** has requested \$5.00/student hour of activity for the upcoming year. Data from last year's participation was shared. Steve Kingsbury made a motion that we participate in the program and Maurie Anderson seconded the motion.

A representative from the **Isanti County Agricultural Society** was present to inform those present that the county had cut the County Fair budget by \$20,000. They are trying to upgrade the bathrooms and campgrounds this year and are asking for up to \$1,000 from the township to help with these upgrades. Discussion occurred about ways that the Fair board could market themselves to raise money instead of asking for donations from the townships.

Ann from **Family Pathways** gave a summary of services and stated that there has been increased use of the food pantry and in senior services over the past year due to the poor economy. Steve Buchtel made a motion to give \$500.00 to Family Pathways and Art Euttech seconded the motion

Wages: Bob Kollmer made a motion that the wages remain flat this year (increase by 0%), Harlan Bellin seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the electorate.

Meeting times: Meeting times were set at the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm. Bob Kollmer made a motion to accept these times and Harlan Bellin seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Annual Meeting: the annual meeting will be the second Tuesday in March starting at 7:30pm. Maurie Anderson made a motion that the annual meeting time remain the same and Bob Kollmer seconded it. Motion was passed.

Resident concerns:

1. The clean-up day held last year was discussed. Attendance was poor despite spending over \$350 on advertising. Maurie Anderson made a motion that we hold another clean-up day but send out post card notices to try and increase participation. Marian Uttech seconded the motion. The motion was not passed by the electorate.

2. Peggy gave a summary of money spent last year on gophers. The township paid out \$2,200 and was reimbursed by the county for \$1,100. This year the county gave Oxford township a check for \$500 to spend on gopher bounties. Maurie Anderson made a motion that Oxford township not contribute to a gopher bounty and Tamara Beutow seconded the motion. Much discussion occurred about the benefits of continuing a gopher bounty. Motion was not passed. Bob Kollmer made a motion that Oxford Township's gopher bounty be set at \$1.50. Harlan Bellin seconded the motion and the electorate passed

this motion.

3. Linnea talked about an opportunity for Oxford township to have it's own website. Gary Larson is willing to set up a website for \$1,000. The residents considered this cost to be excessive given that the county website is free and there are web templates available for little to no cost.

4. A brief summary of the planning commission work over the past year was presented. It was announced that the engineering manual will be discussed at the April 13th meeting with both the engineer and attorney present. Interested people were encouraged to attend this meeting.

5. Lee Kingsbury gave a presentation on behalf of the Friends of Anderson Park group. She discussed work that has been done over the past year as well as current projects. She mentioned that the April 17th work day will be to clear brush, assemble picnic tables, and work on the trails. The picnic shelter will be done in July. She announced that the Grand opening will be September 25th of this year.

At this time, Jim had arrived to represent the **Historical society** and the **Seven county federation** groups. For the **Seven County Federation** Steve Kingsbury made a motion to keep our contribution at \$330.00 and Maurie Anderson seconded it. For the Historical Society, Maurie Anderson made a motion to give \$330.00 and Steve Kingsbury seconded the motion. Both motions were passed.

Ann Treadwell arrived to talk about **Cart to Cupboard** which is part of the commission on aging initiative. They are looking for financial assistance as well as trying to get the word out that this service is available to people in Isanti County. Marian Uttech made a motion to give \$350 to Cart to Cupboard. Tamara Beutow seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the electorate.

Jessica volunteers at **The Refuge** and gave an update on the new shelter that opened in the last year. Steve Kingsbury made a motion to give \$500 and Maurie Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

A couple more resident concerns were raised including:

6. Art and Marian Uttech said that the road traffic on 259th is too fast. Mike mentioned that the state regulation is 55 miles per hour. Art asked if Children Playing signs could be placed. In addition, they mentioned that there is a dust problem with the gravel pit down the road and the dump truck traffic. They asked about the possibility of dust suppression application this year. Mike will talk to the supervisors about putting suppression of calcium chloride on the road.

Bob Kollmer made a motion to adjourn and Wally Nielson seconded the motion.

Linnea Lentz,
Oxford Clerk