

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

March 10, 2015

Baldwin Township Deputy Clerk Cheryl Goetz Dobson called the 2015 Annual Meeting for the Town of Baldwin to order at 8:02 p.m. All citizens present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The deputy clerk accepted nominations for moderator. Kim Good motioned to nominate Bryan Lawrence. With no further nominations Kim Good/Elaine Byker unanimous to install Bryan Lawrence as moderator.

Bryan Lawrence welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the Baldwin Township Annual Meeting. He said that everyone would have a chance to voice their concerns, and informational material is available on the table.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda

- Kim Good/Ross Perry unanimous to add Discuss Annexation, Incorporation, Zoning, etc. Cost Benefit Analysis too "X.1".
- Elaine Philippi/Kim Good unanimous to add Baldwin Volunteer Corps Report after Road Report.

Approve Agenda

Jeff Holm/Larry Handshoe unanimous to approve agenda as amended.

Approve Dispensing with the Reading of the March 11, 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

Jeff Holm/Kim Good unanimous to approve dispensing with the reading of the March 11, 2014 Annual Meeting minutes.

Approve March 11, 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

Jeff Holm/Kim Good unanimous to approve the March 11, 2014 Annual Meeting minutes.

Reading of Board of Audit Report as Posted

After explaining the purpose of the Board of Audit Report, the Deputy Clerk Goetz Dobson read the report in its entirety.

2014 Treasurer's Report/2014 Audit (if available)/2014 Recap

Tom Kaliher of KBP & Co, LTD. was not in attendance, and the audit report is not yet available. The Deputy Clerk read the cash balances ending for the current period of December 2014 with beginning balance of \$566,979.00; receipts of \$1,103,999.92; disbursements of \$853,212.54; journal entry payroll of \$153,213.54; and ending balance of \$664,552.84.

Discuss Annexation, Incorporation, Zoning, Merger, etc. Cost Benefit Analysis

In order to dispel rumors involving annexation or merger, Kim Good commented that Baldwin ought to do a cost benefit analysis to investigate the options available by having a professional brought in as well as to propose to dedicate dollars for that purpose with the results to be brought to the next annual meeting. Kim Good/Terry Carlile motion to dedicate \$2000 to hiring a professional to investigate all the possibilities available and write up a document with the results to be available at the next annual meeting.

Dale Hurni felt that he didn't know if Baldwin can give enough direction to a consultant at this time. He feels very nervous about going forth with such a proposal without a clear focus.

Kim Good said that there have been many committees over the years that have looked into these topics. The importance is to educate people on every option. Even though it may not be the time to pursue annexation, incorporation, etc., it is time to have the dialogue on these subjects.

Jeff Holm stated that Baldwin does have the facts, and takes exception to the rumors. He also stated that the cost implication of hiring a professional is out of scope with reality.

Judy Thorson said she believes in the importance of data being given to the community. She further stated that the Baldwin Planning Commission has planned community meetings where more information from the public could be obtained concerning their thoughts on annexation, incorporation, etc.

Bryan Lawrence stated that Baldwin has already taken steps to gain independence. Jay Swanson said to keep in mind and ask the question 'Is the township form of government working for us?' The City of Princeton has passed a resolution, and if Baldwin pursues incorporation a battle will ensue. If Baldwin pursues incorporation it will certainly involve a boundary judge decision. Swanson feels that Baldwin needs to walk, act and talk like a city since there are many things to do before thinking about incorporation such as having our own planning and zoning. Ross Perry thought that by talking to our current planner, Bridget Chard, we could already gather a wealth of information. Elaine Philippi said the bottom line is if we could afford pursuing these options, and how would the dollar amount change the budget. The first step would be to ask Chard to give an estimated cost of the dollars that would be involved. Chard may already have the resources available.

The motion was restated for voting purposes. With a vote of 16 yeas and 14 nays, the motion carried.

2015Projects

Supervisor Swanson presented an in depth PowerPoint overview that included explanations of a 4 year levy history, property tax payments, the breakdown of general fund, road and bridge fund, the 2014 road projects as well as the 2015 proposed road projects. The breakdown of the fire fund, special revenue fund, capital fund, park fund, cemetery fund, debt service fund, and capital reserve funds income and disbursements were also included in the PowerPoint.

Swanson stressed that if there were any questions on any of the financials that the clerk/treasurer would be available to address the inquiries.

Swanson further clarified the road projects proposed for 2015 explaining that the Town Board made the decision to pave 125 ½ Street in order to invest into the business park with the expectation that this would bring in more businesses. There was discussion regarding homeowners in the past having to pay for part of their road improvements as well as explaining the concepts of subordinate service districts and bonding. Elaine Philippi/Mike Brinwall motion to have the Town Board consider assessing the businesses on 125 ½ Street to help pay for the improvement of the road. Dale Hurni spoke against the motion cautioning the supervisors to think through the ramifications of assessing the businesses.

The motion was restated for voting purposes. With a vote of 15 yeas and 22 nays, the motion failed.

Patrick Munro/David Patten motion the Town Board to consider a counter proposal to be given to the business owners who would benefit of the paving of 125 ½ Street to encourage them to share cost.

With a vote of 20 yeas and 12 nays, the motion carried.

Baldwin Park Committee Progress Report

Tom Rush thanked the Park Committee members for their dedicated work towards improving the parks. The pavilion has been completed, the boardwalks are in, a Young Park sign has been placed through the efforts of an Eagle Scout, and grills and benches are in place. The Committee is working to construct a sand lot baseball field, and continue to look for grant dollars to help with the improvements at the park. Nothing so far has been done with the Goose Lake Park, but proposed is a canoe rack, trails and a fishing pier.

Fire Department Report

Chief Rademacher reported 226 calls in the year 2014. There are now 29 firefighters on the Northeast Sherburne County Fire and Rescue Department with one of those firefighters being an EMT, two being paramedics and one doctor. The Baldwin firefighters have put in over 2500 hours in training in 2014. Outreach and exposure to the community includes participating in Baldwin Township Cleanup Day, Princeton High School STEM Day, the FunFest at

Young Park, daycare visits, participation in the Make a Wish program, and establishing a Baldwin Fire Department Relief Association Scholarship. Rademacher said to contact the chief or the town hall if there are any activities that the residents would like the fire department to be a part of.

Last spring the Baldwin Fire Department went through an ISO review. The Townships PPC was lowered from a 9/10 to a 7/10. Rademacher informed the residents because of the lower ISO rating to be sure to contact their insurance companies since this could effectively change their premiums.

Presented with the PowerPoint was a list of the current equipment along with the year of the vehicles, mileage and estimated replacement year.

Carolyn Brinwall/Dennis Lindberg motion to increase the Fire Fund levy from \$95,000 to \$120,000 for an increase of \$25,000 and the Fire Capital Fund levy from \$20,000 to \$25,000 for an increase of \$5,000 with an accepted friendly amendment by David Patten to not take the monies out of another fund but to increase the entire levy by \$30,000. Rademacher said barring unforeseen circumstances, the fire department would be relatively self-efficient with the above increases.

With a vote of 29 yeas and 5 nays, the motion carried.

Road Report

The road and bridge report presented by Larry Handshoe outlined the number of plow sessions, and dollars spent on repairs to the existing maintenance vehicles. The township is in the process of purchasing a new plow truck. He also informed the residents about saving money by leasing a tractor for ditch mowing, resolving the drainage issues at Lake Diann and sharing road grading with Livonia Township.

Baldwin Volunteer Corps Report

Co-chairman of the Baldwin Volunteer Corps Elaine Philippi described the activities that the Corps has participated in. The objective of the Corps is to bring the community together by working together and making Baldwin a better place to live. The current project is a Baldwin Beautification Project. The 5th Annual FunFest is scheduled for September 19, 2015. Volunteers are always needed to help with the various events.

Approve 2016 Budget/Levy

	<u>PROPOSED FOR 2016</u>	<u>CERTIFIED FOR 2015</u>
GENERAL FUND	\$205,000	\$205,000
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$481,000	\$481,000
CAPITAL FUND	\$ 42,082	\$ 42,082

FIRE FUND	\$ 120,000	\$ 95,000
CAPITAL FUND (FIRE)	\$ 25,000	\$ 20,000
PARK FUND	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$ 53,050	\$ 53,050
FUNFEST	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$962,132	\$932,132

A motion was made by David Patten/Carolyn Brinwall to approve the 2016 budget/levy as amended.

With the purchase of the plow truck the Debt Service Fund will change next year. Richard Marshall objected to the FunFest request saying it was reported last year that the FunFest line item would be for only one year. David Patten said that in the future perhaps the FunFest money could be taken from the Park Fund.

Voting on the motion on the floor *to approve the 2016 budget/levy as amended with a show of hands* the motion carries.

General Discussion of Items of Concern

None.

Legal Publisher/Depository/Public Postings

The moderator stated that the current legal publisher is the Princeton Union-Eagle, the depository is Bremer Bank and the public postings are the town hall and Marv's True Value. Larry Handshoe/Tom Rush unanimous to continue using the Princeton Union Eagle as the legal publisher, Bremer Bank as the official depository and the public postings continue to be the town hall and Marv's True Value.

Election Results

Deputy Clerk Cheryl Goetz Dobson provided the election results to attendees at the Annual Meeting.

For the Baldwin Township Supervisor "A" position for a three (3) year term, candidate Brad Schumacher received 129 votes. Write-in Larry Handshoe received 97 votes; write-In Jay Swanson received 1 vote; write-in 'no name' received 1 vote; write-in Mickey Mouse received 2 votes; and there was 1 under vote. Total votes cast were 231.

For the Baldwin Township Supervisor "E" position for a three (3) year term, candidate Chuck Nagle received 60 votes and candidate Jay Swanson received 149 votes. Write-in Larry Handshoe received 10 votes; write-in Jeremy Linde received 1 vote; write-in Craig Thompson received 1 vote; write-in Kim Good received 1 vote; there were no over votes and 12 under votes. Total votes cast

were 231 votes. The election results were signed by all election judges: Sharon J. Matz, Jerry Mueller, Lester Kriesel, and Cathy Stevens.

2016 Annual Meeting, 2nd Tuesday in March, 2016, 8:01 p.m.

Adjourn

Jay Swanson/Tom Rush unanimous to adjourn at 11:13 p.m.



Submitted By: (s/)
Cheryl Goetz Dobson
Deputy Clerk
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Bryan Lawrence
Moderator

4 / 15 / 15

Dated

Attendees: Kimberly Good, Julius L. Dorweiler, Pat Skarohlid, Bonnie Zurek, Tim Wesely, Tom Rush, Larry Handshoe, Judy Thorson, Randy Atwood,, Carol Swanson, Jay Swanson, Elaine Philippi, Tim Engers, Dennis Lindberg, Phil Fadden, Chuck Nagle, Michael Rademacher, Jeremy Peterson, Dale Hurni, Jay Johnson, Bryan Lawrence, Steve Lundeen, Elaine Byker, Patrick Munro, Mark Otis, Richard Marshall, Nathan Canova, Jeff Holm, Joe Kiel, David Patten, Ross Perry,, Andrey Misiura, Ed Anderson, Anita Schneider, Nicolas Cole, Steve Conklin, Justin Suckut, Brian Pell, Michael Brinwall, C. Brinwall, Robin Fischer