

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF FREDENBERG
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Minutes of Proceedings
Annual Meeting
March 14, 2017

Time & Place: 7:03pm
Community Center/Town Hall

1. The Annual Meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by clerk, at 7:03pm. 41 residents signed in, but head count was 51 and available for all was a copy of annual report for review and 2 written motions to be presented. They were welcomed by the clerk who led them in the Pledge of Allegiance and called for nominations for a moderator from those in attendance.
2. **MODERATOR:** Rex Greenwell was elected moderator and invited to the front table to continue the meeting.
3. **MINUTES:** C. Cich moved to accept the minutes from March 8, 2016, W. Sandbeck seconded. Minutes were approved as printed.
4. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** The clerk and treasurer presented the yearend financial report as printed in annual report. L. Bergstrand explained that an error was made and the Fire department was incorrectly submitted, the 2017 budget information was given instead of the 2018 new budget. Fire Department requested increase to \$73,600.00, which in addition to costs rising would cover those expenses and new equipment and training for new members. It also included expense for Medical Directors (Dr. Brown and Dr. Freeman). Rex Greenwell motioned for a vote to accept changes, motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY**.
5. **REPORTS:** Clay Cich, (board supervisor), Debbie Pawlowicz, Jeff Blix, Jim Ray present, Walter Rapp absent. Various department reports were not read as they were printed in the Annual Report in their entirety as sent in by the writer.
 - A. **FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The department received a 5* rating from insurance service, which is highest rating available. Calls for department have increased from 41 in 2014 to 90 in 2016. The department now has 20 members. Reminder for township residents to utilize new program for free installed smoke alarms.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:PARKS:** R. Greenwell presented his written facts regarding the Park on land received from St. Louis County. He presented and read his motion (attached) to return land to State of MN. He stated that the lawsuit could have monetary implications, ordinance not enforceable and township still paying for services of an attorney. C. Kawulok seconded the motion but before it was voted on, further discussion followed. P. Wheeler asked if the property would be tax forfeited if returned to county. K. Pearson asked why there was no public meeting to address the acquisition. D.

Pawlowicz discussed use of the park for recreation purposes and that issues arose because Fredenberg does not have a LAND USE POLICY. N. Pearman informed that audience of a private meeting he had with county Land and Minerals Department and with PEO (non profit in dispute). G. Bergstrand questioned why a legal land description was not available. B. Pearson discussed costs associated with these 80 acres as compared to previous acquisitions done. E. Sandbeck asked how the township would police this area. M. Cordett asked who the property would be returned to the State of MN or St. Louis County. R. Wenaas asked why the township was dragged into this and several audience members (A. Cich, D. Pawlowicz) verbalized that it was presented to the board by township residents who are directly affected because of bordering the property. S. Love from PEO read a statement that they will remain and would not discuss anything pertaining to the impending lawsuit. J. Pearson asked if the lawsuit could affect township insurance premiums. Conflict of interest was also brought up regarding a board member whose property borders the park. Board members present did respond to questions: C. Cich stated that lawsuit will not disappear even if the land is returned, that the township is insured and covered for expenses. J. Blix stated that the township cannot sell the property for 15 years and he verified this with the State and that conflict of interest only pertains when it is a monetary settlement for the board. Jim Ray informed the audience that a vote at the annual meeting was not binding to the Town Board.

The original motion by R. Greenwell was amended to include a legal description and hand vote was taken. YES = 35 to give the park back NO = 9 status quo.

7. NEW BUSINESS: C. Cich explained proposal for town board to have 2 business meeting a month, second meeting only to be used for administrative meetings, when all items not covered in monthly meeting. J. Blix asked that a vote be taken because of the additional costs involved. P. Wheeler asked how residents are notified of meeting and agenda. Town Clerk clarified that meetings are announced on Board in front of Community Center and posted on board in Town Hall. Minutes of monthly meeting are summarized in the monthly news letter K. Pearson motioned to leave the town board meetings 1 x month, the first Wednesday of month with exception of "Special Meeting" notification. E. Sandberg seconded. **Motion carried.**

R. Greenwell presented a motion for Fredenberg Fairness in Road Paving and Assessment (see attachment). Many in attendance had questions about the fairness of assessment, % property owners abutting road needing to vote in favor of paving. C. Pearson asked for the reasons to change current rules. D. Wenaas informed audience that on Bear Island Road, each property owner was assessed the same amount regardless of size of parcel, Town Clerk clarified that on Bear Island Road it was done by parcel and MN Power agreed and was assessed for 30 parcels of undeveloped parcels that defrayed assessment. C. Cich felt a paved road should not change the character of the road and that if property is subdivided that everyone should pay assessment. C. Kawulok had questions about the fairness of assessment. P. Wheeler also discussed equal assessment for property owners. Motion was amended: to pave a Township road it shall be required to obtain approval of 50% of those property owner, receiving material benefit from the project. Assessed by parcel using tax statements and assessed equally to all. Greenwell motion and Blix seconded, Motion passed. G. Bergstrand motion to set up a committee of 5 by the town board to research proposal for fair and equitable assessment for road paving and make recommendations. K. Stingl seconded. **Motion carried.**

C. Cich motion to appoint committee to research broadband in Fredenberg. D. Wenaas seconded. **Motion passed.**

C. Cich motion to revamp Township Website, develop web page for Fredenberg. Wenaas seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Misspelling on Town Board sign will be corrected in the spring when weather is warmer.

N. Pearman/C. Kawulok motioned for Township to acquire PA system with microphones for town meetings. K. Stingl seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. BUDGET / LEVY: Treasurer reviewed Budget as compared to Levy, minimal change in balance of approximately \$600.00 for year. Recycle not on budget because it is under a grant. He proposed decrease in levy for 2018 of 1% in township. Current average cash flow is \$125,000.00. G. Bergstrom motioned to accept the levy as proposed at 401,100.00 with adjustment made and noted previously. J. Blix seconded. **Motion passed.**

9. ANNUAL MEETING 2018: TUESDAY, March 13, 2018 at 7 pm. G. Bergstrand made motion and J. Blix seconded. **Motion passed.**

10. ADJOURN: J. Blix motioned to adjourn meeting, C. Kawulok seconded. **Motion passed unanimously** and meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane C. Palmstein/ Clerk

Rex Greenwell/ Moderator