

# **Grey Cloud Island Township Annual Meeting**

## **Annual Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2018**

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### **Call to Order**

The annual meeting of Grey Cloud Island Township, was called to order by Clerk Elizabeth Bell at 7:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Election of Moderator**

John Waldo was nominated for Moderator by Dawn Tipcke. There were multiple seconds. Being the only nominee he was elected by acclamation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved upon motion by Dick Adams, seconded by Tom Bell. Passed unanimously.

### **Reading of Annual Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2017**

Dick Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Annual Town Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2017. Motion seconded by Tom Bell. Passed unanimously.

### **Reading of Board of Audit Report as Posted**

Tom Bell moved to waive the reading of the Board of Audit Report as posted. Dick Adams seconded. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Financial Report**

Treasurer Scott Leick reported that the balance at the beginning of 2017 was \$276,572, expenses for the year totaled \$222,820 and revenue was \$198,569 giving a balance at the end of the year of \$252,321. The year-end balance of the liquid fixed asset account was \$76,224, and the segregated account was at \$259,578 giving the township total cash assets of \$588,123. Both the liquid fixed asset account and segregated account had gains of over 8 percent during 2017.

The change in expenses year-over-year was due to an over-budget increase in road repairs of \$38,000 and expenses for the production of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan as required by the Metropolitan Council.

The increase in revenue was partly due to an overpayment of our tax levy by the county of \$10,000 and the gains in our investments, increased building permit revenue, and gravel tax payments.

Treasurer Leick stated that he felt the financials were very healthy for a township our size.

### **Road Report of 2017**

Moderator John Waldo announced that the 2017 road review report was available on the table.

### **Chairman's Review**

Chair Richard Adams reported that in January the county turned over land use and zoning to the township. Another big item is the revision of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This comes up about every 10 years and there will be some significant changes that need to be made due to the Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor (MRCCA) rules which are now in effect and will need to be adopted in the next five years. The township approved a Conditional Use Permit for the Solar Overlay District for a Community Solar Garden. The biggest project for the year was the new bridge on CR-75. We now have river current in Grey Cloud Channel. In addition, the county will probably turn over CR-75 to the township within the next two or so years.

### **Guests, Commission and Committee Reports**

**State Senator Karla Bigham** stated she has had a great partnership with Great Cloud Island in previous years, both as a state representative and then again serving as a county commissioner. She noted that Chairman Adams has been a pleasure to work with. This session she is serving on the environmental committee and on the veterans and military affairs committee, both of which are strong interests of hers. She welcomed residents to stop by her office at the Senate Office Building, Room 3411, with any concerns or questions they may have. She indicated that it is difficult to get bills passed when in the minority. She appreciates her partnership with Representative Franke. They are sponsoring a bill and seeking funding on threat assessments in school. She said she doesn't support unfunded mandates. Hopefully that bill will be able

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to get through. She further stated that she and Representatives Franke and Jurgens are working to get transparency

into the 3M settlement so that affected communities know exactly how that money is being spent. They are also working on getting some of that funding for private well testing.

**Representative Keith Franke** stated that he and Senator Bigham have always worked well together. He noted that the "hands-free bill" actually made it out of committee today. They are working on bills to strengthen penalties for people using their cellphones on the road and actually kill someone. At this point in time they can only be charged with a gross misdemeanor and we are saying that 30 days in jail is not enough. We need to put some teeth in the law to change the mindset. Statistics are stating that 1 in 4 crashes are now due to distracted driving, Distracted driving accidents are up 23 percent in one year. He is not serving on the environmental committee, but he has been trying to get to all the meetings pertaining to the 3M settlement. He and Senator Bigham want to put some guardrails in place as to how the money is directed. The first initiative in the settlement is water quality. The second initiative is environmental quality and the third is the wording of the settlement that states the money could be spent elsewhere if the first two initiatives are satisfied. He feels this problem is not going away in the foreseeable future. He is saying that the money needs to always stay in these affected communities. He also feels with the existing Attorney General's staff the state should not need to use outside council as much as it has in the past, and if it does, the percentage of payment should be greatly reduced. Representative Franke invited citizens to come and visit him and the newly restored capitol building. He is passionate about serving the people of this community.

**Police Chief Jessica Danberg**, St. Paul Park, was introduced. She's had some staff changes. Officer Mike Knutson is now an investigator. Community Service Officer Sam Barton took a job in another community. Officer Lindquist retired. Matt Bagan is replacing him and currently doing field training.

**Matt Moore, Administrator South Washington Watershed District (SWWC)**. Matt Moore indicated that the bridge and the punch list has been completed. Matt indicated that it was their highlight of the year and it was wonderful to see the change in water flow once the pilings were pulled so the water could run through. The Watershed District was simply a funding partner with the county so is not involved in any of the construction follow-up. The Watershed District was also highly involved in the reconfiguration of Cottage Grove Ravine Park entrance and an enhanced water drainage for the area. He encouraged residents to visit the park after its opening in June.

**Nate Arnold, Washington County Public Works and Project Manager for the Grey Cloud Crossing project** responded to questions on the road rebuild at the time of the turnover of CR-75 to the township. The plan would be to pull and grind up the entire surface and resurface. He indicated he understands how badly deteriorated CR-75 is. Patching was done last year, but it still became very bumpy. Regarding the segment of bridge that was damaged, Mr. Arnold said that the county is working with a forensic construction consultant regarding this matter.

In response to a question about the Aggregate proposed loop road, Mr. Arnold responded that the county would not be responsible for that. It would not be a county road. Chairman Adams indicated that the decision to have or not have the loop road would be a town board decision. The time frame would be within the next two years. Currently the township, Aggregate Industries, and the county are meeting about this issue

**Mark Martinez, Administrator, South Washington County Telecommunications Commission**, noted the Commission manages the Comcast and CenturyLink franchises in a five-city area, including Grey Cloud Island Township. He mentioned that there are new Commission directors from the township including Paul Diffenbach as Director and Ray Kaiser, seated as the Elected Official. Jerry Taube currently serves as Alternate Director after serving many, many years as a director. Mr. Martinez noticed on old paperwork that

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Jerry was serving on the Commission as early as 1982. The Commission plans to hold an event to honor his service.

Mr. Martinez reminisced that last year was his first year as administrator and remembered how hard it was to hear speakers and comments at the Annual Town Meeting with the furnace running. He said that two projects occurring this year in Woodbury and Cottage Grove enabled the Commission to repurpose a few things to give the town hall dais microphones for the meetings, a control system with amplifier, and speakers on both sides of the room. They ran new electrical under the stage and across the ceiling to service the microphones and a press feed on the south wall for recording the township meetings. It was just short of a \$20,000 capital improvement plan from the Commission's budget. The township thanked Mr. Martinez and will certainly benefit from the speaker system.

### **Planning Commission**

Clif Rodahl, Chair of the Planning Commission, thanked Larry Pinska, Bert McEathron, and David Jasper for their many years of past service on the Planning Commission. The Commission has added four new members—Pam Glubka, Joan Miller, Ryan Sorge, and Silvia Vaccaro. They are learning about the Commission and how it works, dealing with the update to the Comprehensive Plan, and some building permits and conditional use permits.

The big elephant in the room is the railroad transfer yard. He stated that all the elected officials were present and no one brought it up. He noted that the railroad transfer yard is not going away and BNSF is going to do what they want to do.

### **Cemetery Committee**

**Naomi Purves-Adams, Chair of the Cemetery Committee**, submitted a written report read by Clerk Bell which will be filed with these minutes as part of the permanent record.

### **Weed Inspector**

Tom Bell presented a short oral report which included the remark that in serving over twenty years as the weed inspector he has never cited anyone. He would like to have a buckthorn removal event when volunteers from the township would be willing to cut and paint the buckthorn grove on the north side of the town hall.

### **Other**

There were no other committee reports

### **General Discussion of Township Business**

Paul Schoenecker indicated that he and Dick Adams have been working with St. Paul Park concerning cooperative road repair projects. There is a cooperative project with plowing and repairing 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets and Grey Cloud Trail. Most likely another meeting will occur in the next couple of months on Grey Cloud Trail repairs as this represents a significant dollar outlay as does Geneva. The township will need to work on aspects of the prospective CR-75 turnback.

Susan Knoblauch mentioned that in 2017 the gravel portion of Pioneer Road was maintained the best it ever had been. She wondered if this quality of maintenance would be maintained or if residents will again end up with lots of potholes and dust. Paul Schoenecker noted that the road was reconstructed by the county for the increased traffic from the bridge project.

Dave Jasper gave a short summation of the citizen's committee work regarding the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railways project.

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Lynn Utecht asked what actually got done on the roads last year. Paul Schoenecker replied that patching was completed as noted and curbing was installed on Grey Cloud Island Drive S going down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fill. A general discussion of roads followed with many complaints. The funding process was questioned.

### Approval of Budget and General Levy

Tom Bell moved to accept the amount of \$40,956 for the 2019 General Purpose budget. The motion was seconded by Dawn Tipcke. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Bell moved to accept the amount of \$93,985 for the 2019 Public Safety budget. Paul Schoenecker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mike Kinney moved to raise the levy amount for Roads and Bridges by \$5,000. Susan Knoblauch seconded. Treasurer Scott Leick noted that we have a surplus of \$280,000. We can spend more without budgeting more and increasing our taxes. Dick Adams stated he is against using the surplus for anything but an emergency. Discussion followed. Mike Kinney then withdrew his motion and Susan Knoblauch withdrew her second. Dave Jasper recommended a plan to repair the roads which will be discussed at the town board meeting on Wednesday, March 14. Tom Bell moved to accept the amount of \$41,200 for the 2019 Road and Bridge budget. The motion was seconded by Clif Rodahl. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Bell moved to accept the amount of \$103,437 for the 2019 Tax Levy. Paul Schoenecker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

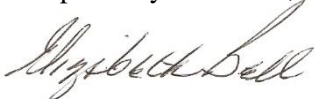
### Annual Meeting for 2019

Dick Adams moved that the date and time of the 2019 Annual Town Board Meeting be Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m. Dawn Tipcke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Adjournment

With no other business, Moderator John Waldo asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Dawn Tipcke. There were many seconds and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Bell, Clerk

John Waldo, Moderator