

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

March 10, 2009

Town Hall

7:00 P.M.

Stillwater Township Clerk Pat Bantli opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Deputy Clerk Kathy Schmoeckel was present to record minutes. Jeff Siewert volunteered to serve as moderator for the meeting.

M/S/P Richard Schultz/Dale Joy (all ayes)

Moved to approve the March 11, 2008 Stillwater Township Annual Meeting minutes as written.

The annual statement of the Treasurer's year end fund balances was read by Treasurer Carol Collins. There were questions about the amount of money in the park fund and the 2008 year end balance which Carol Collins addressed.

Guest Speaker - Moderator Jeff Siewert introduced guest speaker Bob Goodman who is with the Washington County Historical Society and has written a book on the history of Washington County. He spoke on the early days of Township government, talked about the earliest settlers and farmers, and building the town hall in 1887. He answered questions from the audience.

Chief of Police - Steve Nelson gave a brief history of his tenure as Chief of Police and reviewed his annual report which had been included in the hand-out. He described the new 800 mega-hertz radio system the Township has purchased. He will be putting monthly updates on the website. Road restrictions are now in effect and a burning ban will be in effect on or about April 1st. He answered questions from the audience.

Public Works - Mike Raleigh distributed a report on the snowplowing costs for the past several years. He was complimented on the job they do on Township roads. There was a discussion of how to better budget for snowplowing costs.

Parks and Trails Committee - Supervisor Matt Beane discussed the role of the Park Committee in the Township. Last year, the Committee worked on the Comprehensive Plan. There was no new development last year. There was discussion of the park fund as to where it comes from and what the funds can be used for. A citizen requested that buckthorn be cut down in Little Carnelian Park. Chief Nelson offered to assist in arranging sentence to serve crews for this project. There was also discussion as to why the park maintenance fund has increased substantially from last year.

Building Inspector - Jack Kramer reviewed his report which had been included in the hand-out and answered questions from the audience. He noted there was a flurry of requests for permits for new roofs following hail damage at the time of the tornado in Hugo.

Planning Commission - Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt reviewed the work done by the Planning Commission last year which included the Comprehensive Plan, a

new wind generation ordinance, and a new ordinance for ceremonial facilities.

Communications Committee - Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt encouraged people to get their newsletter online and reported on efforts to increase the public's awareness of the website. (www.stillwatertownship.com)

Website Update – Webmaster Bob Ranalla gave a report on website usage. Approximately 50 people have requested an electronic version of the newsletter so far. We are looking at getting the Township ordinances online, online access to forms and documents and online reservations for Otto Berg Park. There is also consideration given to a discussion blog. He answered questions from the audience.

Joint Planning Board - Supervisor Linda Countryman reported on the function of the Joint Board with the City of Stillwater. There has been no new development of late. The City has also been working on their Comprehensive Plan and they did not see anything impacting the Township.

Proposed 2010 Levy - Supervisor Jim Hiniker reviewed the proposed levy of \$769,000. The three main causes for the increase are road maintenance, snow plowing and our fire contract. Barbara Medinger reported they had received a matching grant for preservation work done on the Stone Bridge. She is also planning a fundraiser. She thanked the Township for their donation.

There was discussion of the donations included in the budget and there were objections to the way this was done this year without the public being able to hear from those asking for contributions and to comment on them. (Citizens cannot vote on these?)

M/S/P Richard Schultz/Steve Nelson (22 ayes, 5 nay)
Moved to approve the levy of \$769,000 as proposed.

M/S/P Kim Gibson/Sue Joy (18 ayes, 5 nay)
Moved to have discretionary spending requests be presented at the annual meeting so that citizens have an opportunity to vote on them.

There was a request that there be a hand-out provided at next year's annual meeting that shows several years of budget with proposed and actual spending. This information should also be included on the website.

Next Annual Meeting - The next Stillwater Township Annual Meeting will be held on March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stillwater Town Hall.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Kathy Schmoeckel, Deputy Clerk