

Minutes of Field Township's 2022 Annual Meeting Page 1

The meeting was held on March 8, 2022, at the Field Town Hall. Clerk Pat Chapman called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m., following the Board of Canvass. There were 8 township residents present and 1 via zoom. The meeting began with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance was recited. The clerk called for nominations from the floor for moderator. Mike Enzmann nominated Peggy Pearson. Peggy Pearson was elected moderator.

The clerk showed township residents a copy of the Notice of Annual Election and Annual Meeting in the Cook News Herald dated February 24, 2022 and the Timberjay February 18, 2022. The minutes of the March 9, 2021, annual meeting were read by those present. Moderator Pearson asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Joel Knutson made a motion, seconded by Tom Chapman motion carried.

Treasurer's report (CTAS Schedule 1) for fiscal year 2021 was given by Treasurer Ellie Brunner:

Beginning Balance: \$121,093.98

Receipts: \$107,084.98

Disbursements: \$66,095.02

Ending Balance: \$162,083.94

Moderator Pearson asked if there was a motion to approve the report. Tom Chapman made a motion, seconded by Mike Enzmann, motion carried.

Business:

Broadband – Clerk Chapman read a report from Elizabeth Chapman – there is a state budget surplus and a lot of talk about broadband. She suggests reaching out to local legislatures to ask they consider allocation of funds to broadband.

School Forest- Ellie Brunner read a report from Keith Aho-the DNR will continue to replant the cutover acre with +/- 1000 seedlings. A \$2000 grant was received from Lake Country Power for a privy. The privy cost will need to be determined or lease a satellite toilet. Because of the public nature of the trail the privy is required to be serviced regularly. Principal Vukmanich will determine if COVID restrictions will allow students to work on the trail. Residents are encouraged to walk the 1.9 trail and give input.

City of Cook Library – Clerk Chapman read a report from Crystal Phillips, Library Director – in 2021 area residents ranked books as the most important thing about the library. A donation from the township allows the library to continue to provide this vital resource to the community. The library board recently adopted a new five-year strategic plan. Their mission is to support a vibrant community by offering resources and programs that educate, enlighten and entertain people of all ages.

Cook Community Center – Clerk Chapman read a letter from Lois Pajari, the recreation coordinator for the center. A donation of \$5 per capita would help to maintain the facility that so many use. St. Louis County Fair Assoc. – Peggy Pearson reported the fair is putting up two new buildings which will be used for livestock during the fair and storage in the off season. The money that Field Township has donated has been used for 4H and youth development purposes.

North Soil and Water Conversation District -Peggy Pearson reported trees are currently being sold but are selling fast. The organization also offers conservation assistance, forest planning and aquatic invasive species inspection. Check the website for more information nslswcd.org

Reports:

Ambulance – Tom Chapman attended the ambulance meeting March 7, 2022. Field had 18 runs in 2021, total number of runs 222. The 2021 Ambulance Contribution was \$6415.00. Fire – Tom Chapman attended the fire meeting March 7, 2022. There were 3 fire calls in the township. The 2021 Fire Contribution was \$8,920.00

Roads and Bridges –Joel Knutson reported Field Township has five roads- Johnson, South Riddell, Tonheim, Neva and Drangle. The only road that needs regular maintenance is S. Riddell. It usually gets 6-8 loads of class 5 gravel applied each spring/summer. The county grades it. The roadsides are

mowed each August. Grading and snow removal is done by the county and paid for by the township. Neva Road is “minimal maintenance” used by farmers to access fields. The roads are checked monthly and the culverts will be checked this spring.

Hospital - Mike Enzmann gave the 2021 year in review for the Cook Hospital. The hospital has 121 full, part-time and casual jobs. \$8,716,460 was paid out in 2021 for payroll and benefits and \$49k in charity care. Cardiac and pulmonary rehab was added, a 3D mammography was purchased and COVID-19 vaccinations were provided for the community. The Cook Area Health Care Auxiliary reached \$1 million in donations to the hospital in 2021. The Heiam Foundation donated \$125k in 2021. There was operating revenue increase due to COVID-19 volumes, increased patient days, increased lab services. Operating expense increase due to salaries and benefits to support COVID-19 volumes, professional fees, medical supplies. The Cook Hospital portion of the levy \$1,341,541, ambulance portion \$152,550. No change in the levy for 2022.

Cemetery – Joel Knutson reported regular maintenance of the cemetery includes mowing, weed control, ground leveling, fence repair and some seeding. Some grave marker leveling is done but this is actually the responsibility of the family. New windows will be installed in the church as the originals are rotting. More fill and black dirt will be purchased. He made concrete benches for the cemetery.

Planning/Zoning – Keith Fulcher reports the county handles planning and zoning but the township is contacted for conditional use permits. The board did receive a CUP about an RV park in the township. Nothing was heard from citizens until after the county approved it. So residents should contact the board if they have concerns.

Health and Safety – Keith Fulcher reported the noxious weed reports have been filled out. Field Town Hall – Joel Knutson reported the future plans for the hall include the construction of a handicap accessible bathroom and upgrade of the closet in the SE corner of the building plus possible addition of an office in the SW corner and possible kitchen upgrade. Recent work includes new lighting in the main hall and entrance along with fixing some plumbing issues. A new roof was put on the kitchen addition.

New Business:

Public Comment - none

Levy - The township board recommends a levy of \$62,000 payable in the year 2023 broken down into the following funds:

General \$25,000 Hall \$8,000

Fire \$8,000 Cemetery \$6,000

Road \$7,000

Amb. \$8,000

Motion made by Mike Enzmann, seconded by Tim Chapman. Motion carried. Mike Enzmann made a motion to establish the next annual election on March 7, 2023 at the Field Town Hall with the election hours 5pm – 8pm with the annual meeting to follow. Seconded by Joel Knutson. Motion carried .

Tom Chapman made a motion to establish the August 9, 2022 primary voting hours 10 am – 8 pm at the Field Town Hall. Seconded by Joel Knutson. Motion carried.

Election results – Election Judge Tim Chapman gave the results of the 2022 Field Township Annual Election:

Supervisor – Tom Chapman 12 votes (Three year term).

Minutes of Annual Meeting 3-8-22 Page 3 (Draft)

Clerk – Pat Chapman 13 votes (Two year term)

There were 13 registered voters.

Motion made to adjourn by Joel Knutson, seconded by Tim Chapman. Motion carried unanimously. Adjournment time 9:22 p.m.

Township property inventoried at the town hall :

57 folding chairs

7 folding tables

1 large wooden table

1 small table

3 benches

3 pews

1 piano and bench

1 refrigerator

1 microwave

1 Auto Mark voting machine and table

1 DS 200 ballot counter

1 outdoor vote here sign

Dividers for voting booths

3 plexi glass table shields

2 metal ballot boxes

Moderator:

Clerk Pat Chapman

Date:

A board meeting was called to consider the conditional use application for ISD 2142 at 9:25 p.m. and recessed until Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m. at the Field Town hall. Public comment will then be received.