

SILVER BROOK TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7:00 PM

Attendance: Duane Laveau, Deborah Nyberg, Chris Nyberg, Paul Schillo, Erin Riley, Randy Wolf, Peter Laveau, Dale Wolf, Brian Johnson, and Alieca Johnson. Carlton Fire Chief Derek Wolf and Carlton City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Conway were also present.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moderator:** Motion by Brian Johnson seconded by Dale Wolf to nominate Duane Laveau to preside over the meeting as Moderator. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes of the Annual Meeting dated March 8, 2022, were read. No corrections or additions were made. Motion by Paul Schillo; seconded by Deborah Nyberg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Board of Audit Report:** Motion by Randy Wolf; seconded by Dale Wolf to approve the Board of Audit Report as read. Motion carried.

Images Editor Erin Riley stated that the future of Images is uncertain with the pending budget cuts at the school. She thanked the township for its past support and said that if the paper survives continued support from Silver Brook Township and others will be even more important. Erin will let the board know when a decision has been made.

Derek Wolf and Carol Conway gave an overview of why the Carlton Ambulance is requesting additional funds. They are requesting \$11,929.84 from Silver Brook in 2023 and \$30,795.69 in 2024 to cover part of the \$250,000 needed to hire a FT manager and a FT EMT. They are also asking for a five-year commitment that will be adjusted annually. Some of the concerns discussed included wanting representation on an oversight board, having all entities on board, and not knowing what the actual cost will be year to year. Derek Wolf indicated that he did not mind being open with plans, but that there would not be a board governing the ambulance. The City of Carlton sets the ambulance budget. He also indicated that they have no way of knowing what the yearly cost will be because it will depend on other funding sources and run volume. The City of Carlton will be meeting to decide how yearly costs will be adjusted if not all townships participate. Setting up a taxing district was also briefly discussed, but Carol Conway indicated that this would be hard to do and is a long process. Motion by Dale Wolf; seconded by Duane Laveau to support to the Carlton Ambulance.

Duane Laveau-Yes; Deborah Nyberg-Yes; Chris Nyberg-Yes; Randy Wolf-Yes; Peter Laveau-Yes; Dale Wolf-Yes; Brian Johnson-No. Motion carried.

**Road and Bridge:** No road work was completed in 2022. The Township is eligible for monies from the state for cleanup of damages caused by the winter storm in December 2022. Once snow melts the township can determine the full extent of damages and debris and can apply to be reimbursed 75% of costs if expenses exceed \$3,800. Future road projects being considered include: Cemetery Road resurfacing; Garthus Road-cutting hill at County Road 18 and adding a bus turnaround; Tew Road-what to do if the county will no longer plow, brushing and other regular maintenance items.

**Fire/Ambulance:** Chief Peter Laveau reported that there were 104 runs in 2022. They did not get the FEMA grant for the fire truck last year, but have applied again this year for a FEMA grant for extraction equipment (\$40,000). They currently have 22 members. The fire department will need to look at getting a new fire truck in the next 5-6 years. In 2022 the cost of a new fire truck was quoted at \$600-\$650,000 and that has gone up to \$800,000 in 2023. Chief Laveau indicated that in the future they may be looking at having paid staff and sharing more equipment and services with Carlton.

**Town Hall:** The parking lot was repaved using American Rescue Fund monies and the inside of the hall is being painted. Adding a sidewalk from the east door to the parking lot is also being considered.

**Cemetery:** There were no lot sales in 2022. Bills will be sent to Wrenshall Township and the City of Wrenshall for their share of maintenance costs. The township is looking into building a columbarium for cremations. Putting a map of the available lots on the town website was also discussed.

**Financial:** The Township returned to in-person voting and election expenses were \$3,631.49 (training, wages, mileage) for seven different judges for the primary and general elections. The second one-half of ARPA funds were received in 2022 for a total of \$46,980.64. \$22,870 was used to repave the parking lot. In November 2022 the township was able to purchase a \$100,000, 26-month CD at 4.0380% from MCCU.

**Authorizing Health and Recreation Distributions:** Motion by Paul Schillo; seconded by Dale Wolf to allow the township to distribute up to \$2,000 in 2023 for health and recreation requests. Motion carried.

**Proposed 2024 Levy:** It is the Board's recommendation that proposed levy amounts be set as follows: General: \$30,000; Road & Bridge: \$45,000; Emergency Services: \$66,000; and Health & Rec: \$1,000. Total: \$142,000. The levy amounts will be reviewed and finalized at the Continuation Meeting in September.

**Posting Locations:** Motion by Brian Johnson; seconded by Paul Schillo to post township notices at the Town Hall, Post Office and on the township website. Motion carried.

**Publication:** Motion by Duane Laveau; seconded by Dale Wolf to publish township notices in the Images and the Pine Knot. Motion carried.

**Depository:** Motion by Deborah Nyberg; seconded by Paul Schillo to set Northwoods Credit Union as the primary and Members Cooperative Credit Union as the secondary township depositories. Motion carried.

**Date and Location of 2024 Annual Meeting:** Motion by Randy Wolf; seconded by Paul Schillo to set the 2024 Annual Town Meeting for the second Tuesday in March, 2024, at 7:00 PM, at the Silver Brook Town Hall. Motion carried.

Motion by Dale Wolf; seconded by Duane Laveau to recess the Annual Town Meeting (at 8:32 PM) until Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 6:00 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alieca Johnson, Clerk (date)

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Duane Laveau, Moderator (date)