

**Pelican Township Annual Meeting**  
**March 12, 2024**  
**Pelican Rapids Fire Hall**  
**4:00 PM**

Clerk Nelson called the 2024 Pelican Township Annual Meeting to order at 4:00 PM as had been published in the notice and asked the Board and residents to join him in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Board Members present, Brady Ballard, Lance Haugrud, Sheila Johnson, Mitchell Egge and Lloyd Nelson, others present, Don Schroeder, Tyson Wells, Dan Egge, Gerald Oliver, Cindy Oliver, Louis Hogland, Everett Ballard, Tom Elthon and Steve Toso.

Everett Ballard was elected as Moderator and Lloyd turned the meeting over to him.

Previous Year's Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as read

Treasurer's Report – For Year Ended 2023 was approved as presented. Some general questions were raised related to expense for MATIT and Township Association. Noted that benefits included the worker's compensation coverage and general township insurance including inland marine.

Old Business – Reviewed the North Prairie Lake Road project; did not put the second lift on due to the bid being higher than anticipated, plus, needed to gravel a majority of township roads. Will be a similar situation this year.

New Business

Mitchell presented a recap of road projects in 2023 and plans for 2024 noting decision to gravel roads and not put the second lift on North Prairie Lake Road. Discussion on dust guard and graveling on the Township roads especially with the coming road construction project this summer and next. Board will review roads for gravel first, and then decide on dust guard. It was noted that having the dust guard on earlier last year was appreciated.

Gerald Oliver noted that his road needed gravel. The Board will review during their spring road check.

Steve Toso complimented Tyson for the good work that they've been doing to keep the roads in shape.

Lloyd presented the recommendation from the Town Board for the Tax Levy, \$250,000 total which is a 8.70% increase over last year.

- \$184,000 for Road and Bridge
- \$18,500 for Fire Fund

- \$47,500 for the General Fund.

The levy amounts were determined by reviewing the actual spend in 2023 and the projections for 2024/25 based upon road projects, balance in accounts, etc. Costs are increasing, the ambulance subsidy increased from \$12.50 to \$19.31 per person in the township and the fire expenses are projected by the city to be close to \$19,000 for the upcoming year. Insurance costs are also increasing.

With the levy increase from last year and the increase for this year, believe that funding should stabilize. Don't want to increase too much or too fast. Understand that the work on North Prairie Lake road may not last as long without the second wear coat, but need to address the overall township needs. Mitchell moved to approve the tax levy, second by Lance, carried.

Lloyd presented the grant funding requests that had been received from the Otter Tail County Historical Society and the Pelican Rapids Public Library. Discussion that would like to see increased funding for the library, but as we have increased costs for maintenance and other expenses feel it should remain at the same level for now. Lloyd moved and Mitchell seconded to recommend funding the Library at \$4,000 and Otter Tail County Historical Society at \$500.00, the same level as previous years. Carried.

Comment was raised that there will be a meeting at the High School Auditorium on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the cleaning of Ditch 32. The county is trying to build up a fund to address ditches in the future as well as to explain how charges are levied based upon land owners benefit.

Time and Place for next Annual Meeting – second Tuesday in March 2025 at 4:00 PM in the Firehall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

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Lloyd Nelson, Clerk