**Pelican Township Annual Meeting**

**March 11, 2025**

**Pelican Rapids Fire Hall**

**4:00 PM**

Clerk Nelson called the 2025 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, Yancy Wifall, Sheila Johnson, Mitchell Egge and Lloyd Nelson, others present, Cindy Oliver, Louis Hogland, Everett Ballard, Trevor Steeves 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 2024 was approved as presented

Old Business – discussed gravel and dust guard applications

New Business

Mitchell presented a recap of road projects in 2024 and plans for 2025 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.

Lloyd presented the recommendation from the Town Board for the Tax Levy, $260,000 total which is a 4.0% increase over last year.

* $190,000 for Road and Bridge
* $20,000 for Fire Fund
* $50,000 for the General Fund.

The levy amounts were determined by reviewing the actual spend in 2024 and the projections for 2025/26 based upon road projects, balance in accounts, etc. Costs are increasing, the ambulance subsidy increased from $12.50 to $14.50 per person in the township and the fire expenses are projected by the city to be close to $20,000 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. Question on how much reserve the township would like to have. Would like to have roughly one year’s budget in reserve, a little north of $200,000.

Mitchell moved to approve the tax levy, second by Brady, 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.

Trever Steeves presented the proposed construction plans for the Hospital District.

Time and Place for next Annual Meeting – second Tuesday in March 2026 at 4:00 PM in the Firehall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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Lloyd Nelson, Clerk