

Wacouta Township Annual Meeting
March 12, 2013

Board Members Present: Sue Betcher, Barbara Charlson, Kyle Mehrkens, and Mickey Payne

- I. Call to Order by Barbara Charlson at 8:15 PM
- II. Selection of a Moderator
 - a. **Motion** was made to elect Gary Iocco as the 2013 Annual Meeting moderator. **Seconded.** The motion carried
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approval of 2012 minutes
 - a. **Motion** was made to approve the 2012 Annual Meeting minutes. **Seconded.** The motion carried.
- V. Sheriff's Department
 - a. Kris Johnson (Goodhue County Sheriff's Department) said that communication with the citizens of Wacouta is key and the department would like to receive phone calls regarding problems and/or issues before they become too big to handle.
 - b. Suggested we add a list of residents to the www.wacoutatownship.org website.
- VI. Treasurer's Report – Approved as Read; \$162,150 total revenue and \$104,326 total expenditures for 2013.
- VII. State of Township Report
 - a. Town Hall Maintenance – Ray Bronson lead a Town Hall repair project utilizing the Sentence to Serve personnel; moldy dry wall was removed from the basement as well as a new walk-through door was installed; in 2013 we plan on replacing broken windows – something that will not trigger the need to update the septic system – and installing a new water pressure system
 - b. Mining/Frac Sand Update – Wacouta Township does not provide easy access to frac sand and trucking sand is not the most cost effective method to transporting it; Planning Committee members are reviewing current Wacouta ordinances and working with County members to define a solution that is best for all involved
- VIII. Township Picnic
 - a. **Motion** was made to nominate Jill Mehrkens as the 2013 Wacouta Township Picnic Chairperson. **Seconded.** The motion carried.
- IX. Road & Bridge Update
 - a. There were no major repairs done in 2012. Some potholes were filled along Sevestapol and Lakeview Avenue.
 - b. Discussion topic was the lack of salt and sand clean-up; because the winter was "light" and there wasn't that much accumulation, the Board made a decision to remove

accumulations manually, thus saving \$2,000; NOTE: There is a \$3,000 line item in both 2013 and 2014 budgets to cover the clean-up costs

- c. MN DOT is scheduled to enhance Sevestapol and Wacouta turn-offs in 2015; these turn-offs will be similar to County Road 21 and Frontenac.

X. New Tax Levy

- a. Sue Betcher presented the 2014 Tax Levy proposal of \$162,273. The breakdown is:
 - i. \$ 39,273 Fire Fund
 - ii. \$ 70,100 Road and Bridge Fund
 - iii. \$ 52,900 General Fund
 - iv. \$162,273 Total
- b. The proposed levy is slightly higher than 2013 as we plan for major road repairs
- c. **Motion** was made to accept levy of \$162,273. **Seconded**. There was no additional discussion. The motion carried.

XI. Old Business

- a. None at this time.

XII. New Business

- a. HBC Fiber Optic – Mike Christianson is spear-heading an effort to provide HBC fiberoptic services to Lakeview and Greens Point residents. If a strong interest is shown (and there certainly is from our standpoint), HBC will entertain this request at future planning meetings. Sevestapol residents will need to spear-head a similar action if they desire HBC coverage.
- b. Bike Path – In the past the Board had discussed an option to connect our existing trail to a bike trail leading to the City of Red Wing or Flower Valley; it was agreed that this would need to be a citizen-led approach; highway funds were available in the past and still are via proposals
- c. John Falkner was introduced to attending residents; he bought the old Flower Valley Apple Orchard and plans to develop it into a plant nursery/winery – and perhaps even host a Farmer's Market in a few years

XIII. Election Results Reported

- a. **Congratulations to Sue Betcher**. Sue won the 3-year Supervisor position with 41 votes. There were no write-in votes and no spoiled ballots.

XIV. **Motion** to adjourn at 8:58 PM. **Seconded**. 2013 Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Approved:



3/18/2-013

Gary Iocco, Moderator

Date

Barbara Charlson 3-18-2013
Barbara Charlson, Recorder Date