

Township of Wacouta
2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

8:15 PM

27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, MN 55066

I. Call to order and selection of moderator

Laan Dommer (*clerk*) called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM and asked for nominations for a meeting moderator. Mark Warrington nominated Steve Betcher, seconded by George Thoma. The motion carried.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Daryl Franklin, seconded by George Thoma, to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

IV. Approve 2022 Annual meeting minutes, presented by Laan Dommer

A motion was made by John Schueller to forego reading of the minutes and accept them, seconded by Mark Warrington. The motion was carried.

V. Presentation by County Officials

Sue Betcher, Goodhue County Commissioner, gave a review of the county's accomplishments for 2022 and projects considered and in work for 2023.

Cory Gagnon, Goodhue County Sheriff's Lieutenant, presented an update on the sheriff's office and the impact on our residents.

VI. 2023 Election (March) results

Election judge Mike Carlson presented the results of today's election for Supervisor. John Plehal was elected tonight (*three-year term, 2023-2026*) for Wacouta Township Supervisor. The Oath of Office will be deferred until Plehal returns after this week.

VII. Wacouta 2022 Roads Report

The 2022 Road Report was made available in print, hard copy. George Thoma was available to review the efforts made last year to upgrade roads and culverts in the township and answered questions & concerns from residents.

VIII. Board of Audit findings

Laan Dommer read the minutes for the Board of Audit for 2022. These were dated Saturday, January 28, 2023, as presented to the Wacouta Township Board of Supervisors at their monthly meeting.

IX. Request for donations

The requests for donations (*\$250 to Goodhue County Fair and \$250 to Goodhue County Historical Society*) were covered in the General Fund Levy proposal that will be discussed. A motion was made by Margie Thoma to allow the donation of \$250 for the Goodhue County Fair and \$250 for the Goodhue County Historical Society: seconded by John Schueller. The motion was carried.

X. Authorization of funds for township events

Daryl Franklin made a motion to allow an expenditure of up to \$1000 for a township event; seconded by George Thoma. The motion carried.

XI. Recognition of retirees, volunteers, and special contributors

George Thoma spoke briefly in a greeting prior to the meeting tonight. As a representative of the Board of Supervisors, he gave recognition to the special work done within the township by individuals.

First, recognized for their work with elections were Nancy Barth, Jennifer Beck, Mike & Noreen Carlson, Laan Dommer, Dan Mueller, Laura Lutjen (*-serving as Head Election Judge*), Crystal Olson, Tim Sletten, Greg Sotebeer, Margie Thoma, and Williams Wells.

Secondly, appreciation was given to Friends of Wacouta and their volunteers. Special thanks to Diane Mueller and Dan Mueller for their efforts over years in upgrading and beautifying the trail.

Also, the efforts of the Planning Commissioners, Tracy Gadiant, Mark Warrington, Dan Mueller, & Steve Nelson are greatly appreciated, along with the Zoning Administrator, Fred Plaas.

Congratulations were given to Sue Betcher the newly elected Goodhue County Commissioner.

A note of appreciation was given to Laan Dommer, clerk/treasurer, for his work.

Lastly, John Plehal was given recognition as Township Supervisor for these last six years, and for his efforts as the recent Chair of the Board of Supervisors.

XII. Presentation of the 2024 Levy

Supervisor George Thoma reviewed the initial proposal, approved by the Board at the March monthly meeting, for the 2024 Levy.

The proposal submitted for discussion, based on history and budgeting, was: Fire Fund, \$54,000.00; Road & Bridge Fund, \$75,500.00; General Fund, \$50,334.00; Total Levy, \$179,834.00.

A motion was made by Margie Thoma, seconded by Mark Warrington, to approve the Fire Fund at \$54,000.00. The motion carried to approve \$54,000.00.

A motion was made by John Schueller, seconded by Daryl Franklin, to approve the Road & Bridge Fund at \$75,500.00. An extensive review by George Thoma and Laan Dommer gave background about the funding and expenses, along with increased revenue due to various reasons (*including governmental aid*). Discussion and suggestions were made by residents to continue upgrading the roads, and for crack and shoulder repair of the roads. The motion carried to approve \$75,500.00.

A motion was made by George Thoma, seconded by William Wells, to approve the General Fund at \$50,334.00. Discussions and suggestions were made by residents to continue the trail and cemetery fence repair. The motion carried to approve \$50,334.00.

A motion was made by Daryl Franklin, seconded by George Thoma, to approve a total 2024 Levy for Wacouta Township, at \$179,834.00.

The motion carried to approve a 2024 Levy total of \$179,834.00.

XIII. Motion to set next Wacouta Township Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Margie Thoma, seconded by Joan Franklin, to set the next Wacouta Township annual meeting for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 8:15 PM, at the Wacouta Town Hall (*27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota*). The motion carried.

XIV. Motion to adjourn Wacouta Township Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Margie Thoma, to adjourn, seconded by Mark Warrington. The motion carried. Moderator Steve Betcher adjourned the meeting at 9:34 PM.

Submitted, March 14, 2023, Laan Dommer, Wacouta Township, Clerk/Treasurer