

Township of Wacouta
2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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. Sue Betcher nominated Gary Iocco, seconded by George Thoma. The motion carried.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approve Agenda

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

IV. Approve 2023 Annual meeting minutes, presented by Laan Dommer

A motion was made by John Schueller to forego reading of the minutes and accept the 2023 minutes, seconded by John Plehal. The motion carried.

V. 2024 Election (March) results

Election judge Margie Thoma presented the results of today's election for Supervisor. Steve Nelson was elected tonight (*three-year term, 2024-2027*) for Wacouta Township Supervisor and Laan Dommer was re-elected for Clerk/Treasurer (*two-year term, 2024-2026*). The Oath of Office was presented by Margie Thoma with the two elected officials.

VI. Wacouta 2023 Roads Report

The 2023 Road Report was made available in print, hard copy. John Plehal was available to review the efforts made last year to maintain and upgrade roads and culverts in the township.

VII. Board of Audit findings

Laan Dommer read the minutes for the Board of Audit for 2023. These were dated Saturday, February 10, 2024, as presented to the Wacouta Township Board of Supervisors at their monthly meeting.

VIII. Presentation by County Officials

Fire Department officials: City of Red Wing Fire Chief Mike Warner gave a comprehensive presentation of the department's services to the township. Also available for questions were Assistant Chief Peter Hanlin and Marshall Hallock, Administrative Business Director. Wacouta township is currently covered by a contract for services with the City of Red Wing Fire Department.

Sheriff's Department officials: Goodhue County Sheriff's Captain Mark Bolters and Lieutenant Cory Gagnon presented an update on the sheriff's office and the impact on our residents.

Goodhue County Commissioner Sue Betcher reviewed the county's accomplishments for 2023 and projects considered and in work for 2024.

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 George Thoma. The motion carried.

X. Authorization of funds for township events

No motion was brought to allow an expenditure for a township event. No discussion or action was considered.

XI. Other topics raised by attendees

- a) Friends of Wacouta (FOW): Marilyn Albrecht was recognized to discuss the efforts of the FOW to raise funds for projects to improve the township trail and surrounding areas.
John Plehal, Board of Wacouta Chair, spoke of the township's responsibilities in also maintaining these areas, along with the ditches and prairies within the township.
- b) John Plehal was recognized to give background about the status of a leash law within the township. There is no leash law existing in the township or county. A time for open discussion was made available to comment on what may be done to improve any issues with animals within the township. No action was made at this time, but it was suggested to implement educational recommendations for residents and visitors.
- c) Gary Iocco recognized George Thoma for his service these last three years as Supervisor on the Wacouta Board of Supervisors.

d) Presentation of the 2025 Levy

Board Chair John Plehal presented the initial proposal, approved by the Board at the March monthly meeting, for the 2025 Levy.

The proposal submitted for discussion, based on history and budgeting, was: Fire Fund, \$56,500; Road & Bridge Fund, \$93,000; General Fund, \$52,390; Total Levy, \$201,890.

A motion was made by John Plehal, seconded by Sue Betcher, to approve the Fire Fund at \$56,500.00. An extensive review by residents and fire officials was allowed. The motion carried to approve \$56,500.00.

A motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by John Schueller, to approve the Road & Bridge Fund at \$93,000.00. John Plehal gave background about the funding and expenses for roads and maintenance. Residents made discussion and suggestions to continue upgrading the street lighting and roads. The motion carried to approve \$93,000.00.

A motion was made by George Thoma, seconded by Mike Christensen, to approve the General Fund at \$52,390.00. The motion carried to approve \$52,390.00.

A motion was made by Margie Thoma, seconded by Sue Betcher, to approve a total 2024 Levy for Wacouta Township, at \$201,890.00.

The motion carried to approve a 2024 Levy total of \$201,890.00.

e) Motion to set the next Wacouta Township Annual Meeting

A motion was made by George Thoma, seconded by Nancy McKay, to set the next Wacouta Township annual meeting for Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 8:15 PM, at the Wacouta Town Hall (27700 Grace Trail, Red Wing, Minnesota). The motion carried.

f) Motion to adjourn Wacouta Township Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Margie Thoma, to adjourn, seconded by George Thoma. The motion carried. Moderator Gary Iocco adjourned the meeting at 9:44 PM.

Submitted, March 12, 2024, Laan Dommer, Wacouta Township, Clerk/Treasurer