

COTTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Sandi Nelson at approximately 8:33 p.m. in the Community Center, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 18 townspeople present. List on file with the clerk in the township office.

The clerk opened the floor for nominations for a moderator of the meeting. Debbie Leppala motioned, supported by Frank Wendell to nominate Mark Johnston as moderator. Are there any other nominations 3 x's. Linda Tuhkanen motioned, supported by Terry Nelson that the nominations be closed. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mark Johnston was elected to be moderator of the meeting. The moderator read the order of business for the annual meeting.

The clerk's 2009 annual town meeting minutes were read. Linda Tuhkanen motioned supported by Terry Nelson to accept the 2009 annual minutes as read. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A copy of the Board of Audit 2009 Financial Report was distributed with the agenda. Balances in the funds as of 12/31/2009:

GENERAL FUND	\$	24,208.93
NON-LEVY REVENUE FUND		79,276.25
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND		7,622.93
CHRONICLE FUND		9,865.47
CEMETERY\OLD FUND		7,564.10
CEMETERY\NEW FUND		11,417.23
PARKS & REC FUND		7,624.90
FIRE FUND		7,092.53
FIRE TRUCK FUND		8,083.65
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND		<u>13,798.80</u>
BALANCE ON HAND:	\$	176,554.79

TOTAL RECEIPT	\$249,199.41
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$244,891.50

INVESTMENTS: CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS VALUE: \$28,408.48

Included in the agenda packet are reports regarding the 2009 state and county funds received. Janis Wendell motioned, supported by Linda Tuhkanen that the 2009 Board of Audit Financial Report be approved as presented. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Board of Audit Report on file in the township office.

Review of 2009 activities. **Community Center:** Jamie Bowden reported the roof/ceiling of the community center was insulated, resulting in the building being warmer this winter and gained energy efficiency. The thermostat was replaced in the hall area and the thermostat in the Post Office will be replaced during the next regular service call. Pest control spraying of the building was performed. The floors were stripped and waxed by a professional floor service company. The lease with the U. S. Post Office was renewed for another 5 years. Debbie Leppala has done an outstanding job maintaining the flowerbeds and plantings on building grounds and will continue again this year. Thank you Debbie. Some maintenance work was done on the well to locate water lines and ensure the well water remains clean and passes health department inspections. Future plans include looking into ideas to repair or replace the vestibule at the entrance as it is pulling away from the building and is in a general state of disrepair. Will

continue maintenance and repair work on the community center well to ensure our water source remains safe. Plan to have the stripes on the parking lot repainted by our maintenance staff. The Board will research flooring material options for the replacement of the tiles as parts are over 35 years old and have become worn, chipped, cracked and gouged.

Lakeview Cemetery: Debbie Leppala reported that the cemetery groundskeepers Norm & Sirley Peterson have done a great job. Future plans are to even-out the new section, confirm and finish the road for access to this area with grave sites to start on the upper section. The committee will meet with Tracy Excavating to discuss plans. Cemetery committee members are Cherrie Soderlund, Wally Soderlund, Doris Dedina, Norm Peterson, and Terry Nelson.

Chronicle: Sandi Nelson stated that included in the agenda packet is a copy the last 2 years of receipts and disbursements so you can see how the Chronicle is doing. The Chronicle lost money in 2009 in advertising and subscriptions and we feel it is due to the economy. Jamie Bowden has taken over the Cotton website and is doing an excellent job. Thank you Jamie.

Fire Department: Constance Johnston reviewed the 2009 activities, training, equipment, runs, financial statement and goals for 2010. The CVFD would like to thank the Town Board and the citizens of Cotton for their continuing support. The department began the year with 24 members but with retirements and relocations, ended with 21 members; of these 11 are first responders and emergency medical technicians (EMT's). The CVFD responded to 42 calls, almost twice as many as last year, 8 of these calls were for mutual aid for Kelsey, Ellsburg and Northland. CVFD members continue with training. Four members have taken a Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator course to aid Meadowlands Ambulance Service. Throughout the year, inspections, tests, assessments, maintenance and repairs are performed on equipment, buildings and supplies. There has been the acquisition of a new-used Rescue Rig, a cord reel and reciprocating saw and new safety vests. CVFD participated in Fire Prevention Week at the Cotton school, provided EMS readiness at the Annual State Fiddle Contest and Festival and Riverside Music Festival, sponsored the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner, and assisted with the flooding of the Cotton skating rink. CVFD personnel assisted Meadowlands Ambulance Service teach a CPR course at the Cotton School. Goals for 2010 include: completing the First Responder Refresher Course, increase membership, training, research regulations on radios and possibly another CPR class at the school. Also in the Fire Department packet is the response breakdown, the year-end financial report, a budget proposal and the equipment list for 2009. The CVFD respectfully requests \$24,000 for the 2010 contract year. With the townships help the CVFD will continue to provide quality emergency services for the township.

Parks & Rec: Debbie Leppala reported that Norm Peterson, groundkeeper, worked with Tracy Excavating to reshape the ice rink and lay plastic to hold the water better. Thank you Norman, the rink is the best it has been for years. Would like to thank the CVFD for assisting in flooding the ice rink. Hired 5 kids this year to work at the ice rink. Parks & Rec has communicated to St. Louis County ISD #2142 of its interest in the playground equipment when the school moves. The 4-H no longer takes care of its gardens in the park and those gardens will be converted to lawn.

Roads: Included with the agenda is a road report. Ken Meinke reported that Kauppi Lake road was improved with gravel fill from highway 53 to the first hill. S. Strand Lake road improvements were completed. The roads received class 5 gravel as needed. The road signs must be updated with new reflectivity, mandated by the federal government. A sign inventory has

been started and S. Strand Lake and Kauppi Lake roads have the new signs in place. Bob Rodda, town grader operator, will attend the road review this spring and the Board will get a professional idea of what the roads need for gravel.

2010 Census: Remember to take 10 minutes to fill out your census and return it.

Setting of the town levy.

General Fund: On the St. Louis County Levy form the general fund includes the township general, fire, chronicle, cemetery (old), parks & rec, and capital project funds. In the past we have separated the township general and fire funds and voted on them separately. Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Debbie Leppala to included the fire fund in the general levy as is done on the county form making the general fund levy \$115,559. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Terry motioned, supported by Linda Tuhkanen that the general fund levy stay the same at \$115,559. Any discussion. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Road & Bridge Fund: The current levy is \$43,695. Debbie Leppala motioned, supported by Janis Wendell that the road levy stay the same at \$43,695. Any discussion. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Total Cotton township levy for 2010 is \$159,254.

Terry Nelson motioned, supported by Linda Tuhkanen to approve the \$24,000 Cotton Volunteer Fire Department 2010 contract year. Any discussion. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Contributions made by the Town throughout the year include: Meadowlands Ambulance Service, St. Louis County Rescue Squad, Arrowhead Transit, Cotton School Alcohol and Drug Free Graduation Party. Linda Tuhkanen motioned, supported by Terry Nelson to authorize the Town Board to contract for health, social and recreational services from nonprofit organizations up to \$10,000. Any discussion. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The following were duly elected March 9, 2010:

Supervisor – three year term	Tim Randall
Clerk – two year term	Sandra Sharp Nelson

Debbie Leppala motioned, supported by Constance Johnston to hold the 2011 annual meeting the second Tuesday in March at 8:30 p.m. (March 8, 2011). All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

As there was no further business, Debbie Leppala motioned, supported by Janis Wendell that the meeting be adjourned at 9:27 p.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk