

## **BIWABIK TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

**Township Hall - 6555 Oak Drive, Gilbert, MN**

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order** - Deputy Clerk Kirstie Hall called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM. Present: Emily Highland, Jim Paris, Richard & Doris Freeburg, Kirstie & Todd Hall, Luke Soderling, Yvonne Hines, Walter Hautala, Gordy Imberg, Erik Erie, John Kuitunen, Kevin Merritt, Jean Korpi.

**Pledge of Allegiance** - Recited

**Nomination for Moderator** - Deputy Clerk Kirstie Hall called for nominations for moderator.

Walter Hautala nominated Gordy Imberg, supported by Jim Paris.

Deputy Clerk Kirstie Hall called nominations two more times. No more nominations were made.

Motion to accept Gordy Imberg as Moderator carried unanimously. Deputy Clerk Kirstie Hall gave Oath of Moderator to Gordy Imberg.

### **2020 Annual Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** by Todd Hall, seconded by Walter Hautala to waive the reading of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. No Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Todd Hall, seconded by Jim Paris to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2020 Financial & Audit Report**

**Motion** by John Kuitunen, seconded by Walter Hautala to waive the reading of all receipts and disbursements and read only the synopsis. Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Imberg asked Yvonne Hines to read the synopsis. Hines read the synopsis (attached to the minutes). No questions.

**Motion** by John Kuitunen, seconded by Jim Paris to approve the 2020 Financial and Audit Report. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Proposed 2022 Levy**

Moderator Imberg asked for a motion to approve the 2021 Levy. Yvonne Hines reported there are no proposed changes to the levy from the previous year (\$342,000.00). **Motion** by Walter Hautala, seconded by Todd Hall to approve the 2022 levy for a total levy of \$342,000.00 set by the Board of Supervisors. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2020 Department Reports**

**Vice-Chairman Supervisor Paris:** Submitted a written report for Road & Bridge Department (attached to the minutes). He thanked the part time employees, temporary employees, and road & bridge employees. The Clerk and Treasurer are good at their jobs too. Jim also expressed gratitude for all of the people that volunteer time and materials to the town hall.

**EMR Director Nita Larson:** Luke read the First Responder report that was submitted by Nita Larson. Report will be attached.

**Supervisor Hautala:** Walter Hautala reported on the Recreation and Cemetery departments. Plans were made in summer of 2020 to level the rink and get a liner for better ice making. They are both helping the rink to be used more. A town hall dedication is still being planned for the new building. The building committee, Board, residents, politicians, and media will be invited. Hautala asked the residents if they would like to see a paved walking trail made from the Hall to the cemetery. There are grant options available for this. The residents present liked the idea. Concerns have been brought up about the trail being used by teens for nefarious reasons. It has also been mentioned that young families are interested in the paths to take young children for walks and small bikes. The cemetery is very important to people. He is happy to report how well it was maintained in 2019. A donated memorial bench for Joe Yurczyk was placed this summer. He mentioned an idea that Aurora Cemetery uses to have

a map of where grave markers are placed for visitors. Hautala enjoys working with the current Board and is thankful for the volunteers that we have for the town hall.

**Chairman Soderling:** Submitted a written report (attached to these minutes). In addition to his written report, Soderling thanked Jim Paris for the hard work he put in with the Road and Bridge department this year. Being the Road and Bridge liaison is really a "boots on the ground" position. Gordy Imberg also thanked Paris for his full time presence at the township. He asked for examples of gazebos that would be liked by residents to potentially put on the site of the old town hall. Discussion was brought up that we would be looking at having around 30 diagonal parking spots painted on parking lot once contacted company reaches out to the board.

There were no questions on the reports. **Motion** by Todd Hall, seconded by Erik Erie to accept the 2020 reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Appropriation of funds for 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Halloween Celebrations and any other donations**

**Motion** by Jim Paris, seconded by Emily Highland to approve 2 students for Youth in Action. Motion carried unanimously. No need to transfer funds from General Fund to the Community Celebration Fund as there is still \$1985 in the fund.

*Discussion* –. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

**Broadband** – Area has now been mapped out for East Range area up to Lake Vermillion. There are now around 400 residents getting Century Link internet in our area. He also mentioned that satellite internet is now also being tried by some residents and so far is stable and useful.

**Recreation use of Township property-** Walking trail could cost around \$97,000 for trails. Some residents not comfortable with that amount being spent on trails. Discussion was also made about bocce ball course and looking for examples of gazebos or picnic areas from residents.

#### **New Business**

**New Fund for Equipment** – Luke Soderling explained that at the March Board Meeting the Board decided to use funds for new equipment for the road and bridge department including a reclaimer, tractor and mower disk.

#### **Report of 2020 Township Election**

Election Judge Jean Korpi read the Election results of the 111 total votes casted (attached to these minutes).

Supervisor for a Term of 3 years:	Todd Hall	57
	Luke Soderling	54
Treasurer for a Term of 2 years:	Yvonne Hines	49
	Julie Bluhm	60

The results will be canvassed after the annual meeting.

**Comments-** Moderator Imberg asked for comments. No comments.

**Set Reconvened Meeting** – No reconvened meeting needed.

#### **Set date, time and place for the 2020 Election and Annual Meeting**

Election tentatively set for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 Polls open from 4:00PM to 8:00 PM

Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 8:30 P.M.

**Motion** by Todd Hall, seconded by Jim Paris to hold the Annual Meeting following the election at 8:30 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Adjourn**

**Motion** by Todd Hall, seconded by John Kuitunen to adjourn the annual meeting at 9:31 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

# Annual Meeting for Biwabik Township, March 9, 2021

## **Road & Bridge:**

### **2020 In Review:**

COVID-19 has had an impact with the township. The 2 Road and Bridge employees staggered their work hours and maintained recommended (and later mandated) guidelines of the various federal, state and county organizations. They individually used their assigned equipment and disinfected after use.

Received a new 2020 International tandem axle dump truck in April of 2020. Used the new dump truck for Class 5 and sand hauling during the summer and fall and for snowplowing this season.

Utilized our 2 Road and Bridge employees for routine snow removal during normal snow events. Main roads opened and then driveways. We did use the temporary employees 1 or 2 times.

New employee was hired in October of 2019. His probation ended on April 21, 2020. New employee is working out well.

Routine maintenance and repairs to the Road and Bridge equipment.

Purchased a 1999 International 4900 single axle dump truck with a snow plow, wing and tailgate sander in August. Full disclosure: Purchased from me (Jim Paris, R&B liaison) for \$25,000.00. Consulted with our Township attorney about conflict of interest concerns and completed the appropriate paperwork. Walt Hautala and Kevin Merritt checked with Mid-States (formerly Skubic's) and the internet for similar equipped vehicles. Sold the Township single axle dump truck for \$13,000.00 in August.

Culvert replacement as needed.

Addition of Class 5 on parts of Pine Lane, Judd Road, Balsam Lane, & Lund Road. Patching of potholes on numerous roads throughout the township. Stockpile of Class 5 in the Township yard.

On-site grader training for the new employee.

Maintained the snowplowing rates for the 2020/2021 season at \$200.00 (\$250.00 after 10/31).

Continued to evaluate attachments for the grader and additional equipment.

### **2021 Preview:**

Replaced the lighting in the Road and Bridge Garage and Fire Hall with LED lights in January of 2021.

Will lease a used New Holland Tractor with a demo boom brusher for 1 month (100 hours) with the option to purchase if it meets the needs of the Township. Pre-approved in March Monthly Meeting.

Purchase a walk-n-roll attachment for the grader. Approved in March Monthly Meeting.

Purchase a 3-pt reclaimer attachment for the mower tractor. Approved in March Monthly Meeting.

Continue adding Class 5 on Township Roads that need it. Currently looking at Elm (from Maple to the hill), Balsam, Cypress, Spruce and Oak (from 97 to the Township). Patching as necessary.

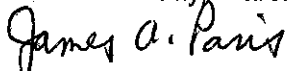
Ditching on Maple Drive across from gravel pit and on Chestnut near Leaf Lake identified so far.

Continue brushing/mowing, ditching and culvert replacement/addition where needed.

Management policies: Culvert Policy, Sign Reflectivity/Breakaway Posts, Road Plan

Establish an equipment fund (similar to New Town Hall Fund) to help fund equipment replacement

Submitted this day, March 9, 2021



James A. Paris, Board Supervisor



## **BIWABIK TOWNSHIP FIRST RESPONDERS**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020 MARCH ANNUAL MEETING 2021**

The Biwabik Township First Responders became an official part of the township in 1992. Since we began, we have had many members who have graciously come forward to help the people of our township who are experiencing a “not so good day”. We continue our mission of providing the best possible service to our township members.

For 20, we have 10 First Responders with various levels of certification. (EMR, EMT, EMT-Paramedic)

Nita Larson, EMT / EMS Coordinator, Chuck Larson – EMT, Wayne Frost – EMR, Tony Nygaard – EMR, Chris Clark – EMT-P, Jessica Clark – EMR, Jordan Juvland – EMR, Ruth Juvland – EMR, Jodie Koller – EMR, and Wyatt Clark – EMR.

This year, our First Responders responded to 36 emergency calls. The nature of the calls were: Medical (22), Seizure (5), Difficulty breathing (1), Personal injury (4), Assist Invalid (1), Water Emergency (1) and Heart (2). We assisted neighboring communities as well as our own township area.

2020 gave us new challenges as we responded during the COVID Pandemic. We met these new challenges with the same dedication and service as we always do.

As always, It has been with great pride that our group has been able to help our neighbors, our friends, our families, and our visitors to our township. We strive to provide quality patient care to those who are in need.

The First Responders appreciate the support that we receive from our community, and we will continue to provide the best services we can to help make our community the best community ever!

Feel free to contact the EMS Coordinator with any concerns and/or questions. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Nita Larson, EMS Coordinator  
218-865-6025

## Chairs report

This was a challenging year. The news of the pandemic came as a surprise to all of us. As Chair I had to spend a great deal of time researching and learning about how to contain a virus, this was not listed on the brochure about being a township supervisor. We had to take the information we had seriously and make drastic changes to protect our population while trying to remain as open and transparent as we could in the process.

Many, many hours were spent on phone and virtual calls this year and everyone went the extra mile to make things work. We have a good board, clerk, treasurer and road crew. Adjustments to hours and days worked helped reduce contact and many people remained flexible for the benefit of their fellow workers.

Much was done with road improvement despite the difficulties. Security cameras were installed around the buildings.

Plans are being discussed to build a covered picnic area on the site of the old hall; new equipment is being purchased to improve our ditches and roads; and the family bathroom has been completed.


The long standing safety concern of the visibility on Ajax and Oak is being addressed and a solution has been found.

It's been a privilege to serve on the board for the last three years and chair the last two. I feel confident with the future of the township.

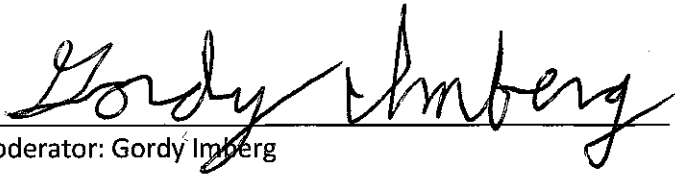
Respectfully,

Luke Soderling

\*All attachments are located in the minute book.

  
Attest by Clerk:

3-11-21  
Date:

  
Moderator: Gordy Imberg

At 9:32 PM the Board of Canvass was called to order.

Deputy Clerk Kirstie Hall issued the Oath of Canvass to the Supervisors.

**Motion** by Supervisor Soderling, seconded by Supervisor Paris to accept the election results. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Canvass adjourned at 9:35 PM.

**Oath & Summary Statement for  
Biwabik Township Election  
held on March 9, 2021**

**Election Judge Oath of Office:** "I ..... solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will perform the duties of election judge according to law and the best of my ability and will diligently endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting this election. I will perform my duties in a fair and impartial manner and not attempt to create an advantage for my party or for any candidate." M.S. 204B.24

<u>Susan Leitch</u>	
Judge	Judge
<u>Robyn Carlson</u>	
Judge	Judge
<u>Sean D. Korpi</u>	
Judge	Judge
<u>Doris Freeburg</u>	
Judge	Judge

A. Number of Persons Registered on Election Day	<u>632</u>
B. Number of New Registrations at the Polling Place	<u>2</u>
C. Number of Signatures on the Polling Place Roster	<u>98</u>
D. Number of Absentee Ballots	<u>13</u>
E. Number of Persons Voting (Add C. & D.)	<u>111</u>

Supervisor for a Term of <u>3</u> Years		Treasurer for a Term of <u>2</u> Years	
Name	# of Votes	Name	# of Votes
<u>Todd M. Hall</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>Julie Bluhm</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Lucas Soderling</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>Yvonne Hines</u>	<u>49</u>
Number of Defective Ballots for this Office	<u>0</u>	Number of Defective Ballots for this Office	<u>0</u>
Number of Blank Votes for this Office	<u>0</u>	Number of Blank Votes for this Office	<u>2</u>
<b>TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS OFFICE</b>	<u>111</u>	<b>TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS OFFICE</b>	<u>111</u>

# Biwabik Township Summary of Election held on March 9, 2021

**Certificate of Election Judges:** We, the undersigned election judges, do hereby certify the following:

1. That all of the ballots cast were properly checked and counted;
2. That the numbers entered on this summary statement correctly show the number of votes for each candidate.
3. That the national flag of the United States was flown during the time that the election judges were serving.

Sean D. Korpi Judge  
Doris Fredlund Judge  
Robyn Carlson Judge

Susan Lewicki Judge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Judge

## Board of Canvass

Todd Hall was declared elected Supervisor for the term of 3 years

Julie Blachar was declared elected Treasurer for the term of 2 years

## Canvassing Board of Supervisors:

[Signature] Supervisor  
Walt Huhtala Supervisor

James A. Paris Supervisor

Attest: Christa Hall, Clerk

Dated: 3/9/21



# CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL REPORT

(All of the information in this report is public information)

Name of candidate, committee or corporation JULIE Bluhm  
 Office sought or ballot question Treasurer District Burnsville township

Type of report \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign committee report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Association or corporation report  
X Final report

Period of time covered by report:  
 from 4-7 to 4-9-2021

## CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

Give the total for all contributions received during the period of time covered by this report. Contributions should be listed by type (money or in-kind) rather than contributor. See note on contribution limits on the back of this form. Use a separate sheet to itemize all contributions from a single source that exceeded \$100 during the calendar year. This itemization must include name, address, employer or occupation if self-employed, amount and date for these contributions.

CASH \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CASH-ON-HAND \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 IN-KIND + \$ 60.00  
 TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED = \$ 60.00

## DISBURSEMENTS

Include the amount, date and purpose for all disbursements made during the period of time covered by report. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Date	Purpose	Amount
4-7-2021	Campaign Add	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>60.00</u>

## CORPORATE PROJECT EXPENDITURES

Corporations must list any media project or corporate message project for which contribution(s) or expenditure(s) total more than \$200. Submit a separate report for each project. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Project title or description \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Purpose	Name and Address of Recipient	Expenditure or Contribution Amount
		<b>TOTAL</b>	

I certify that this is a full and true statement. Julie M Bluhm

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name Julie M Bluhm Telephone 218-742-7355 Email (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 4874 Birch Lane Gilbert Mn 55741

For Office Use Only: Name Julie Bluhm Office Treasurer Report Final



# CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL REPORT

(All of the information in this report is public information)

Name of candidate, committee or corporation Yvonne Hines

Office sought or ballot question Treasurer District \_\_\_\_\_

Type of report \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign committee report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Association or corporation report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Final report

Period of time covered by report:  
 from Jan 21 to March 21

## CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

Give the total for all contributions received during the period of time covered by this report. Contributions should be listed by type (money or in-kind) rather than contributor. See note on contribution limits on the back of this form. Use a separate sheet to itemize all contributions from a single source that exceeded \$100 during the calendar year. This itemization must include name, address, employer or occupation if self-employed, amount and date for these contributions.

CASH \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CASH-ON-HAND \$ 0  
 IN-KIND + \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## DISBURSEMENTS

Include the amount, date and purpose for all disbursements made during the period of time covered by report. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Date	Purpose	Amount
<u>2/4/21</u>	<u>fisher printing</u>	<u>40.00</u>
<u>2/4/21</u>	<u>ad in Range Shopper Newspaper</u>	<u>111.52</u>
<u>3/9/21</u>	<u>Hometown Focus Newspaper</u>	<u>80.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>231.52</u></b>

## CORPORATE PROJECT EXPENDITURES

Corporations must list any media project or corporate message project for which contribution(s) or expenditure(s) total more than \$200. Submit a separate report for each project. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Project title or description \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Purpose	Name and Address of Recipient	Expenditure or Contribution Amount
		<b>TOTAL</b>	

I certify that this is a full and true statement. Yvonne Hines 3/10/21  
 Signature Date

Printed Name Yvonne Hines Telephone 780-0371 Email (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 6544 Oak Drive Gilbert, MN 55741

Name Yvonne Hines Office Treasurer Report Final

For Office Use Only:

# CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL REPORT

*(All of the information in this report is public information)*

Name of candidate, committee or corporation Luke Soderling

Office sought or ballot question Supervisor District \_\_\_\_\_

Type of report \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Campaign committee report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Association or corporation report  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Final report

Period of time covered by report: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

Give the total for all contributions received during the period of time covered by this report. Contributions should be listed by type (money or in-kind) rather than contributor. See note on contribution limits on the back of this form. Use a separate sheet to itemize all contributions from a single source that exceeded \$100 during the calendar year. This itemization must include name, address, employer or occupation if self-employed, amount and date for these contributions.

CASH \$ 0 TOTAL CASH-ON-HAND \$ 0  
 IN-KIND + \$ 0  
 TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED = \$ 0

## DISBURSEMENTS

Include the amount, date and purpose for all disbursements made during the period of time covered by report. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Date	Purpose	Amount
<b>TOTAL</b>		

## CORPORATE PROJECT EXPENDITURES

Corporations must list any media project or corporate message project for which contribution(s) or expenditure(s) total more than \$200. Submit a separate report for each project. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Project title or description \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Purpose	Name and Address of Recipient	Expenditure or Contribution Amount
<b>TOTAL</b>			

I certify that this is a full and true statement. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3-16-21

Printed Name Luke Soderling Telephone 760-0570 Email (if available) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 6502 Cypress Ln Gilbert MN 55741

For Office Use Only: Name Luke Soderling Office Supervisor Report Final