

**Denmark Township Annual Meeting
March 11, 2008**

Supervisors Present: Kathy Higgins, Gary Dixon, Jim Keller and Steve Kramer.

Absent: Joe Moore

Call to order: Clerk called meeting called to order at 8:15 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Select Moderator: Motion Gordy Herman/2nd Norm Strohfus to nominate Peg Powers as Moderator. No other nominations. Motion Norm Strohfus/2nd Pat Johnson-Keller to close nominations. **Motion Carried.** Peg Powers assumed Chair.

Moderator Powers acknowledged and welcomed State Representative Denny McNamara. Representative McNamara addressed residents stating that he was a strong supporter of Town government. Representative McNamara discussed the Hastings Bridge repairs and welcomed any comments/concerns on any issues.

2007 Annual Meeting Minutes: 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed by the public rather than read aloud. Motion Pat Johnson-Keller/2nd Gordy Herman to accept the 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried.**

Gopher Bounty: (currently at \$2.50) Motion Norm Strohfus/2nd Gordy Herman to recommend keeping the gopher bounty at \$2.50 a gopher. **Motion Carried.**

Legal Paper: (currently Hastings Star Gazette) Motion Gordy Herman/2nd Frank Femling to recommend keeping Hastings Star Gazette as legal newspaper. **Motion Carried.**

Supervisors Salary: Current pay is \$300 per month for Chair and \$70 per meeting. Motion Tony Sieben/2nd Frank Femling to recommend keeping Supervisor pay at Chair \$300 per month and \$70 per meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Conditional Use Permit Review: Keller reported that the Town has about 40 Conditional Use Permits. Tiller's permit was recently renewed for a 5 year period. Keller stated that Tiller's permit application was very well put together and well thought out and that their environmental/water studies were quite thorough. Another recent Conditional Use Permit that was granted is Snaza-Rase Auto-Suburban. Any Conditional Use Permit questions can be directed to Jim Keller.

Moving the Town Election To November: Kramer reported that the Board passed a resolution to put the question of moving the Town election from March to November on the November 2008 General Election ballot. Having the Town election in November rather than March is more cost efficient. The cost of the March election is about \$1,100. The voter turnout in March has been 23-47% in the past 5 elections. The voter turnout for the last 3 November General Elections has been 72-83%. November elections would be every even year and a Board Supervisor term would be for 4 years. Once adopted, there is no established procedure for moving the election date back to March. Resident discussion

included a mix of preferences regarding changing the township election from March to November.

Motion Gordy Herman/2nd Tony Sieben to request that the Board withdraw its resolution putting the question of moving the Township election from March to November on the November 2008 general election ballot. Vote was by a count of hands.

Ayes-9 Nays-10 **Motion not carried.** Keller stated Board will discuss at next Board meeting.

Supervisor Reports:

Dixon:

- 2007 the Town crack sealed and sealcoated cul-de-sacs on 65th, 66th, 67th, 80th, Margo, 80th Street and Oakgreen Ave. 2,953 Tons of gravel was placed on gravel roads. 2008 road projects and the Intersection of 122nd and Morgan will be looked at during the 2008 Road Tour. PITs (Playground in the summer) will be conducted at the Town Hall in 2008, Monday and Fridays. Because of Bridge repairs, coming from Hastings this summer could be problematic. PITs group is looking for teens on the North side of the river to help this year. Dixon stated that any junk noticed in the ditches can be reported to the Town Clerk. Resident asked if there was any better gravel mixture for the roads to keep the gravel from washing away. Dixon stated that the Town was using the best mix for gravel roads.

Higgins:

- Higgins reported that there will be a major increase in Denmark's cost for fire and ambulance services for 2008. The City of Hastings did a management study last year and negotiated new rates with the Hastings Rural Fire Association. (comprised of the Townships of Denmark, Marshan, Ravenna, Nininger, Vermillion and the City of Vermillion). Costs to each member are based on the taxable market value of each community. Re: Hastings Bridge Repair. The bridge repairs begin in April, however, it will not be reduced to one lane until the first week in May. A bus shuttle may be set up on the North side of the Bridge. This bus will receive priority lane access during the work period, as will school buses and emergency vehicles. Time line for a new Bridge may be 5 years. Denmark is participating in the Hastings Bridge Coalition, a group formed to deal with assuring that the Hastings bridge will be replaced sooner than on MnDOT's original schedule.

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Kramer:

- Septic pipe leak and basement sheetrock have been repaired. Spray insulation may be answer for insulating crawl space. Building was sprayed for bug control. Lights outside of building will be repaired. Lights in Town Hall have been cleaned and energy efficient bulbs are being used. Town continues to install fire signs for new addresses.

Keller:

- Represents and is Chair for LSCWMO. WMO is in process of finishing revised Joint Powers Agreement and rules. Keller also represents Denmark on Redrock Corridor. Town receives recycling grant from Washington County. Process includes 4-H clubs cleaning Denmark ditches and recycling education.

2007 Financial Report: Summary financial reports consisting of Revenues of \$520,028 and Expenditures of \$509,389 were supplied to the public. Detail reports were entered into record at the February 4, 2008 Board Of Audit and have been posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Town Hall prior to the Annual Meeting. 2009 Budget recommendations will be made at the September reconvening of the Annual Meeting.

Other Business:

Comp Plan and Survey: 355 Comp Plan surveys were returned. Survey results will be part of the Comp Plan, which will be posted on the Denmark website shortly. Survey will also be discussed in the newsletter.

Water Testing: Extensive testing in the Township has been done by the MN Dept of Health for groundwater contamination. Testing results are on the MN. Dept. Of Health website.

Incorporation Update: Resident opinions varied on the issue of incorporation. Board consensus is to gather information on the impact of incorporation and get the info out to the public in the near future.

Election Results:

Moderator Powers read election results:

Votes cast at polling site: 48

Votes cast absentee: 0

Total people voting: 48

<u>Seat 4</u>		<u>Seat 5</u>	
Kathy Higgins-	32	Gary Dixon-	41
Write Ins-	<u>12</u>	Write Ins-	<u>05</u>
Total Votes Cast-	44	Total Votes Cast-	46

9:57 PM **Motion Norm Strohfus/2nd Frank Femling to recess to September 2, 2008 for the purpose of Budget recommendations. Motion Carried.**

Becky Herman
Denmark Township Clerk/Treasurer