**Wilton Township**

**Annual Town Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2023**

Township Clerk, Jody Thatcher, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gynith Borden moved to nominate Jerry Kinsella as moderator. Ray Nugent seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. Clerk Jody Thatcher swore in Jerry Kinsella as Moderator.

Clerk, Jody Thatcher read the minutes of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Gynith Borden reported there was an error in $2,500 being transferred to the Cemetery account instead of the approved $2,250. She will correct it by transferring $250 from the Cemetqry Fund back to the Township Fund. Ray Nugent moved to approve the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Minutes, with Gynith making the transfer correction, as presented. Alan Christiansen seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, motion carried. 2021 Annual Town Meeting Minutes Approved.

Moderator Jerry Kinsella asked for the Annual Treasurer's report. Township Supervisor Gynith Borden reported all accounts are available for review. All accounts are audited and are in good standing.

The reports include the Town Account, Road and Bridge. Future Office Fund, General Assistance, Bridge Aid, Cemetery, and Community Building. The reports were on display and available for examination for the duration of the meeting.

**Supervisor Report:**

Gynith Borden reported There is currently $50,711.36 in the town account and payroll is $36,150 leaving a surplus of about $26K -$28K in surplus. She recommends transferring $5,500 directly to the Community Building Loan.

She also stated Phil Borelli reached out to her to let us know there is a company, TES Patel Managing Partner, interested in putting a solar farm on an empty 10 acre parcel. On the NE corner of Arsenal and Walsh to which Ray stated there will need to be road restrictions and road repairs will need to be covered by the company. She stated Phil is not in favor of this project.

**Road Commissioner Report:**

Ray reported the referendum did not pass. He stressed the importance of the bridge tax and how unsafe our bridges are. He stated he has to spend more money on signs and barricades for the bridges and that money in turn does not get spent on the roads. He stated the Road District can only get grants if there is an established bridge tax in place. If the referendum doesn’t pass, the township can end up with many closed roads. He also reported there has been some road deterioration and creek issues. To hire someone would be too expensive. He stated there is still a wooden bridge in the township that is not safe, school buses travel across our bridges and they are not safe. Ray stated he is aware no one wants their taxes to be raised, neither does he, but this is a necessity. He recalled a bridge collapsing in the past in the township and it was more work and money than if it would have just been maintained. Ray stated he has already put up jersey barricades on the bridge by the old school and he knows people are not happy about it, but it is for safety reasons. Some of our bridges are over 100 years old and those who live on hard roads are not affected by these bridges but need to realize it is a real safety concern to a large portion of the township.

He also reported there is more and more traffic on Wilton Township roads each day causing damage. The roads are rough now due to an easy winter; they need to be graded and need materials put down, but due to having to spend 28K to move materials from a community members location to the road district, funds are down. Ray will be waiting for after the rainy season to start road work. There is brush that will be removed from Gerde’s woods.

**Planning Commission:**

**Community Building Report:**

Carmen reported they increased the rental fee from $125 to $150 for a resident application with no alcohol. Non-residence contract went up $100. She stated non-resident is the majority of the rentals and there is quite a few events booked thru September. She reported Suzzanne Bramble was sworn in as the third community building manager this past year. Carmen stated the septic tank was pumped, there are two lids that were cracked which were repaired along with the large furnace being replaced. She received a notification from the County that the floor was inspected, and we passed. All panels were replaced outside above the windows. She possibly wants to replace the stage door and the furnace room door along with painting the other doors. The driveway was leveled and rolled. She is looking to have a new flagpole and flag installed for at about $700. She stated the covid relief money should cover the reimbursement of the furnace and the new doors.

**Cemetery Report:**

Alan reported there have been several funerals the past months and 5-6 plots have been sold. Lots are currently $600 and he is looking to increase that price. The balance of the account is currently about 2K. Mowing is the biggest expense, which doesn’t leave much left over for projects. He would like to see tax support in the future. He reported there is also a 5K CD for the cemetery. He stated he is always looking for volunteers to help clean up the cemetery and anyone is welcome to do so at any time to pick up branches and debris. Clerk Thatcher stated she would add that information to the web site.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Ray Nugent made a motion to donate $1,500 from the Township Fund to Helping Hands in Peotone, Steve Quigley seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, no Nay, motion carried.

Ray Nugent made a motion to donate $500 from the Township Fund to Peotone High School Senior Scholarship, Michael McKinney seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, no Nay, motion carried.

Gynith Borden made a motion to transfer $5,500 of surplus funds from the Township Fund to the Community Building account directly paid to the loan, Steve Quigley seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, no Nay, motion carried.

Kelly Farmer made a motion to transfer $15,000.00 of surplus funds from the Township Fund to the Road and Bridge account, Carmen Kinsella seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, no Nay, motion carried.

Kelly Farmer made a motion to transfer 3,000.00 of surplus funds from the Township Fund to the Cemetery account, Ray Nugent seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, no Nay, motion carried.

Steve Quigley made a motion to transfer $2,500.00 of surplus funds from the Township Fund to the Community Building account, Alan Christiansen seconded the motion. All in favor with Aye, no Nay, motion carried.

**Public Forum:**

**Adjournment**

The next Annual Town Meeting will take place at the Wilton Township Community Building on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Ray Nugent moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM, Gynith Borden seconded the motion, 2022 Annual Town Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody M. Thatcher

Wilton Township Clerk