

EDNA TOWNSHIP REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 8, 2011

CALL TO ORDER 8:15 p.m. - Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT:

Rick Sonnenberg	Van Kalinoski	Francis Genereux	Odell Nelson
Marcia Davis	Crystal Johnson	Stephen Johnson	Tim Moenkedick
Carol Myhre	Bonita Haider	James Haider	Dave Moenkedick
Neil Myhre	Dennis Anderson	Maryann Anderson	Ray Sazama
Marcia Wiegandt	Ardell Wiegandt	Doug Ackling	Marty Sazama
Don Garber	Herman Moenkedick	Kevin Lehmkuhl	Paul Guck
Ron Palubicki	Louie Sazama	Gary D. Benson	Carol Schultz??
Bob Walde	Linda Nigg	Rebecca Norris	Dick Dubord
Patricia Dubord	Sharon Guck	Sue Eckes	Charles Stark
Angela Willenbring	Dawn Edvall	Leslie Konley	Terry Marthaler
Dave Heyer, Engineer	Joe Tschida	Kris Svingen, Attorney	Pru Konley
Bill Norris	Dennis Sazama	James Nigg	Karen Marthaler
Carol Nelson			

1. Clerk Nelson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Clerk Nelson made the request for the nomination of moderator from the audience. Odell Nelson nominated Don Garber to serve as moderator. No other nominations were made. The audience voted in favor of Don Graber as Moderator. After he was introduced, Mr. Garber asked the audience to turn off all cell phones. The audience was encouraged to sign in, pick up copies of the agenda, the Clerk’s Report & the Treasurer’s Report.
3. **Agenda:** Mr. Garber asked; “Are there any questions about the agenda?” There were none. Marcia Davis made the motion to accept the agenda, Dick Dubord 2nd. All in favor say aye. Agenda approved.
4. **Report of 2010 annual meeting** was read. Corrections to be made: In Terry Marthaler’s Hospital Report, #7 should be listed as bonds, not bids. The motion to approve the report was made by Marcia Davis. Terry Marthaler 2nd. The report was approved.
5. **Treasurer’s Report Summary** was read by Karen Marthaler. Questions? None. Marcia Davis made the motion to accept the report. Francis Generax 2nd. Report approved.
6. **Moving Township Election to November, every other year to coincide with the general election**
At a past annual meeting, there was concern about the cost of holding a separate, March Township annual election. This is no longer a concern as costs are shared among Otter Tail County Townships that must use the AutoMark voting machines. Nelson explained the details of changing election dates & the resulting change in supervisors terms required. Straw vote; are you in favor of the changing annual election to coincide with the general/federal/state elections? 0 hands were raised.
7. **Hospital report** - Terry Marthaler gave the report of Perham’s Hospital Annual Meeting, held 2/22/11.
Highlights
Eileen Reed & Rob Reed, Jane Winston, Dr Josh Chapman are new staff members. At the recent Hospital Annual Meeting employees were recognized for their years of service. There were three people who have worked for thirty years, four who have worked for 35 years, and five employees have been employed for forty years. The Capital Campaign raised 3.4 million dollars. All revenue bonds sold quickly. In December, 2010, MNDOT awarded a grant to Perham for building an additional highway interchange. This is a 7 million dollar project, half of which is expected to be paid by MNDOT.
8. **Fire Department Report** Supervisor Norris attended the March 3, 2011, Fire Department Annual Meeting. Their budget report was posted. An increased amount of training & more turn-out gear was purchased. The City of Dent is looking at building a separate building for first responders, with an expected cost of \$40,000. They also want to replace their 1976 truck with a newer model. The payment for Edna Township for continued service is \$21,600, due in payments made June 1, 2011 & November 1, 2011. Edna Township had 25 fire calls, 75 rescue calls in 2010. The City of Dent is seeking grants from state to offset some of their costs.
- 9-A **Road report** Supervisor Nigg
 - a. Wolf Lake Road - was not recognized as being a problem, until the rainfall in the fall of 2010. The amount of rain exposed road weaknesses. Three emergency visits were made to Wolf Lake Road by the Supervisors. The road had to be kept open for harvest. With the current amount of snow, the road may need to be closed this spring. To get this road to a position where it is solid, will be expensive.

b. On Big McDonald Lane, Walde Lake is creeping over the road. There is not a natural outlet into Bid McDonald. The culvert was filled in when the road was developed. Townships do not have the authority to alter the course of water. Sandbagging may be needed this spring.

c. Heart Lake Road had been selected for repair during Supervisors' Spring inspections in the past. This project was never done. Edna Township spent over \$5000 for Heart Lake Road repairs in 2010. Most of the road is in nice shape.

d. Wood Duck Loop – new asphalt surface was done in 2009. Erosion from rain has worked underneath the surface of the road. If someone caught a wheel on the side of the road, most likely their vehicle would overturn into water. It needed a 3 to 5 road bed, reseeded, silt fence in wetlands. If seed does not take, it will be reseeded.

e. South Paul Lake Drive – When the road was first developed, wood was buried under the road. This wood was disintegrating. Nineteen loads of old wood were pulled out of one spot. This road will need to be resurfaced.

f. West Little McDonald - 2 requests were made fall, 2010; 1 = identify all the repair cost for West Little McDonald Drive. At this time last year, \$83,000+ was spent to correct this road or to return it to original condition. The previous supervisors hired David Heyer Land Surveying and Engineering. There was a change order needed after the bids were let. On July 3, rain washed out the entire area between Charlie Stark & Larry Mollins. Twice this road was repaired in July due to washouts. Erosion controls had to be in place. MN Pollution Control was pleased with the work done. Land & Resource Mgmt approved the after-the-fact permit. MNPC required culverts to be in place before Thanksgiving 2009. This road is now basically complete. The road bed held during October heavy rains. If a car hits a rock dam, it should not be a liability to Edna Twp. The rocks are size 2 riprap & follow state guidelines

g. Flooding concerns - Wolf Lake Road, Big McDonald Drive by Walde Lake, 430th Street are immediate concerns. Sandbags will be available, free if you truck them in. Supervisors Nigg & Norris went to Township Lobby Day in St Paul, to speak with local legislatures to find funding for Edna Township.

Keith Langseth will offer a bonding bill to deal with flooding issues along the Red. Townships are hoping to attach their costs to it. Edna Township sent in a claim of \$90,000 for flood damages in 2010. There is a slight hope that some of those expenses will be recovered.

Questions: Dawn Edvall asked if the \$5000.00 limit on requiring written bid/quote is too restrictive? Supervisor Norris answered, "It is a concern. If that dollar amount could be increased to a number the residents like, it would be helpful for the Supervisors. Using the bid process slows down emergency responses".

Motion: Ardell Wiegandt made the motion to raise the limits of quotes to \$10,000. Dawn Edvall 2nd. Discussion: Moenedick mentioned the \$5000 limit was put in to keep honest people honest, as this was a problem in the past. Supervisors can make changes in emergencies. Dick Dubord states the \$10,000 limit is still low, should we go higher? Dick Dubord, moved to amend motion to \$15,000, 2nd by Francis Generex. The majority of voting residents voted yes to approve the \$15,000 motion.

10-B. Road Report Supervisor Norris

a. State of Minnesota documents 40 miles of road in Edna Township as of 1985. Supervisors measured road miles this spring and came up 54 miles of township roads. Norris has contacted Rick West to add the additional 9 miles to our total. This may help with revenue. Any roads taken over by Edna Township, need to be recorded by Supervisors.

b. Supervisors have identified 26 miles of road needing crack sealing. Rick West recommends using an elasticized product that may last up to 4 years, at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Supervisors would like to do section by section. However, all roads need doing now. Waiting to maintain these roads will cause further trouble. There have been several road heaves that may need repair. About 7 miles of gravel roads need resurfacing. It does take about 300 yards of gravel to raise the road 1" per mile, costing approximately \$45,900.

c. South Paul Lake Road – A 30 x 30 foot section of asphalt needed to be replaced, costing \$6,000

10-C Road Report Supervisor Dennis Sazama

Retro Reflectivity for all Road signs: Supervisor Dennis Sazama referred to the federal mandate to replace all signs to a Federal code, regarding reflectivity and post width. The federal government requires posts of a smaller diameter than have been used previously. There is no additional financing provided to aid the inventory & planning, due by 2012. The total project is required to be finished by 2015. There are some measures available that will help cut costs, such as recycling old signs. Supervisors will watch how this plays out. Inventory will reduce the total number of signs.

11. Recovery report for West Little McDonald Drive: David Heyer, Engineer & Kris Svingen, Attorney
Could the costs paid by Edna Township be recovered from contractors Custom Earth Moving & Sazama Excavating?
MN Association of Townships Insurance Trust does not pay for pursuing criminal charges. The criminal charges against Edna Township for beginning this project without permits or approval of residents of West Little McDonald Drive (Kerbs Lake road) have now been dismissed by Otter Tail County. Attorney Svingen believes \$44,000 could possibly be recovered from contractor, for cost overruns. If the contractor has insurance and that insurance is involved, it might be possible to recover some money. MATIT will pay for defending Edna Township but will not pay for recovery of spent money. Legal fees charged prior to mediation would run \$2,000 - \$3,000. After mediation, the costs will be up to \$8-

\$10,000, with a potential cost of \$15,000. Does this group wish to make a motion as to go ahead or drop it?
Resident's Question; If it goes to mediation, would it be an actual payment or would it just go to deciding what will happen. Would like to see this move forward if there is an injustice.

Engineer Heyer = costs involved are; 1) finding culverts that were covered, 2) renting equipment to search for culverts, 3) getting road designed to satisfy criminal charges, residents, & Edna Township.

Question: What areas disturbed in whole project had to be redone?

Answer: 40% of original work had to be redone, plus engineer's fees, attorney's fees, communication costs of trying to keep everyone apprised of events, and attorney fees to satisfy criminal charges. Mr. Garber asked residents if they would like to take a straw vote on chasing the contractor for reimbursement of costs. 20 people were in favor, 16 residents voted against pursuing the repayment of charges. This will be discussed between the Supervisors and Attorney Svingen.

12. Claims by landowners for destruction & loss of trees & soil.

MATIT denied responsibility for claims on behalf of Edna Twp. Attorney Svingen informed the residents. Nigg would like to have some help for residents. Svingen would recommend MATIT pay attorney's fees for filing a judgment so Edna Twp can get a release.

13. Preliminary budget.

Budget concerns

Costs for 20 miles crack sealing = \$30,000, **b.** gravel = \$45,000, **c.** \$6,000 for South Paul Lake Drive

It is less expensive to maintain gravel roads. Paved roads will go all to pieces suddenly if not maintained.

They have an expensive maintenance cost.

14. LEVY

Current local dedicated levies for 2010

Dora = 726 residents, 12.100% levy

Hobart = 733 residents, 8.566% levy

Dead = 452 residents 11.518%

Perham = 931 residents 10.261% levy

Gorman = 398 residents, 15.050% levy

Edna = 921 residents, 7.652% levy

Neighboring twp have been raising levies over time, to protect their roads.

Question: Would Edna Twp residents be willing to raising their levy in line with the lower percentage range of neighboring Twps? Raising levy to bring in \$300,700 would cost about \$35 per \$100,000 of property value. This would be 12.752% levy charges. This means, residents present would be voting for a tax increase for Edna Township.

Audience Comment – It is important to maintain road quality and to recover from road work costs due to the 2009 disaster.

Question: If levy is raised, can it be dropped in the future? Answer: Yes, each levy has to be certified by August mtg. There are no statutory limits as to how high a levy can be raised or to how long the levy remains at that rate.

Levy is based on tax carrying capacity. Ardell Weigandt makes the motion to accept the budget with \$297,100 in levy amount. Ray Sazama 2nd. Motion was approved by the voting residents

15. Website

Supervisor Norris moved forward with developing a website for Edna Township, after discussion at regular Township board meetings. With zero start up costs and \$111/year registration/subscription charges, website www.ednatownship.org is available to anyone who chooses to view it. This site will include clerk's reports from board meetings and financial reports from the treasurer. Viewers can stay current with what is happening and Edna Township will be more transparent. Bid Requests will be done on the website. The Perham Public Library will help you find the site on library computers if you are not familiar with websites or do not own a computer.

16. Donation requests -

Ardell Wiegandt made the motion to approve \$750 donation to Perham Public Library Marcia Davis 2nd. Motion approved by verbal vote of the residents.

EOT Historical society= no motion made

History museum = Marcia Davis to speak to that. Museums have brought 2 million \$\$\$ in to the community since 2008

Marcia Davis moved to give \$250 to the History Museum. Dick Dubord 2nd. Motion approved.

(Through a clerical error, this donation was not paid. It will be paid this year.)

Perham area community center requested a donation. No motion made.

East Otter Tail County Fair = Marcia Davis made the motion to donate. There was no second.

17. 2013 Annual Election will be 4-8 p.m. on March 13, 2013. Annual Meeting is at 8:15 on 3/13/2013

18. Other:

a. Question asked, "Will Edna always need to hire an engineer? Response, "Only for special projects where that expertise is necessary."

b. Sazama moved to raise gopher bounty to \$2.50. Joe Tschida 2nd. Motion approved.

19. Election Results

Dennis Sazama was elected to a three year term as supervisor
Jim Nigg was elected to a one year term as supervisor
Karen Marthaler was elected to a two year term as treasurer.

20. Dave Moenedick made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Marcia Davis seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Carol Nelson, Clerk of Edna Township

The Board of Canvas met immediately following this meeting to certify election results as accurate.
All Township officers serve as the Board of Canvas.