

FLYING FINN
7503 LEVANDER RD
EMBARRASS, MN 55732
APRIL 2021
ISSUE #357



**MN/IRS Tax Deadline
Extended to 5/17/21**

Food Distribution at Embarrass Town Hall – 4/1/21

*Good Friday 4/2/21
Easter, 4/4/21*



Earth Day – 4/22/21

**Embarrass Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Please submit materials for the May 2021 issue to the
Embarrass Clerk's Office by April 24, 2021.

APRIL 2021

				1  Conversational Finn 1-3 p.m.	2 Good Friday	3
4 Happy Easter!  Hall Rental	5 Flower & Garden Club meeting canceled	6 Ladies Coffee	7	8 Conversational Finn 1-3 p.m.	9	10
11	12 Arrowhead Bookmobile Four Corners 5-6 p.m. SISU Meeting	13 Ladies Coffee	14 Township Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	15 Conversational Finn 1-3 p.m. Fair Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Timber Hall	16	17
18	19	20 Ladies Coffee	21 Flying Finn Deadline	22  Conversational Finn 1-3 p.m.	23	24
25	26	27 Ladies Coffee	28	29 Conversational Finn 1-3 p.m.	30	

FROM THE EDITOR:

The Flying Finn strives to represent both Embarrass and the surrounding area. To submit articles, advertisements, community notices, letters to the editor, photos, artwork, etc. for the newsletter, mail them to Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732, or e-mail them to embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net. Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address. Photos or other materials will be returned as soon as possible. The township regrets that it is unable to purchase or reimburse for materials which are published. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any letter to the editor or other submitted material. Call 218-984-2084 with any questions. ***** Thank you. Diane Nelmark, Editor

Town of Embarrass

Regular Board Meeting

March 10, 2021

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

Visitors: None Present

Present: Roy Worsham, Gene Wright, Bernie Mettler (by phone), Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese

Meeting was called to order by Gene Wright at 6:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes. Carried 2-0.

Supervisors review the Post Office payments and portion put into savings from the lease payment from USPS. Twin Metals donated \$5,000 towards the Visitor/Information Center restroom project which was put in savings with the previous \$3,000 from Operation Round Up until needed for the project. Town Hall roof repair costs was discussed. *Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried 2-0.*

Roads – Maintenance noticed while on a road check that culvert on Hanka Nevala is frozen and there is also a dip in the road that needs to be looked at. Supervisors discuss the county steaming the culvert but until frost comes out not much can be done. Worsham will check into the dip possibly caused by culvert.

Post Office – Hot water heater was installed, and electrician replaced the amp required for the water heater. Supervisors discuss options to keep the crawlspace heated by a space heater and for Boese to purchase a winter watchman to be installed that would alert the Post Office Clerk that it may be too cold in the crawlspace.

Maintenance – Maintenance report was reviewed by supervisors.

Resolution was signed to accept donation from Twin Metal for the restroom project.

Cemetery survey completed in 2014 by Benchmark that was in question at the annual meeting. Clerk informs the supervisors of the area surveyed, pinned and payments made.

Campground caretaker was discussed. *Motion/Wright: Second/Mettler to hire Lori Worsham as the Heritage Park Campground Host May 1 through part of October. Carried 2-0. Worsham abstained.* Discussion was had on the holding tank at the campground and making it accessible from both sides.

Logging has been completed on the township property that was previously approved. Maintenance is questioning the supervisors on how they want to handle the open roadway by closing off to public.

Tour meetings were discussed. Supervisors would like to meet with Bjornrud before board meeting if possible.

Trailer replacement was discussed. Supervisors will come in and look to see if the trailers that township maintenance currently use will work for using with the wheeler if sides are installed.

Motion/Worsham: Second/Wright to accept the claims (17753-17775, \$7,519.78) and correspondence. Carried 2-0.

Wright adjourns meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Boese

Town of Embarrass

Annual Meeting

March 9, 2021

PENDING TOWN APPROVAL

Present: Bernie Mettler, Gene Wright, Bill Wright, Bonnie Davies, Roger Davies, Janine Patten, Roland Fowler, Roy Worsham, Debbie Nelson, Ericka LaMar, Jack LaMar

Clerk, Jennifer Boese called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance and asks if there is a volunteer to be moderator. Bernie Mettler nominates Bill Wright, denied by Wright. Gene Wright voted in as meeting moderator. *Vote 5-3.*

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed by those present. *Motion/Fowler: Second/Davies to accept the 2020 minutes. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.*

2020 Treasurers Report was reviewed by those present. Bill Wright asks why a certain sale of investment is not listed as a transfer. It was explained to Wright when entered into the CTAS program that is how it is to be listed for the MN State Auditor's Office. *Motion/Davies: Second/Worsham to approve the 2020 Treasurer's Report. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.*

Road Report. Davies comments that the roads were very well maintained in 2020 by Frank Maki. Chloride was done previously and will be good for another two years.

2021 Projects and Goals

- Roadside garbage pick-up in mid-May.
- Finish grant work on the remaining 2-sided fire number signs requested to clerk by Fire Department.
- Continue with restroom project at the Visitor/Information Center. Clerk gives update and states that upcoming meetings with Commissioner McDonald to discuss more funding sources.
- More projects and goals for 2021 will be identified during the Property Inspection Meeting and monthly board meetings throughout the year.

2021 Planned Events

- Town Board meetings held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
- Local Board of Appeal April 15
- Property Inspection Meeting, May?
- Memorial Day Service at Cemetery, May 31
- Holiday ice Candle Celebration, December 18
- SISU Meetings held monthly on every third Monday
- Sauna Day June 12
- Embarrass Regional Fair August 27 – 29
- Community Night Out at the Seitaniemi September 12

2020 Maintenance Report

- 4-Wheeler – new battery, starter relay, starter, front and rear brakes, switch and wiring for winch and cutting edge for plow installed
- Grader – prepped for use if needed to plow township roads, new cutting edge installed, fuel leak found (repaired by Dave Bialke)

- Ford F150 – steering problem resolved, new rear tires
- GMC – rear shocks, stabilizer links, front end alignment – subsequent single vehicle accident and totaled by insurance company
- John Deere lawn tractor – starting problems over several months, to Five Seasons on several occasions for repairs
- Snow blower purchased
- Trailers – wiring and lights replaced as needed, wheel bearings repacked
- Town Hall – started off year with roof leaks (again), Office fax machine ruined; inspected later in season by Bill Wright, boots installed on vent pipes; gutters removed from front left side and rear; patch work and painting exterior trim and doors; stained steps; heated work area in pole barn completed
- Info Center – Town hall gutter repurposed and installed on rear of Info Center, stand and cover for Garden Club water barrel fabricated
- Post Office – septic tank leaking water in, repairs effected via Wingers; furnace problem, clogged condensate drains, repaired by Iron Range Plumbing and Heating, requires annual maintenance by certified technician to maintain warranty
- Nelimark – sky light damaged and replaced on outhouse
- Rink Area – second outhouse completed; repairs made to heating shack roof
- Campground – leaks found during water system recharging freeze damage, repaired by Bill/Jared Wright; new gutter installed on shower house; ADA thresholds installed in showers; water leaks at sites 5 and 9 repaired; GFCI outlet site 5 replaced; 30 Amp breaker site 8 replaced, new heater installed in large shower room; light pole was repaired by Dean Boese
- Township Roads – limbing and brushing along roadways to clear signage and for plow height clearance
- All maintenance items on the 2020 Property and Roads Inspection completed

2020 Board of Audit

2020 Board of Audit was completed and approved by board. All quarterly audits completed and approved in 2020. Board of Audit in meeting packet and kept on record.

2020 Fire Department Report

Report was emailed to clerk due to Covid-19, unable to attend. Full report kept in files with minutes. 1,399 volunteer hours with no lost time accidents and 94 runs total. Few improvements were purchase of gas detection meter for detecting toxic gases. Purchase of six full sets turn out gear and three medical bags. Continuing all of training with restrictions and online. Installation of the 2-sided fire number signs is delayed till 2021 due to Covid shipping was delayed. In 2021 continuation of the installation of 2-sided fire number signs. Installation of a helicopter landing pad at the fire department. Possible installation of exhaust removal system in the engine bay areas to help eliminate one more cause of firefighter cancer. The department has determined that a 3% increase will continue for the 2022 contract.

Embarrass Regional Fair Report

Janine Patten, secretary for the fair board reports that the next meeting on March 18 will be discussing the fair taking place in August. Preparing for the fair has been ongoing. Volunteers needed. Bookings for the Timber Hall have been taking place. New LED lights were installed at the Timber Hall. The fair board is requesting for \$500 of labor from the township employees as in previous years and the use of tables.

Liquor license will be checked into by Patten, then to be approved by board and signed off by clerk. *Motion/Fowler: Second/Gene Wright to approve \$500 in labor and use of tables to the fair board. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.* Volunteers and board members are needed. If interested to call Jerry Meier at 984-3506.

2020 SISU Report

Report was sent by SISU President, Marlin Bjornrud and included in the meeting packet. Report to be kept in records with the minutes. Covid has been the cause of events cancelled for SISU. Community Night out was held, and the turnout was good. The Apostolic Lutheran Church was painted, and the process has begun for evaluation and nomination to get that structure placed on the National Register of Historic Places. East side of basement will be painted and new gutters around the building. Annual meeting will be planned in 2021. Museum will open tentatively in July. Sauna days will be held on June 12.

The agreement between SISU and the Township will need to be discussed at a future meeting and renewed.

2020 Heritage Park Campground Report

Clerk received a visit from the caretaker Lorrie before the meeting to inform that unfortunately she will not be returning as the caretaker this season as previously thought. Will be discussed at the March board meeting. 2020 was a busy year despite the Covid pandemic. Campground is booked for the August fair and reservations have been made for other dates.

2020 Historical Tours

Tours were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid. Embarrass Town Board will be meeting with SISU President Marlin Bjornrud in the upcoming months to discuss tours. Mike Salo was the tour guide in 2019 and at this time we are unsure if he will be returning as tour guide.

Presentation and Proposal of the 2022 Levy (\$162,500)

2022 Proposed levy

FUND	2019	2020	2021	2022
100 – General	\$93,000	\$87,000	\$93,000	\$93,000
225 – Road & Bridge	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$8,500	\$6,000
226 – Fire	\$26,500	\$28,000	\$29,000	\$28,000
227 – Town Hall	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
230 – Recreation	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
231 – PERA	\$3,500	\$4,300	\$5,000	\$5,000
232 – Cemetery	0	0	0	0
233 – Insurance	\$8,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500
401 – Capital	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$7,000
260 – Historic Properties Fund	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
TOTAL Levy	\$154,000	\$153,000	\$166,000	\$162,500

Discussion was had on the lowering of the levy. Concerns about rising costs of items for running the township, possible minimum wage increase, gas prices, transferring of funds in 2020 to cover costs, and preparing for future costs the township will have. Davies talks about some upcoming projects, that will be needed to be addressed soon: town hall roof, blacktop in front of hall, campground much needed

water and electrical updates, Information/Visitor Center restroom project and other items that are going to have to be completed sometime in the future to keep up with maintenance on certain properties and feels we need to plan ahead not scramble for the funds. Several spoke up about the levy proposal presented and agreed with Davies stating it should at least be the same as 202, not lowered. If the levy is lowered, the following year it will have to be raised much higher than the \$3,500 being discussed now to cover costs that were a struggle to cover and try to catch up on unfinished projects. Several things have been put off because of low funds. A couple of residents present were not in agreement with an increase to the proposed levy and as all others want to hold the levy at \$166,000. It was stated that the Township levy is a small portion of a resident's property tax increasing, the county and school represent a larger portion.

Property tax increase was further discussed. Cemetery was brought up, in the near future another section will need to be cleared out, do we have enough for the cost? Clerk will look into what was surveyed. After much discussion, *Motion/LaMar: Second/Davies to keep the 2022 levy the same as 2021 and to put the extra \$3,500 into the general fund which would keep the levy at \$166,000. 2 - opposed, 10 - in favor. Motion carries.*

2022 Approved Levy

FUND	2022
100 – General	\$96,500
225 – Road & Bridge	\$6,000
226 – Fire	\$28,000
227 – Town Hall	\$8,000
230 – Recreation	\$4,000
231 – PERA	\$5,000
232 – Cemetery	0
233 – Insurance	\$9,500
401 – Capital	\$7,000
260 – Historic Properties Fund	\$2,000
TOTAL Levy	\$166,000

The next Annual Meeting will be held on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Gene Wright adjourns meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by, Jennifer Boese

Clerks Corner

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting on March 9. The minutes are provided in this issue of the Flying Finn **PENDING TOWN APPROVAL.**

With spring finally here it means the opening of the Heritage Campground in May.

The LBAE (Local Board of Appeal & Equalization) meeting will be April 15 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Embarrass Town Hall.

Roadside cleanup will be the entire month of May. Garbage bags can be picked up at the Town Hall. More information will be in next month's issue of the Flying Finn. Let us all pitch in to keep our roads clean!

Happy Easter to you all.

Jennifer Boese, Embarrass Town Clerk

218-984-2084

embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net

Town of Embarrass LBAE

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Embarrass Township will meet on April 15, 2021, 6p.m. - 7p.m., at Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Road.

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization. With the COVID-19 pandemic we ask that you call and schedule your time to keep the public gathering at a minimum.

ADS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Suggested donation to The Flying Finn

1/4 Page = \$8; 1/2 Page = \$13;

Full Page = \$22

To place an ad, write to:

The Flying Finn, 7503 Levander Rd

Embarrass MN 55732

Email embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net

or call the Embarrass Town Clerk at 984-2084.

POSTAL NEWS**Embarrass MN Post Office**

4878 Hwy 218-984-3027

Pickup/Retail Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00am

Saturday 7:00am-9:00am

Lobby is open 24 hours for those with post office boxes at this location

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Persons interested in subscribing to The Flying Finn may drop off or send a donation of \$15 for one year, payable to the Town of Embarrass, 7503 Levander Road, Embarrass, MN 55732.

The Flying Finn makes a great gift for someone who has moved out of the community!

The Flying Finn and the Town of Embarrass welcome announcements about community events and community groups. These submitted announcements are printed here and on following pages. Neither the Town of Embarrass nor The Flying Finn necessarily endorses the viewpoints or ideology of these groups or their events. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any letter to the editor or submitted material.



Memorial Forest Monument:

Names can be added for the price of \$50 a name. The honoree does not need to be a resident of Embarrass Township. Contact Clerk's Office at 218-984-2084 for more information.

Embarrass Transfer Station

7530 Koski Rd
Embarrass, MN

**Hours of Operation**

Thursday

10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m



Waasa Township Regular Board Meeting Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Note: This meeting was held during a peace-time state of emergency/declared pandemic

Board Members Present: Mike Johnson, Steve Sipola, Carrie Westvik, Nina Honkola and Sandra Gibson

Visitors: None

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Chair, Mike Johnson and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Minutes Approval: *Steve moved to approve the January 6, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes with one small change. Mike supported. Carried (3-0).*

Treasurer's Report: Receipts for today:

- Embarrass Verm. Federal C.U., \$52.87, Quarterly Dividend
- State of MN, \$505.72, Market Value Credit-Ag

Nina reported a correction: \$52.87 from EVFCU needed to be added to the receipts for January (see above). Total Disbursements January 6, 2021 Regular Meeting: \$1,920.93. *Mike accepted the report and Steve supported. Carried (3-0).*

Approval to Pay Bills: *Steve moved to approve payment of the bills listed below plus payroll and PERA with support from Mike. Carried (3-0).*

- Bruce's Snowplowing, \$40.00, Snow Removal at Town Hall
- Lake Country Power, \$83.17, Town Hall Electricity
- MN Benefit Association, \$405.00, Group Insurance (Board)
- St. Louis County Association of Townships, \$514.92, County & State Dues
- St. Louis County Auditor, \$215.60, Sept. 2020 Grading
- Sipola, Steve, \$16.24, Road Inspec.—29 miles

Visitor In-Put: None.

Road Report: Township roads were inspected yesterday. They are in good winter condition.

Old Business: Waasa Township will continue to follow the MN mandates at all meetings during the pandemic. Each person in attendance must wear a mask and social distancing is in practice. But, for those that would like to join in on the meetings remotely please make the **TELECONFERENCE CALL: 701-802-5057 & USE ACCESS CODE: 3131553.**

New Business: The Local Board of Appeal & Equalization schedule has been received. Tentatively, Waasa has been set to meet with the county tax assessor and the public on April 28, 2021 from 4-5 p.m. at the Waasa Town Hall. All 3 township supervisors are planning to attend.

The up-coming Annual Township meeting being held on Tuesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. was discussed. The recommended levy for 2022 will be discussed by the board at the March 3rd regular meeting. *If preferred, anyone can participate in the meeting via phone by dialing: 701-802-5057 & USE ACCESS CODE: 3131553.*

The annual audit of the Clerk's and Treasurer's books was performed. The months of December and August 2020 were reviewed. The Treasurer found an error of 1 cent was found to be made in December of 2020. A check was written out 1 penny OVER was made to Mike Johnson (reimbursement for signs). The issue was tabled until the March meeting. A check number was corrected in the audit but other entries were found to be accurate and in order. *Steve motioned to accept the audit and Mike supported. Carried (3-0).*

Correspondence: All mail was read and filed.

Adjournment: *Mike moved to close the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and was supported by Steve.*

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk; Mike Johnson, Waasa Board Chair

Waasa Township Annual Meeting

Waasa Town Hall

Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

These minutes have not yet been approved

Note: This meeting was held during a peace-time state of emergency/declared pandemic

Present: Mike Johnson, Steve Sipola, Sandra Gibson, Linda Koskela, Carrie Westvik and Nina Honkola

Town Clerk Sandra Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sandra asked for nominations from the floor for a meeting moderator. *Mike Johnson nominated Linda Koskela and she accepted. Steve Sipola supported the motion. Carried (Unanimous).* At that time Linda assumed the position as moderator.

The 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were read and *Steve Sipola motioned to approve the minutes after the correction on the starting time of the 2018 meeting was made. Carrie Westvik supported. Carried (Unanimous).*

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. We currently have \$74,557.62 in CD's and \$78,585.37 available at EVFCU, as of 2/25/21. \$24,340.59 was spent on roads in 2020. *Steve Sipola motioned to approve the report and Mike Johnson supported. Carried (Unanimous).*

The Embarrass Regional Volunteer Fire Department Report was emailed to the clerk and reviewed by all. There were no F.D. representatives in attendance due to the pandemic.

A few of the 2020 improvements:

- We were anticipating installation of the 2-sided fire numbers signs, however, due to Covid related delays in shipping, social distancing criteria and in early winter, the project had to be delayed to 2021.
- Purchase of a gas detection meter for detecting toxic gases.
- Purchase of six full sets turn out gear and three medical bags.
- Continuing all of our training with restrictions and online.

For 2021:

- Continuation of the installation of 2-sided fire number signs.
- Installation of a helicopter landing pad at the fire department.
- Possible installation of exhaust removal system in the engine bay areas, to help eliminate one more cause of firefighter cancer.

Total Runs for 2020: 94. The department determined that a 3% increase will continue for the 2022 contract. If anyone would like to contact the Fire Department, call Tom Martin Fire Chief, at (218) 290-1620.

Roads Report: Roads are now beginning to get muddy but holding up at this time. Some of the work done in 2020: Taapa, and Dale roads had new gravel applied, brushing was done on township roads, where needed and turn-arounds were constructed, as requested by St. Louis County on Norby and Teinila Roads. 2020 total road maintenance costs came in at \$24,340.59.

Cemetery Report: The STS program is no longer active during the Pandemic, therefore, it is hoped there will be volunteers from the community to help on "Cemetery Clean-up Day", proposed for Saturday, May 22 starting at 10:00 a.m. All workers will be treated to refreshments, following at the town hall. *Clerk's note: Flowers and decorations placed at gravesites should be in sturdy planters rather than a light-weight item anchored only by wire. Using secure decorations which do not fly away in the wind, make it much easier for lawn mowing and keeping the cemetery grounds looking neat. Placement of decorations as close as possible to the grave markers also makes for easier cemetery mowing.*

Town Hall Facility Report: The Hall Wish / To Do List compiled last March was discussed:

- Clean carpet stains in meeting room--Later
- Hang new door in entrance leading to stairs--Done
- Replace molding loosening or missing around polling booths and other places--Done
- Replace window plastic in the fall--Done
- Dump all trash in hall & garage--Done
- Repair sidewalk—When weather permits
- Wire more outlets--Later
- Replace missing siding on the back of the building--Done
- Work up soil in flower bed under town hall sign out front--Done
- Add Facebook page for Waasa Township—Done

Old Business: Making additional parking space at the hall was not favored at this time.

Mike Johnson reported that the Embarrass Flower & Garden Club would like to move the pile of topsoil by the garage to the front of the town hall to start a pollinator garden this spring.

At the 2020 meeting there was interest in the replacement of signs which had been taken down by St. Louis County on Highway 21 showing the boundaries of Waasa Township and a directional sign for the Waasa Cemetery. The signs have been purchased by the township and will be installed when weather is favorable. The signage department of St. Louis County will be consulted for specifications of installation.

Mail Ballot Voting was discussed in the township. The issue was brought up at the 2020 Annual Meeting and was voted out (8 no and 3 yes). St. Louis County will not charge the township for ballots to be sent out to each registered voter. The Clerk has talked to an area township that switched to Mail Ballots and it was reported that all went well. There was at least a 10% rise in voter turnout in their General Election. Issue was tabled.

New Business: Finding a purpose or a plan for the field behind the town hall was discussed. Most felt that the grass did not need to be mowed much more than once a month. Planting trees or starting a community garden was mentioned. Tabled.

The board recommended levy for 2022 was reviewed. The Fire Fund has a proposed **\$11,000.00 increase**. Our fire contract payment due this summer will be over \$22,000.00 (a 3% increase is planned by the F.D.). *Clerk's note: There has not been a township levy increase since 2014.*

General Fund:	\$15,000
Road & Bridge:	\$8,000
Fire Fund:	<u>\$22,000</u>
Total 2022 Levy:	<u>\$34,000</u>

The voting residents in attendance did not feel there was adequate representation at this time to make a decision on the levy as presented to them. *Steve motioned with support from Carrie to reconvene this meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to set the 2022 levy, discuss Mail Ballot Voting and generate ideas for use of the field behind the town hall. Carried (Unanimous).*

Set Time and Place for next Annual Meeting: *Mike Johnson moved to begin the 2022 Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Waasa Town Hall with Carrie Westvik supporting. Carried (Unanimous).*

Adjournment: At 8:10 p.m. *Mike Johnson moved to temporarily close the meeting until the continued time of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Steve Sipola supported. Carried (Unanimous).*

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk; Linda Koskela, Meeting Moderator

Waasa Township Annual Meeting Continued

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Waasa Town Hall, 3795 Hwy. 2, Embarrass, MN

Purpose of the Meeting:

1. Set the 2022 Tax Levy – The Board recommends and increase in the Fire Fund.
2. Discuss Township Mail Ballot Voting.
3. Generate ideas for the use of the town hall field.

All residents are urged to attend this important meeting!

Sandra Gibson, Clerk

ALS BOOKMOBILE STOPS HERE



EMBARRASS
Four Corners
See Calendar on Page 2



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Town of Pike

REGULAR MEETING

Pike Town Hall
February 16, 2021

Chairman Langowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Supervisor Johnson was absent. The minutes from January 12, 2021 were accepted as read by Rasmusson/Langowski 2-0.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Jarve and accepted by Rasmusson/Langowski 2-0.

Claim forms 2551-2559 were accepted by Langowski/Rasmusson 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Langowski received a price for a 354 John Deere riding lawn mower.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Backman sent in the following reports: 2020 Noxious Weed, 2020 PERA Annual Exclusion, 2021 MATIT Workers' Comp. Audit, and Statement of Indebtedness.

NEXT MEETING:

Annual Meeting followed by a Regular Meeting: Tuesday, **March 9, 2021** starting at 7:00pm. @ Pike Town Hall. Community members are welcome to attend all township meetings. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Rasmusson/Langowski 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted, Jodi Backman, Clerk

These minutes have been approved by the Town Board



Embarrass Flower and Garden Club

The Embarrass Flower & Garden will not be scheduling any in-person meeting in February due to COVID 19. Please check the Flying Finn for future announcements. For further information, please contact: Linda Cox, President (218) 984-3002 or (218) 780-4143.



PIKE SANDY WOMEN'S CLUB



The Pike Sandy Women's Club 2021 Scholarship Award in the amount of \$300.00 will be awarded to a



local graduating senior who lives in the Pike, Sandy, Wuori, or Embarrass Townships or in an Unorganized Township that borders Pike Township. A letter of interest in this SCHOLARSHIP must be received prior to or no later than April 6, 2021. Please include in your letter which college or technical college you will be attending and any personal information about yourself, including your curriculum plus any extracurricular activities in which you have participated. The Scholarship Award will be announced at the April 6, 2021 meeting of the Pike Sandy Women's Club. The Scholarship monetary award of \$300 is payable to the scholarship recipient upon the receipt by the Pike Sandy Women's Club of a transcript of the completed first semester/quarter with satisfactory grades.

Please send your letter to:

Sandy Gorrill
6801 Taylor Road
Embarrass, MN 55732.
749-2408



Embarrass Region Fair Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021

Pending Approval

Present Board: Jerry Meier, Terri Joki, Janine Patten, Charlie Fowler; Trustees: Rodney Dale, Floyd Joki

Members Present: Bonnie Meier, Chris Dale, Amber Johnson, Kevin DiCatri, Sue Beaton, Holly Johnson, Frank Maki, Sherrie Joki, Darwin Salo, Doug Mattson, Sadie Theel, Jeff Anderson, Gustave R. Schroeder, Tiana Hess, Naomi Hess, Dennis Alto.

Call to Order. Jerry called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting were distributed for review. *Kevin moved to approve the minutes; Rodney seconded. Motion carried.*

Treasurer Report

The financial report was distributed showing checking & savings account activity and balances for the periods 01/22/21 – 03/18/21 and spreadsheets showing EFRA income and expenses for 2020. Jerry said that in spite of losing money in 2020, ERFA has enough money to hold the 2021 Fair. Kevin asked about the cost of heating Timber Hall with electric versus propane. Jerry said that because the electric system maintains a steady temperature and off-peak rates, the costs are consistent and less expensive than propane. Terri pointed out that ERFA received a St. Louis Co. Horse Grant even though we didn't have a 2020 Fair. *Charlie moved to accept the treasurer's report. Gus seconded. Motion carried.*

Old Business

- **Timber Hall Update.** Jerry reported that the next rental is for a wedding on May 1, currently, there are rental openings in July; August and September are both booked, except for one weekend in September. Jerry said that later in the year we'll need to purchase propane.
- **Nominations for the Board & Trustees.** Election of Officers for 2021. After Jerry asked the floor for nominations (3 times per officer), the following officers and trustees were nominated, seconded and elected by unanimous consent. Chair: Gustave Schroeder (1st year), Vice Chair: Sue Beaton (1st year), Secretary: Janine Patten (3rd year), Treasurer: Jerry Meier (1st year), Trustee: Bonnie Meier, Trustee: Floyd Joki, Trustee: Rodney Dale.

New Business

- **2021 Fair.** Jerry stated that by late summer most people will be vaccinated, so he recommends that we have the Fair. By a show of hands, the membership voted 22-1 to hold the Fair. Jerry proceeded to go through the list of Fair Event Committees confirming that each event

committee has a chairperson. Amber asked if there would be a Fair Queen competition this year. Sue said that she spoke Bonnie who said no, because we are starting too late. Gus gave an update on the entertainment and said he has commitments from Sweet Freedom and others to perform at the Fair. Sue has begun contacting vendors and she said that Magic Kingdom wants to return for the 2021 Fair. Kevin asked if the cornhole (bags) tournament could be scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday and if it could be located next to the beer tent if needed. After discussion it was decided that cornhole (bags) could use the both the horseshoe area and the area next to the beer tent, if needed. Jerry asked about purchasing regulation boards for the tournament and Kevin said he would look into it, and Kevin also pointed out that storage space would be needed for the new boards. Frank said that planning for Team Penning is going well and that it will be held the weekend before the Fair. He also said that he spoke with Lisa about the possibility of holding a barrel racing event during Team Penning's former time slot. Jerry pointed out that Amber is in charge of both exhibit barns this year. Darwin requested \$400 and 1,000 flyers for the car show. He thanked Terri for doing such a great job!

- **Snow Plow Damage.** Jerry stated that the county plow driver did significant damage to the driveway and he spoke with various officials who indicated that they would repair and possibly repave the damaged driveway. Bonnie suggested that we should put posts along the drive to make the drive easier to see, for the plow drivers.

Miscellaneous

- Charlie said that based on his discussions with county officials, he thinks money for horse shows may be available to ERFA. Jerry said that he would look into it. Amber asked that Fair Book copy & artwork be sent to her email. Kevin said we should wait to repair the damaged logs on the Timber Hall exterior until after the Fair. Jerry wants to start a grant committee for replacement of Timber Hall doors and possibly a Go Fund Me page. Jerry said that he was happy to see so many members at the meeting and thanked them for showing up!

Charlie moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chris seconded. Jerry adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Janine Patten, Secretary

Next Meeting:
Thursday, April 15, 2021
6:30 p.m. – Timber Hall.
New Members are Welcome!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Embarrass Region Fair is recruiting New Fair Board Members & Volunteers.

Fair Board Members: Responsibilities include attending one meeting per month and helping to supervise the fair.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Working at the admission gates (fair weekend)
- Fairgrounds maintenance
- Fair event committees

For more information call
Jerry at 984-3506



*Dedicated to the Memory of
Daniel Clifford "Danny" Theel
A life so beautifully lived.
We love you and miss you greatly!
Toni and all families.*

August 31, 1954 - April 9, 2020

Pancake
Breakfast



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Embarrass Region Fair Association Pancake Breakfasts are **cancelled** until further notice.

***** OBITUARIES *****

Gene L. Avikainen, 74

Gene Lawrence Avikainen, 74, of Shakopee, formerly of Pike-Sandy, passed away at his home on March 14, 2021. Interment will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at a later date.

Gene was the son of the late Raymond and Rachel Avikainen of Pike-Sandy. He grew up on the Iron Range. He served in the U.S. Army with the 591st Engineer Company with a tour of duty in South Vietnam in 1967-68. Gene worked for Midwest Asphalt Corp., River Warren Aggregate, and Mystic Lake Casino.

Gene is survived by his wife, Sharon; sons, Darryn (Dana), Adam (Midori) and Grant (Crissy); daughter, Christine (Ross); eight grandchildren; siblings, Gary (Bonita) Avikainen of Pike-Sandy, Glen (Debra) Avikainen of Mt. Iron and Gail (Ted) Esala of Vermilion Lake Twp.; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Submitted by Ron Sutton, Sisu Heritage

Spring Fever Along the Mesabi Trail; Embarrass is the Beginning of this Adventure

Ah! The sights and smells of spring that completely overwhelm you on that first day of biking on the Mesabi Trail. You can stop a moment and enjoy greeting a gentle and curious doe along the way or coast away around a winding curve and feel the warm breeze of the morning blowing through your hair. If you take your time and look toward the looming horizon you won't miss the adventure that is waiting out here on the open Range.

It's time to dust off the old bicycle hanging in your garage, service it and point it in the direction of the Mississippi River (Grand Rapids) or the BWCAW (EIY) and just enjoy the whole day (or two or three days) along the ever-changing Mesabi Trail.

You can begin your adventure on the trail anywhere along the 150 mile way: (the longest continuous stretch of the 150 mile trail is 75 miles from Grand Rapids to McKinley); consider starting at Grand Rapids and spend the day going north through numerous Range communities; enjoy passage over old abandoned railroad tracks, trace logging roads through shady forests and follow along old highways and mining trails as you meander northward; travel over the Tom Rukavina Memorial Bridge, the tallest bridge in Minnesota (from Virginia just a short walk from Chestnut St on the north end); What a view! Follow along the edge of mine pit lakes toward Biwabik. Trout fishing, anyone? Bike east and south over the Laurentian Divide from the Giant's Ridge Bridge at Wynne Lake. Golf anyone? Take your time.

Consider parking and riding south from the Nelimark Museum** in Embarrass over the phenomenal 3/4-mile long metal floating bog bridge (wetland traverse through the Darwin Meyers Wildlife Management Area) then climb the Laurentian Divide south (make sure you are in shape for this one!) from there up the way to Giants Ridge. There are many potential avenues and wayside stops to explore along the route. You can

park and walk, or run as well as bike the trail at many locations.

Have your morning coffee and fresh bakery items at the Nelimark Heritage Museum** and then stop for a lunch break in Biwabik; conclude your day of exercise with a relaxing dinner in a number of the towns across the Range. You can make reservations for lodging overnight and then continue on the next morning to your destination. You can even stop and camp for a few days along the way at the Heritage Campground in Embarrass. Exploring and bird watching, anyone?

Exploration along this "Trail" can be a three-day destination. And very soon the trail on the very east end will be constructed north of Embarrass linking to Tower/Soudan and connecting all the way to Ely. Info available on line.

The trail is developed and managed by the St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Rail Authority. It has been funded in part by the LCCMR and the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The mission of the developers is to protect and preserve abandoned railways for future transportation purposes.

Information/maps of trails activities are available at www.mesabitrail.com. Reasonable three-day or annual wheel/trail passes are available here or can be purchased from vendors along the trail. Three unique organized recreational tours are being offered for the summer: (Tour 1: July 31, 2021); (Tour 2: August 28, 2021); or (Tour 3: Sept 18, 2021). Registration opens online July 19.

Prepare for the adventure of the summer! Your bike is beckoning you.

P.S. You might even consider convincing someone from Embarrass to meet you and deliver your car at the end of your destination if you prefer not to travel to and for with the return trip! (218-984-2302).

**Nelimark opens June 3 through Sept 25, 10:00-4:00 p.m. (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).

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T	I	O	N	U	N	D	E	R	G	O	D	!	!

ANNUAL MEETING

BIC REALTY

BREAKFAST

COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT

DANNY THEEL

EARTH DAY

EASTER SUNDAY

EMBARRASS

FAIR

GARDEN CLUB

MESABI TRAIL

PANCAKE

PIKE

SANDY

SCHOLARSHIP

SPRING

SUPERIOR FUEL

TRAPLINE

VOLUNTEER

WAASA

ZUP NORTH

Once you complete the puzzle, the remaining letters spell out a phrase:

Good Luck and Enjoy!

Trapline Liquor

4897 Hwy 21

218-984-BYOB (2962)

traplineliquor@yahoo.com

Don't limit happy to an hour

Open Mon-Sat, 8 am-10 pm

Sunday 11 am – 6 pm



Come see us for your
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are available by appointment, 24 hours a day, seven
days a week! Contact any of our hardworking agents!
Andrea Zupancich, Broker;
Jan Erchul, Assoc Broker;
Sara Powell, Kim Borgeson, Beth Rykken,
Norma Jean Jofs, Harry Drabik, Joyce Giblin,
Misty Merhar or Nikki Stanglan. Here to serve YOU!

Trapline Convenience Store

4897 Hwy 21 - - - 218-984-2962

Monday – Saturday 8am-10 pm, Sunday 11 am-6 pm



SNACKS:

Pop, Juice
Energy Drinks
Candy, Chips

GROCERIES:

Milk, Eggs
Bread, Butter
Italian Bakery
---lots more!

READY TO GO:

Sandwiches
Ice
Coffee

ATM

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Cigarettes
Tobacco Products
DNR Licenses
Landfill Cards

FROZEN ITEMS:

Ice Cream
Pizzas

OTHER:

Cleaning Supplies
Baking/Cooking
Items
Toilet Paper
Misc Personal
Care
Some Auto Fluids

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
5088 Hwy 21, PO Box 1076, Embarrass

Office hours

Tues & Thurs 4:30-7 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
hopelutheranembarrass@gmail.com
218-984-2037

All regular church services begin at 10:30 a.m. with Interim Pastor, Brian Birk of Tower, MN

Easter Service – April 4. Service both in the church and outside the church in your car where the service will be broadcast on radio.

COVID guidelines will be adhered to. Please call the church for further updates.

God welcomes all people!

You are welcome here!

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

5606 E Taylor Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732
218-984-3402

www.efreechurch.com

E-mail: embfree@frontier.com

Sunday Family Worship, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Sunday School Classes, 10:20 a.m.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Wednesday Kids on the Rock, 4 p.m.

ENGAGE Youth Ministry, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 2: Good Friday Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 17: Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY MESSAGES:

April 4 "Just as He Told You"
April 11 "A Mountain Top Experience"
April 18 "Greatness"
April 25 "Divorce"

PIKE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN

6997 Oberg Rd (on Hwy 169)

www.apostoliclutheran.org

All Services at 10:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted. Social Distancing rules are being followed. Please wear a mask.

April 2	Good Friday Service 6:00 p.m.
April 4	Easter Sunday (and Communion)
April 11	Jon Salo
April 18	Gerry Southerton
April 25	Jerry DeVries



2021					Feb. 19 -11/15 sn .10" pc .02"	Feb. 20 -21/20
Feb. 21 -21/26	Feb. 22 19/31 snow 1" pc .06"	Feb. 23 25/42	Feb. 24 24/40	Feb. 25 19/31 sn .40" pc .01"	Feb. 26 17/35	Feb. 27 25/41
Feb. 28 20/39	Mar. 1 -6/25	Mar. 2 -8/17	Mar. 3 17/44	Mar. 4 12/39	Mar. 5 14/42	Mar. 6 4/44
Mar. 7 4/44	Mar. 8 29/48	Mar. 9 28/53	Mar. 10 35/57	Mar. 11 23/41 snow 9" pc .87"	Mar. 12 1/41 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 13 -2/33
Mar. 14 22/51	Mar. 15 7/39	Mar. 16 8/43	Mar. 17 25/39	Mar. 18 15/43	Mar. 19 13/49	Mar. 20 13/53

Mar. 1 -26/40	Mar. 2 23/42	Mar. 3 22/36 sn .20" trace pc	Mar. 4 11/33 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 5 9/36 sn .70" pc .04"	Mar. 6 -16/29 sn 2.50" pc .21"	Mar. 7 -16/36
Mar. 8 31/49	Mar. 9 20/54	Mar. 10 8/31	Mar. 11 7/37	Mar. 12 6/41 trace pc	Mar. 13 18/39 trace sn pc .08"	Mar. 14 8/28
Mar. 15 2/30	Mar. 16 2/33 snow 1" pc .06"	Mar. 17 13/33 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 18 7/35	Mar. 19 22/35 sn 1.40" pc .14"	Mar. 20 10/34 trace sn pc .04"	Mar. 21 -17/25
Mar. 22 -18/33 sn .30" pc .01"	Mar. 23 23/33 snow 2" pc .14"	Mar. 24 11/42	Mar. 25 11/45 trace pc	Mar. 26 19/36	Mar. 27 15/44	Mar. 28 14/50
Mar. 29 20/48 sn 1.50" pc .18"	Mar. 30 21/50	Mar. 31 17/53				2020