**Town of Embarrass**

**2022 Annual Meeting**

**March 8, 2022**

**PENDING TOWN APPROVAL**

Present: Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese, Jack LaMar, Bernie Mettler, Gene Wright, Eric Garman (EVVFD), Zane Beaton, Sue Beaton, Jill Waisanen, Paul Knuti, Carol Knuti, Roland Fowler, Dan Muhvich, Tracey Muhvich, Mickey White, Shireen Lee, Ericka LaMar, Bonnie Davies, Roger Davies, Cathy Hoheisel, Mike Rhein

Meeting is called to order by Township Clerk Jennifer Boese with The Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. Clerk asks for a volunteer moderator. Jack LaMar volunteers, voted in with no opposing votes. LaMar reads Agenda to explain the order.

2021 Annual minutes reviewed by those present. *Motion/Wright: Second/Davies to approve the 2021 minutes. Unanimous vote. Motion carries*.

2021 Treasurer’s Report was reviewed by those present. Question on what the ARPA money to be spent on. Clerk asks the board to speak on that. Wright speaks to say it will be used towards roof on town hall and Nelimark and hoping to get a grant to cover the other portion. *Motion/Davies: Second/Wright to approve the 2021 Treasurer’s Report. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.*

**Road Report** Roads sprayed with chloride in 2021. Frank Maki will remain the grader operator in 2022. Roads are and have been in good condition. Some residents are asking not to grade road unless township is notified by those who reside on the road. Asked to be presented at a regular board meeting.

**2021 Maintenance Report Reviewed**

**2021 Audit Reviewed/Approved**

**2022 Projects and Goals (more projects to be added once property inspection is complete)**

* Town Hall Roof
* Nelimark Roof on House and possibly garage
* Partial Grants for the Roof Projects
* Complete Restroom Landscaping
* Weather Station Patio Repair or Replace and Replace Thermometer Log
* Cemetery Clearing for New Lots
* Possible Campground Updates to 50 amp to keep up with the larger RVs, increase of camping patrons’ previous discussions have been had on additional sites added
* Level Skating Rink and Liner to be Placed
* Nelimark Ramp Replacement

**2022 Schedule of Events**

* Town Board Meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
* Local Board of Appeal May 3rd, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
* Property Inspection Meeting May ?
* Memorial Day Service at Cemetery May 30th
* Holiday Ice Candle Celebration December 17th

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**2022 Other Organization Reports**

* ERVFD \*see attached report; Eric Garman speaks on behalf of ERVFD
* Embarrass Regional Fair Association \*see attached report; Sue Beaton speaks on behalf of the fair board*. Motion/ Wright: Second/Fowler to approve Embarrass Regional Fair Association $750 in labor in 2023 to help with the setting up and taking down of the fair. Unanimous vote. Motion carries.*
* SISU Heritage Inc. \*see attached
* Historical Tours were not held in 2021 with the Covid Pandemic and the passing of tour guide Mike Salo. Memorial donations towards future tours were received. Tours will be discussed with SISU Heritage Inc. to ask if they are interested in taking over. The $1,192 memorial funds will be handed over to SISU if acceptance of the tours.
* Heritage Park and Campground had a great 2021 season. Lori and Roy Worsham will be returning in 2022 as caretakers. With camping patrons being turned away discussion have been had to possibly add 5 sites. Electrical upgrades are needed to keep up with the RV’s. Completed work in 2021 was a water tower update and dumping station moved to the correct side of the road to make it safer and easier for the patrons. Handicap sidewalk to the shower house was installed. Reservations for the upcoming season have been coming throughout the winter season. Rates were increased at the 2022 reorganizational meeting. \*More on campground in the attached 2021 maintenance report.
* Mike Rhein with Babbitt Ambulance Services \*see attached report; passes out financial reports and speaks with those present on the costs of keeping the service operating, the equipment needed and members on call. Discussion was had on adding a charge to property owners tax statements to go towards department. Most present are in favor of having an amount added to go towards the ambulance departments that service the area. Questions and concerns were had on being charged multiple fees when more than one ambulance department shows up to residence, along with other questions and concerns. Only one department would get the fee collected. The breaking up and division of residencies and ambulance departments would need to be worked out along with several other items on the subject. Ambulance departments have a service area they service and Embarrass is serviced by 4 different departments. Twice the question was asked by present residents if Embarrass Township has ever paid any ambulance service, to which the answer is no, the township has never paid ambulance service. Babbitt residents pay a yearly thirty-dollar fee. Many felt that is a cheap price for the service. Comments were made on insurance paying for the ambulance calls. Cathy explains how insurance money is used for equipment and other needs.  *Motion/Lee: Second/Davies to ask town board to come up with recommendation and move forward with looking into and make good decisions to help with the ambulance service and the citizens of Embarrass. The board to consider a thirty-dollar fee per household levy to be divided amongst the four different ambulance services. Yays-9 Nays-3 Motion Carries.* Concerns were voiced on the issue of a 911 call being made and more than one ambulance shows up and feel this needs to be addressed at a state level being it could be a lifesaving issue if one is needed on another call. Mike Rhein gives great compliment towards the ERVFD and wants residents to be aware of how lucky the township is to have them.

**Presentation and Discussion of the 2023 Proposed Levy**

 Township Board levy proposal for 2023 of $172,000 presented. Increase of 3.61% increase ($6,000) The board felt the increase was necessary because of inflation and the transferring of funds from other funds to keep a fund account afloat. Without the ARPA funds the township funds are at a low. Larger spending in 2021 was due to new plow truck purchased only having a $12,500 grant towards the truck. Campground work required by the state. Maintenance shop, aglime on fields and chloride of roads. New roof on town hall and Nelimark along with inflation on electrical bills (some more usage not all inflation), maintenance and office supplies, fuel, etc.. are reasons for the 3.61% increase proposal.

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| 2023 Proposed Levy |  |  |  |
| FUND | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | ***2023*** |
| 100- General | $93,000  | $87,000  | $93,000  | $96,500  | ***100,000*** |
| 225- Road & Bridge  | 2,500 | 2,500 | 8,500 | 6,000 | ***6,000*** |
| 226- Fire | 26,500 | 28,000 | $29,000  | $28,000  | ***28,000*** |
| 227- Town Hall | 5,000 | 5,000 | $8,000  | $8,000  | ***9,000*** |
| 230- Recreation | 5,000 | 5,000 | $4,000  | $4,000  | ***4,000*** |
| 231- PERA | 3,500 | 4,300 | $5,000  | $5,000  | ***5,000*** |
| 232- Cemetery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ***2,000*** |
| 233- Insurance | 8,500 | 9,500 | $9,500  | $9,500  | ***9,000*** |
| 401- Capital |  |  | $5,000  | $7,000  | ***7,000*** |
| 260- Historic Properties Fund | 6,000 | 6,000 | $4,000  | $2,000  | ***2,000*** |
| TOTAL Levy | $154,000  | $153,000  | $166,000  | $166,000  | ***172,000*** |

LaMar states an average increase rate is 2.7% for townships our size. Township has done a good job in keeping the budget at low percent. Picking and choosing what is important to the township being on such a budget.

 *Motion/Fowler: Second/ Wright a lot of thought was put into the levy proposal and says we need to accept an increase and to accept the $172,000 levy proposal as presented for 2023, Sue Beaton adds with the addition of adding an ambulance fund to the cash report if a decision is to go forward with ambulance service fee.* Discussion had; some agree there should be more of an increase in the levy. Discussion started a second time on the ambulance. Moderator LaMar takes control of meeting when discussion when voices become raised. Moderator explains this will be discussed at regular board meetings. Wright speaks this is for the board to decide and the fee could be denied by the board. Mettler speaks about what the fee again would go for which is having the ability of having the ambulance come, the insurance is to maintain the equipment and such. Rhein explains with the township being right in the middle of all these ambulance services, yes more than one may show up. Moderator calls for a vote of the motion made.  *Votes: Yays-11. Nays-4 Motion carries.*

Compliments given to the clerk for the preparation for the meeting and agenda set up and for levy proposal put in the finn.

*Motion/Wright: Second/ Davies for the 2023 annual meeting to be held on March 14, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.*

*Waisanen motions to adjourn meeting. Davies second. Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Boese