

**SALEM TOWNSHIP  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Sharon Petersen with the pledge of allegiance.

Sharon Petersen called for nominations for a moderator for this meeting. A motion was made by Rick Lutzi and seconded by John Connelly to nominate David Rassel. The motion passed unanimously. No other nominations were made. A motion was made by Rick Lutzi and seconded by Brian Connelly to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for David Rassel. The motion passed unanimously.

David Rassel had residents review the minutes from last year's annual meeting. One correction was made regarding the ballot for Treasurer. No additional questions were asked.

#### **Byron Fire Department**

Matt Grant presented information about the upcoming fire department budgets, etc. He stated that they had 110 fire calls in 2019. Twenty-three calls were in Salem Township. Byron Fire Department currently has 30 members. The heating and air conditioner systems in the building have been replaced. This was paid for by the townships and the City of Byron. The scheduled maintenance for upcoming projects for the building are going to be discussed at a meeting later this month. They have plans to replace some equipment. They are going to push that truck replacement back a couple years. The fire departments in Olmsted County are planning a county wide grant for air pack replacement which will hopefully save some money.

#### **Byron First Responders**

Brian McGregor presented information about the current makeup of his department. He discussed the new truck and thanked the township for their contribution to the new truck. Calls for first responders has increased significantly.

### **Other Discussion**

There was discussion about recently purchased vehicles by the Fire Department. The board is also exploring options about selling our interest in the fire department building. These options are being explored by the board. No decisions about this have been made at this time.

### **Unofficial Election Results**

Paula Chantigian read the unofficial elections results. They are as follows:

#### **Supervisor**

**Rick Lutzi 47 Votes**

**Write In**

**Brenda DeCook 1 Vote**

#### **Clerk**

**Sharon Petersen 46 Votes**

**Write in**

**Linda Philips 1 Vote**

### **Set Time for Next Year's Meetings**

After discussion a motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Paula Chantigian to set the polling hours from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Teresa Carstensen to set the annual meeting for 8:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Official Posting Designation**

After discussion a motion was made by Jacquelyn Connelly and seconded by Paula Chantigian to designate the posting board outside Town Hall as the official posting designation for Salem Township for 2020. Notices will also be posted to our web site.

### **Notification for Next Annual Meeting and Special Meetings or Issues regarding our township**

A motion was made by Paula Chantigian and seconded by Teresa Carstensen to continue sending out newsletters for the annual meeting and post cards for special meetings and or issues. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Burning Permits**

A motion was made by Drew Moessner and seconded by Paula Chantigian to set the fee for burning permits at \$10.00 for the calendar year. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Financial Report of the Township**

Gail Fritts presented the financial report of the township.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ben Scott and seconded by Paula Chantigian to approve the financial report as given. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Town Road Report**

The town road report was given by Brian Connelly. He reviewed road work done last year and the extensive storm damage repairs from the spring and summer storms. Finish up work will be done in spring to finish the storm damage claims that we will be presented to the State of Minnesota. A motion was made by Gail Fritts and seconded by Teresa Carstensen to accept the town road report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Township Website**

Sharon Petersen reviewed information that is posted on our web site. The web site is [www.salemmn.org](http://www.salemmn.org).

### **Proposed Levies for 2021**

The town board has proposed the following levies for 2021:

Road and Bridge	\$220,000.00
Fire Protection	\$ 60,000.00
Fire Building Maint.	\$ 6,000.00
First Responders	\$ 8,000.00
Building Updates	\$ 10,000.00
General Revenue	\$ 55,000.00
Safety	\$ 2,000.00
Legal	\$ 6,000.00

The storm damage issues, and the funds expended for that work was discussed. Questions were asked about designating an emergency fund as a line item in our budget. A motion was made by Paula Chantigian and

seconded by Teresa Carstensen to add a line item to our budget for Emergency Funds. The motion passed.

There was discussion about how much money to levy for this line item. A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Ben Scott to set the emergency fund levy at \$10,000.00. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

After discussion, a motion was made by Paula Chantigian and seconded by Jacquelyn Connelly to approve the total levy of \$377,000.00 for 2021. The details on the levy funds approved are as follows:

Road and Bridge	\$220,000.00	
Fire Protection	\$ 60,000.00	
Fire Building Maint.	\$ 6,000.00	
First Responders	\$ 8,000.00	
Building Updates	\$ 10,000.00	
General Revenue	\$ 55,000.00	
Safety	\$ 2,000.00	
Legal	\$ 6,000.00	
Emergency Fund	\$ 10,000.00	
Total Levy		\$377,000.00

### **Chloride**

The chloride proposal was discussed. Questions were asked about the scheduling for chloride better match Kalmar and Cannisteeo Township. Questions were asked about whether a private contractor can apply material to township roads. The material deposited has to be the same as the material we purchase and apply. It was also noted that the township can grade the roads at any time. A motion was made by Tom Ferris and seconded Paula Chantigian to continue subsidize a portion of the cost to residents on township roads as previously done. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Gopher Bounty**

A motion was made by Gail Fritts and seconded by Teresa Carstensen to set the gopher bounty for pocket gophers and streaky gophers at \$3.50 each. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Beaver Bounty**

A motion was made by Brian Connelly and seconded by Gail Fritts to approve the beaver bounty of \$20.00 per animal. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Solar Garden Discussion**

The issues relating to our current ordinance and whether the town board should consider adding additional language for increased buffers, and setbacks. The board is looking for input on this subject going forward. It was noted that any ordinance change will be preceded by a public hearing.

### **Other Business**

Tom Ferris asked the board members about non-compliance occupancy issues within our townships. Board members responded that they are aware of the situation and are following up on this and other issues. The board is working with our zoning administrator on this subject.

Will Mahler asked about the land use plan that is being worked on for Salem Township. He asked about what the status on this is in relation to planning and zoning issues.

If anyone is interested in applying for planning and zoning board positions or board of adjustment, they should fill out an application. The application is on our web site.

A motion was made by Gail Fritts and seconded by Tom Ferris to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rassel  
Moderator

Sharon Petersen  
Clerk