

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 12th, 2024

Baldwin Township Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julia Pettitt called the 2024 Annual Meeting for the Town of Baldwin to order at 8:12 p.m. All citizens present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Deputy Clerk/Treasurer accepted nominations for moderator. Jeff Holm motioned to nominate Bryan Lawrence which was seconded by Brian Torborg. Motion carried. Bryan Lawrence accepted the nomination and was appointed as moderator for the Baldwin Township Annual Meeting of March 12th, 2024.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda – Jeff Holm motioned to add “Discuss Incorporation” after “2023 Treasurer’s Report”, seconded by Shelly Atwood. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve Agenda – Jeff Holm/Cindy Castello unanimous to approve the March 12th, 2024 Annual Meeting agenda as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve Dispensing with the Reading of the March 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – Jeff Holm/Richard Marshall unanimous to approve dispensing with the reading of the March 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Approve March 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – Jerry Mueller/Alan Walker unanimous to approve the March 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Reading of Board of Audit Report as Posted – Moderator Bryan Lawrence read the February 26th, 2024 Board of Audit meeting minutes.

2023 Treasurer’s Report/2023 Audit (if available)/2023 Recap – Moderator Bryan Lawrence stated the auditor’s report is not available at this time as Schlenner Wenner could not provide Baldwin with the 2023 audit. Jay Swanson stated the new auditors for Baldwin Township are Burkhardt & Burkhardt. Lawrence reviewed the Treasurers Report with the audience.

Discuss Incorporation – Mike Couri, Township Attorney with Couri & Ruppi, P.L.L.P – Mike Couri went through a presentation regarding Incorporation. He stated if the Township incorporated, the Town would receive state Local Government Aide annually. The State Aide money would have to be put into road repairs. He stated Baldwin Township is one of the lowest taxed townships in the surrounding area. Incorporating will help preserve the tax rate.

Things that would change if Baldwin Township incorporated would be elections would be held in November instead of March for council members. There would no longer be Annual Meetings. The levy would not be decided by residents, instead it would be

approved by the city council. The city would prosecute misdemeanors and issue liquor licenses instead of the County.

The Sheriff's Office law enforcement for Baldwin would remain the same as they are now. The Baldwin Fire Department will continue to operate the same. The city would not be required to provide sewer and water services. The city would be free to modify its zoning ordinances, instead of it having to be consistent with the County.

If the Township does not incorporate, Couri stated Baldwin Township would eventually get annexed by neighboring cities.

Couri stated it is estimated the Judge will have the decision by late July on whether Baldwin will incorporate. He reviewed a map of Princeton's requested annexation area. He discussed the City of Princeton's rural urban tax rates. He stated that 900+ residential lots in the requested annexation area are properties considered suburban in nature.

A resident asked if they were to get annexed by Princeton, would Princeton change the zoning to require 2 to 3 lots per acre. Couri stated Princeton cannot require residents to subdivide their land.

A resident asked when elections will begin if incorporation is granted. Couri stated if the incorporation were to get approved in July of this year, the Election would likely happen in November of this year.

A resident asked if new ordinances would need to be applied if Baldwin incorporates. Couri stated the current ordinances will remain the same unless the city council decides to change them.

A resident asked if Baldwin were to stay a Township, how would the Town fight annexation from neighboring cities. Couri stated the surrounding areas can request annexation of land multiple times and the Town would need to stay status quo. The resident then asked what has caused the increased tax rate in Baldwin. Couri stated the 2022 – 2023 Township tax rate actually dropped, but housing evaluation increased which is not connected to the Township.

A resident asked what the Township would have to pay the Sheriff's Office if incorporated. Couri stated there will be no change.

A resident asked if there are any properties being sacrificed for the Incorporation. Couri stated no. There was one resident who requested to be annexed to the City of Princeton.

A resident asked how many incorporation petitions Couri & Ruppe have won. Couri stated they have won 6.

A resident asked if the Township would get any apartment buildings similar to Zimmerman if incorporated. Couri stated it would be up to the city council to change their zoning requirements, additionally apartments would require city sewer and water therefore he does not see that happening anytime in the future.

A resident asked for clarification on why the Township couldn't stay a Township. Couri stated with the road repairs that are required on the current Township roads, the State Local Government Aide money would assist with those repairs. If the Township stayed a Township, the Town's levy would need to be increased to be able to satisfy road repairs. Therefore, increasing the Township tax rates.

Election Results/Board of Canvass meets immediately following the Annual Meeting to officially certify the election results – Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julia Pettitt and Head Election Judge Ed Stofferahn provided the unofficial election results to attendees at the Annual Meeting. The Board of Canvass will meet immediately after the Annual Meeting to certify the election results. The election results were signed by all election judges: Ed Stofferahn, Joyce Mueller, Sharon Matz and Anne Walter.

For the Baldwin Township Supervisor "A" position for a 3-year term: Candidates Alan Walker received 61 votes, Jeff Holm received 200 votes, Chase Springman received 153 votes, Jeremy Yuker received 31 votes; 10 write in votes and 1 undervote.

For the Baldwin Township Supervisor "E" position for a 3-year-term: Candidates Jay Swanson received 242 votes and Dan Patnode received 201 votes; 10 write-in votes and 3 undervotes.

2024 Projects/2025 Budget/Levy Proposal – Chair Jay Swanson reviewed the PowerPoint with the audience. The PowerPoint reviewed the proposed 2024 Road Projects which include chip crack seal maintenance. He stated the west side of 305th Avenue will be re-constructed. The slides reviewed all funds and disbursements received in 2023 along with the proposed 2025 Township levy/budget proposal.

Fire Department Report – Assistant Fire Chief Robin Fischer reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with the audience. There are currently 33 firefighters, 1 FF and 2 retired FF, 4 EMTs, and 1 doctor. The Department hired 3 firefighters in 2023. He reported 255 calls in 2023. 2/3 of the calls were medical. The Baldwin Fire Department started supplying emergency services for Blue Hill Township as of January 1st, 2024. The slides consisted of department statistics, firefighter training, community events and apparatus. The firefighters received a round of applause.

Baldwin Park Committee Progress Report – Supervisor Bryan Lawrence stated the Town Board has approved the purchase of new playground equipment for Young Park. The Town received a DNR grant to resurface all walking trails in Young Park and to add one mile of new trails. The Park Committee would like to add another ball field and a football or soccer field at Young Park. At Goose Lake, Baldwins Public Works department have been adding trails and opening areas for residents to enjoy. He also stated two docks and two boat launches have been purchased.

Funfest Discussion – Mary Larson, Park Committee Alternate Member, stated Baldwin is very lucky to have Young Park in the Township. She went through the amenities available at the park. She spoke about Funfest of 2024 and additional ideas for residents to enjoy at the event. Residents were encouraged to volunteer. Funfest is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th, 2024.

Planning Commission Update – Supervisor Bryan Lawrence introduced the Chair of the Planning Commission, Clarence Mattson. Mattson stated there are currently 7 members on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets on the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The 3rd Wednesday of the month is used to work on the Comprehensive Plan and ordinances. The Commission looks to maintain the Townships rural atmosphere. The Committee is made up of people that come from many different backgrounds and experiences.

A resident asked if the Township incorporates would the Committee change. Mattson stated the Committees goals would not change.

Road Report – Moderator Bryan Lawrence stated borings have been completed for the following roads: 100th Street, 136th Street, 297th Avenue and 305th Avenue. Repairs on these roads are scheduled to be completed in 2025.

2025 Budget/Levy – Bruce West motioned to move \$10,000 from the General Funds original proposed total of \$530,000 into the Special Revenue fund for an increase to \$25,000 from the original proposed total of \$15,000, seconded by Clarence Mattson. All in favor, motion carried.

Brian Torborg/Zac Good unanimous to approve the following 2025 budget/levy in the amount of \$1,757,650. All in favor, motion carried.

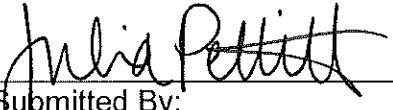
	<u>PROPOSED FOR 2025</u>	<u>CERTIFIED FOR 2024</u>
GENERAL FUND	\$520,000 – <i>originally \$530,000</i>	\$450,000
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$700,000	\$500,000
CAPITAL FUND	\$-----	\$60,000
FIRE FUND	\$200,000	\$190,000
CAPITAL FUND (FIRE)	\$100,000	\$60,000
PARK FUND	\$90,000	\$60,000
DEBT SERVICE	\$122,650	\$206,551
SPECIAL REVENUE	\$25,000 – <i>originally \$15,000</i>	\$15,000
CAPITAL RESERVE	\$-----	\$60,000
 TOTAL	 \$1,757,650	 \$1,601,551

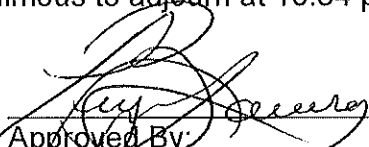
General Discussion of Items of Concern – None.

Legal Publisher/Depository/Public Postings – Jeff Holm/Phillip Fadden unanimous to approve continuing with the legal publisher, Union Times. Marv's True Value and the Town Hall for legal postings areas and Bremer Bank as the township depository. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Set 2025 Annual Meeting, 2nd Tuesday in March 2025, 8:01 p.m., Baldwin Township Maintenance Garage – Jeff Holm/Matt Johnson unanimous to set the 2025 Annual Meeting to the 2nd Tuesday in March 2025, 8:01 p.m. Baldwin Township Maintenance Garage. All in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn/Recess – Jeff Holm/Cal Watson unanimous to adjourn at 10:54 p.m.


Submitted By:
Julia Pettitt
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township


Approved By:
Bryan Lawrence
Moderator

4/15/24
Date

Attendees: Zachary Good, Phil Fadden, Bernie Miller, Cattie Miller, Sherry Newman, Donald Newman, Mary Larson, Clarence and Kim Mattson, Tim Jensen, Vanessa Berger, Joseph Berger, John Costello, Cindy Costello, Ed Stofferahn, Kathie Miezwia, Paul Miezwia, Debbi Marke, Laura Anderson, Amy Soderholm, Lance Soderholm, Jacki Paul, Phillip Holland, Brian Torborg, Mary Beth Torborg, Mike Anderson, Randy Atwood, Scott Case, Shelley Atwood, Carol Swanson, Tim Wesely, Mark Otis, Paul Schmidt, Andy and Nikki Walker, Jeffy Mueller, Cartrell Cooper, Jeff Larsen, Robin Fischer, Jay Swanson, Dean McDeritt, Andy Schreder, Penny Bowman, Kathie Kelley, Richard Becker, Patricia Hanson, Kaylee Dircks, Tom Prior, Billy Kirk, Phil Alderink, Jess Tomsche, Dave Hedburg, Don Yurecko, Chad Miller, Linda Burkholder, Connor Loscheider, Cindy and Ron Messer, Myron and Kathy Cooper, Anita Case, Vince Cruz, Mike Graham, Dale Hurni, Jason Gray, Karen Peters, Deb Teigen, Roxanne Schreder, Chad Mueller, Bruce West, Dezirey Neely, Chris Burd, Doug Evans, Jeff Holm, Richard Leininger, Aaron and Heather Hoss, Jordan Sorenson, Cal Watson, Kelly Gray, Chase Springman, Brian and Diane Anderson, Larry Canfield, Bans Essig, Jason Betzler, Bryan Lawrence, Christopher Decker, Mitchell Demorrett, Dylen Hansen, Josh Weber, Jon and Madison Neal, Randy and Dana Nemitz, Sandra Fulton-Coopa, Alan Walker, Jerome Ehresman, Mark Ziemer, Richard Marshall, Andrew Kelly, Roger Lewis, Hanna Nelson, Jake Stenzel, Matt Johnson, Anita Schneider, Sandy Hockemeyer