

Moose Lake Township
Annual Meeting, March 11, 2025

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Clerk Donna Kirk. Those present are as follows: Chair and Supervisor Robert Moffett Jr. Supervisor Steve Aldrin, Supervisor Tracy Matuseski, Treasurer Dawn Moffett, Dawn Schatz, Byron Kuster, Rachelle Wasche, Steve Flattum, Frank Skalko, Viki Radzak, Conrad Ross, Stan Stanske, Deanna Moffett, Olivia Moffett, and Clerk Donna Kirk.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Donna Kirk.

The floor was opened for nominations for moderator. Steve Aldrin nominated Byron, second by Deanna Moffett. There were no other nominations. Motion carried. At this time the meeting was turned over to Byron Kuster.

Motion was made by Conrad Ross to **approve the agenda**, second by Dawn Schatz, motion carried.

Minutes of 204 Annual Meeting - Motion made by Deanna Moffett to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes, second by Stan Senske. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Motion made by Tracy Matuseski, second by Dawn Schatz to approve the Treasurer's Report with the following end of 2024 balances noted.

General Fund: \$123,214.91 Road and Bridge: \$236,398.83

Donations: (Pickleball) \$21,064.10; (playground)\$3,000

Old CD: \$35,493.23 2019 CD: \$81,479.06 2020 CD: \$81,391.33

Proposed Budget for 2026 – The attached proposed budget was distributed, and the floor opened for questions. Budget increase from 2025 is \$4,300 in the general category. No change proposed for road and bridge. Motion to accept the budget made by Stan, second by Conrad. Motion carried.

Newspaper, Depository and Posting Places – The official newspaper will be the Star Gazette. The depository will remain at the First National Bank of Moose Lake and official posting places will remain in the City Hall entrance and DMV board. Township website will also contain information and function as an unofficial posting place. WWW.MooseLakeTownshipMN.org is the address for the website.

Moose Lake Township Regular Monthly Meetings – will be held on the third **Thursday** of each month at the Moose Lake Community Center starting at 5PM.

Art Olgren Park Long Range Plans – Pickleball continues to be well utilized whenever weather permits. The Fitness Court was installed in 2024 and is ready for use. At the ribbon cutting for the fitness court, a donation was received for a new playground. A disc golf course is in progress with trails for six of nine holes begun. The remaining three holes are planned to be completed in spring 2025. The disc golf course work has been completed by the Duluth Civil Air Patrol cadettes as volunteer work. Rachelle shared that the Little League field is planned for construction at another location. This was new information to the township board, and the Rebels Little League group will share updates at the next regular meeting of Moose Lake Township.

Options for meeting space for the township were discussed as the current lease with the City of Moose Lake expires on February 1, 2030. One option would be to build a town hall/multi-purpose building at the Art Olgren Park. Currently there are no building plans or cost estimates. If a building was to be built, the possibility of a concession stand or space for event rental may be an avenue to generate income. It was noted that Moose Lake has limited options for event rental space. Costs for insurance, maintenance, utilities, and such would need to be estimated for consideration of this option. Another option discussed would be to rent space in the Fire District Building which is owned by the Fire District. A shared meeting space is available, like what is currently utilized in the City Hall. At this time, there is an empty office in the Fire District building that may be available to provide secure storage. The cost of rent is not known. However, this option would be more economical than constructing a new building at the park.

The Moose Lake Township Board will explore both options over the next year with a goal of having initial information to share at the next annual meeting.

Reports:

- **Community Ed - Summer Recreation** – Vicky gave an overview of the past year's program. Appreciation for the \$5,000 donation from the Moose Lake Township in 2024 was shared. Summer recreation has been part of community education for about 25 years. No levy funds have been requested or utilized for recent summer recreation programming. In 2024, about 264 individuals participated in various classes and camp offerings which included soccer, fishing, yoga, science, theater, painting, diorama, pickleball, and more. Classes were offered for children, family, and adults. Majority of the participants were from Moose Lake Township, Windemere, Barnum, and the City of Moose Lake. Two to three youth are hired each year to assist with programming. In the past, swimming lessons were offered at an area pool with students bussed for a full day fun and lessons. This option is no longer feasible with limited pool options and increasing needs for additional people in the pool. Lifeguards have been difficult to obtain. The lake in Moose Lake is not ideal for swimming lessons due to temperature and bird

droppings in the water. Unfortunately, there are no plans for swimming lessons. However, a wide array of classes and camps will be planned for this summer dependent on funding.

- **Fire District** – Steve Aldrin shared a report for the Fire District. The district has been in discussions with the City of Moose Lake. The city pays 5% of the building cost and utilizes 15% of the space. The city asked for feedback on what the fire district views as their services to the city. Steve has prepared a report to share with the city. The pond that the city constructed in the front lawn of the fire district is owned by the fire district, not the city, and as such the fire district has asked the city to maintain the grassy area in mowing. Steve estimates that about \$19,000 of benefit is provided to the city yearly. It was noted that in the winter, about \$350 of cost is incurred in electric heat cost. Over 50% of calls are for the City of Moose Lake. Currently the Moose Lake Township pays 51% of the levy and the City of Moose Lake pays 49% of the levy. A ladder truck was purchased to meet the needs of fire fighting for the City of Moose Lake. Total current levy is \$269,840. The original cost of the Fire District Hall is estimated to have been \$1 million. There are three years remaining to pay for the fire hall. Frank shared that there is a new ruling stating that fire trucks need to be less than 19 years old. Our fire district has a truck that is older than the ruling permits. Overall, the Fire District is looking for additional assistance from the City of Moose Lake.
- **MLWSSD** – Byron shared a recap of the sewer district. The sewer district has been battling with the city of Moose Lake. Byron has served on the sewer board for 23 years and states that this has been the worst year of his service. Currently, there is an allotment of 67,000 gallons/year for Windemere and Moose Lake Township. A flume that measures the flow has been questioned in accuracy. The sewer district has requested that the accuracy be checked. The process would not incur a cost and would be relatively simple to complete. To date, the city has refused to have the accuracy checked. The city of Moose Lake has proposed a new contract. One element of the proposal would charge up to \$700 day in penalties when the flow is exceeded which would be likely due to seasonal times such as spring melt. Additionally, the city is proposing charging and ERU fee of \$15 per month. With 500 users, this would yield \$85,000 to \$90,000 per year, which would in effect double the funds the city collects. Mediation has been entered into with no resolution. Fairness is being sought, and the next step may be non-binding arbitration. Both sides hope to avoid the subsequent step of litigation. May 1st is the deadline to come to an agreement before arbitration. The most viable option may involve transferring 54 customers from the township to the city. The customer would not see any

difference in billing and the annexation of these 54 customers would not be permitted. The Moose Lake Township Board would need to approve of this option. After much negotiation, the Sand Lake Resort has been approved. There is a moratorium on additional connections for the Moose Lake and Windemere Townships. Residents can apply for a connection which would include a finding of facts. The residents could wait for capacity or install their own septic and would be required to hook up when capacity is available.

A motion to extend the meeting time by 15 minutes was made by Conrad, second by Frank. Motion passed.

Darla Hall's position has been posted, and the sewer board is looking at applicants. Bruce Lourey, Moose Lake Township representative, is stepping down due to health concerns.

- **Library** – Librarian Laura has added programming throughout the year and continues to expand offerings including a 3-D printer which is available to the public. Laura is looking forward to attending an upcoming conference which has been very beneficial in previous years. Public is encouraged to stop by the library to check out the diverse offerings.

Communications and Requests - Clarification that state statutes do not permit the township board to award donations from the budget. Additionally, requests from some non-profits and groups are not permitted to be allocated during the annual meeting which impacted the requests by the Post Prom Committee and Family Pathways. No motion was made to donate to the Moose Lake Historical Society.

Donation request from Community Education for summer programming – A motion was made by Frank to support summer programming with \$5,000 donation. Second by Stan. Motion passed.

The next Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, at 7:00 PM

With no further action to discuss Frank Skalko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12PM, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Kirk

Moose Lake Township Clerk