

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

State of Minnesota
County of Chisago
Town of Franconia

The 153rd Annual Meeting of the town of Franconia was held March 8, 2011 at the Franconia Town Hall. The following board members were present: Supervisors Verner Greene Jr., Sue Thompson, Jim Birkholz; David Johnson, Treasurer; Susan Peterson, Deputy Clerk.

The polls were declared open at 10:00 am by Treasurer David Johnson and closed at 8:00 pm. Judges: Hartley Nelson; Monica Osterbauer; Jean Dexheimer; Mary Kowarach and Junior Election Judges: Luke___ and _____. A total of 47 votes were cast. The votes were counted and checked and verified as follows: Town Supervisor (3 year term): Verner Greene, Jr.: 29; Tasha Hock: 16; Brian Greene: 1; Paul Dennison: 1. Verner Greene, Jr. was declared winner. Special Election for town Supervisor (1 year term): Jim Birkholz: 24; Richard Sampson: 2. Jim Birkholz was declared winner.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Peterson and the pledge of allegiance was said. The floor was opened up for nominations of the moderator for the evening. Joe Johnson was nominated and with no other nominations was declared the moderator for the meeting.

The agenda for the evening was distributed and a call for additions prompted no discussion. A motion was made, seconded and the agenda was approved unanimously.

The minutes from the March 9th, 2010 annual meeting minutes were read by Deputy Township Clerk Susan Peterson. No additions or correction were made. A motion was made, seconded and the 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

The hours for the 2012 elections will be 10 am to 8 pm with the Annual meeting at 8:15 pm on March 13th, 2012. Official posting places for township news and official notices will be at the Franconia Town Hall, on the corner of Redwing Avenue and Franconia Trail and the Chisago County Press. A motion was made and seconded to add the township's website as an official place of posting. Discussion followed. The motion was amended to exclude the website as an *official* place of posting. The motion was voted on unanimously. While not an official source for posting, Township notices and news will also be submitted to the Franconia Township website.

Treasurer David Johnson distributed the 2010 financial report. Areas highlighted by David Johnson were the 2010 black top projects and the Bond Levy history. Supervisors Verner Greene, Jr. and Sue Thompson offered clarification of a few items. No discussion was had and the motion was made, seconded to approve the 2010 treasurer's statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Sue Thompson provided a brief report on the township website (www.franconiamn.us) and the Park committee.

- The website committee meets monthly and is seeking new committee members. All Franconia businesses are encouraged to be identified on the website for free. In exchange, the business is requested to provide a link to the township website on their business website. Discussion regarding the posting of township meetings official minutes on the website. A motion was made

and seconded that official minutes should not list people by name when comments are made at official township meetings. Discussion followed. All township meetings are public meetings; thus, all minutes are public. The motion was voted on and defeated. Township minutes will continue to be posted on the website. Care will be given to subsequent minutes and refer to attendees making comments as "resident" rather than by name but can not be assured.

- The Park Committee is in need of volunteers and committee members. Acquiring of the Bloom Lake lots were offered by the bank. The board chose not to accept because of costs.

Franconia/Shafer Fire Chief Ron Elfstrom presented a report on behalf of the Fire Department. A total of 67 runs were made in 2010: 14 fire, 53 medical. The upcoming 800 megahertz radio system will require a yearly maintenance fee of \$480 per radio. There are currently 6 local radios and between 8 and 10 portable radios available. A grant request is in progress. Pagers may need to be purchased by individuals. The Department is in need of new members. The annual Pancake Breakfast will be held Sunday, May 1st at the Fire hall in Shafer.

County Commissioner Lorna Walker was not in attendance but provided a packet of information that was circulated during the meeting.

The following Contract Requests were made by representatives:

- Family Pathways: Joe Johnson. 1.4 million pounds of food were distributed during the 2010 year which was an increase from the previous year. Requested: \$3,500.00.
- Refuge Network: Shaleen (sp) Johnson. The safe house in Chisago County is in the Stanchfield area and is currently housing between 12 and 18 people. 26 Franconia Township residents were served by the facility in 2010. Requested: \$1,500.00
- The Baby Blanket: Lorraine Swenson. The Baby Blanket has been in operation for 14 years and is housed at St Bridget Church in Lindstrom. In 2010, 335 mothers utilized the Baby Blanket. "Hannah's Arms" is a program which offers free daycare, a lunch and parenting classes on the 3rd Saturday of each month. 261 mothers and 176 children participated in "Hannah's Arms" in the 2010 year. 1900 volunteer hours equaling \$41 thousand dollars are donated each year. Requested: \$1000.00

The question was raised as to the criteria for honoring contract requests. Supervisors Verner Greene, Jr. and Sue Thompson stated that only those requests which serve Franconia residents are honored. The MN Statute gives township boards the authority to contract up to \$10 thousand annually and is to consider the public interest and electors may choose. A motion was made and second to continue the \$10 thousand annual contract requests with 13 voting for and 5 votes opposed. The motion passed by a show of hands.

The proposed 2011 Levy was unchanged from 2010, despite the fact that all township funds were not reimbursed by the state. The proposed levy does consider the 2 1/2% increase in the fire fund. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed Levy. No discussion followed and was carried unanimously.

Ryan Goldman from Boonstro offered a brief overview of upcoming plans. All signage will need to be replaced in a 2 part wave based on MN State regulations between 2015 and 2018. He also spoke to the benefits of long term pavement management. Supervisor Sue Thompson noted with appreciation that

Mr. Goldman attends Franconia meetings frequently and does not charge the township for this service. Sue Thompson also noted that MN Highway 95 will be under construction during the summer of 2011. Also noted, recently paved roads 260th Street and 280th Street are both suffering repercussions of the MN winter. Stan Anderson is aware of the concerns and is keeping an eye on them.

The above vote tallies were offered at this time and announced.

A call to adjourn was tabled when County Commissioner George McMahaon from District 3 arrived. While not our representative, he stated he was visiting as many township meetings as possible this particular evening. The county is working with "Heartland Express" to provide service to/from "Running Aces" for \$1.00 each way. A time table of 6:10 am and 7:10 am morning trips and 5 pm and 6 pm return trips are being considered.

The county budget from 2010 has been carried over to 2011. The 800 megahertz radio upgrade will cost approximately \$13 million. 73% of the budget is devoted to personnel. Staff reductions are in place at the county level. John _____ is leaving the end of April. A condensed search for replacement will be conducted.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted;

Susan J Peterson
Franconia Deputy Town Clerk