



**FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP**  
**165th ANNUAL MEETING**  
8:30 p.m. Tuesday March 14, 2023  
Franconia Town Hall  
25156 St. Croix Trail N. Shafer, MN 55074

**Residents Present:**

Chuck Fitzer, Matthew Hardy, Jacob Guzik, Ron Elfstrom, Karen Linde, Owen Kuhnly, Sonny Sparby, Starsha Froberg, Jim Birkholz, George DeGidio and Doug Wallis

**Call to Order:**

Treasurer Karen Anderson called the 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Franconia Township meeting to order at 8:31 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sonny Sparby made a motion to nominate Jim Birkholz as the moderator, Starsha Froberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Doug Wallis made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by George DeGidio. Motion carried.

Karen Linde made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 annual meeting, seconded by Doug Wallis. Motion carried.

Sonny Sparby made a motion to approve the continuation meeting minutes from September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, seconded by Owen Kuhnly. Motion carried.

The 2023 clerk report was read to the citizens.

Treasurer Karen Anderson stated the 2022 financial records were closed. Anderson presented the 2022 financial report to the citizens. Treasurer Anderson stated that Michael Pofahl, CPA was working on the outside audit of the financial records for 2022. Motion made by Karen Lundy to accept the 2022 Franconia Township financial report, seconded by Starsha Froberg. Motion carried.

There was some discussion about the Federal ARPA funds the Township received and what the money could be used for. The Federal government has guidelines for the approved usage of the funds.

The hour and date were set for the 2024 annual meeting and location. It was decided the annual meeting will be set for 8:30 pm at the Franconia Town Hall, 25156 St. Croix Trail N. Shafer, MN 55074 on the second Tuesday in March, which is the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. Sonny Sparby made the motion, seconded by Starsha Froberg. Motion carried.

Residents reviewed donation requests. Karen Linde made a motion to deny donation requests, seconded by Starsha Froberg. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rick Greene was not present, but left literature for the citizens.

Lee Cartier left a 2022 road report for the citizens. Jake Guzik, Township Engineer presented a 5-year road project plan and stated that the Franconia Trail guardrail would be replaced/fixed. Karen Linde asked if these were all in the budget/levy. Jake stated they were planned projects and would be in the budget.

Ron Elfstrom with the Shafer Franconia Fire and Rescue Department reported there were 154 calls this year, with 50 calls being from Franconia. There were 30 fires (8 Franconia), 12 auto accidents (11 Franconia), and 112 EMS calls (31 Franconia). Shafer Franconia Fire and Rescue Department are in urgent need of volunteers, especially during the day.

Board Chairman Owen Kuhnly stated estimates on site plan for the new town hall is in progress. A survey was done with using 9 acres for the town hall with the driveway off of Redwing Avenue. The township would sell the balance of the land. The township is having soil borings done. The township received a few preliminary estimates for the town hall and maintenance building ranging from 1.2 million to 1.7 million. Funding for the town hall would come from the levy, pulled from other funds, loans or bonding.

The 2024 proposed Levy of \$870,000 was presented with a 0% increase. Motion made by George DeGidio to approve the 2024 Levy of \$870,000.00 as presented. General Fund - \$70,000; Equipment Fund - \$30,000; Fire Contract Fund - \$50,000; Road and Bridge Fund - \$470,000; Road Blacktop Maintenance Fund - \$20,000; Blacktopping Fund - \$150,000; New Township Hall Building Fund - \$50,000 and Shafer Franconia Fire truck and building fund - \$30,000, seconded by Starsha Froberg. Motion carried.

### Election Results

30 total votes

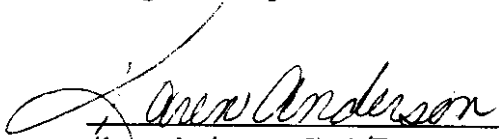
28 votes cast for Sonny Sparby elected to serve as Supervisor

2 votes for Paul Dennison - write-in

Treasurer Anderson was sworn in by Chairman Kuhnly to serve as interim clerk.

Motion made by George DeGidio to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by Doug Wallis. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

  
Owen Kuhnly, Chairman

  
Karen Anderson, Clerk/Treasurer