

Helga Township  
Annual Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2014

**Called to Order:** The clerk opened the meeting at 7:02

Pledge of allegiance was recited

**Moderator:**

Sue Adkins-clerk mentioned that copies of last year's minutes and financials are available.

Sue Adkins-clerk, asked for nominations for moderator

**Motion** made by Don Clay to nominate David Horn as moderator

Sue Adkins asked for other nominations, there were none,

Sue Adkins-Clerk asked for a vote, the audience voted by show of hand, **motion carried**

David came to the front to moderate the meeting.

**David Horn**, asked for a moment to speak. He said that he has been attending meetings and wanted say he has noticed that people mostly show up at the meetings if they have complaints and that they don't show up to thank the board for what they do. He said we should thank these folks for being willing to take on this job and take the criticism that they take and try to get things done for us. We need to thank them for their service.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Minutes of March 12, 2013** Annual Meeting were read by Sue Adkins-Clerk

**Motion** made by Jeff Schussman to accept the 3/12/13 annual minutes, **second by** Jim Lyle, **approved**

**Agenda:**

Sue Adkins, clerk noted a correction to the agenda the next regular board meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> instead of the 25<sup>th</sup> as noted on the agenda

David Horn read the agenda

**Treasurer's Report**

Jeanie Porter, read the statement of the accounts as of 12-31-2013, David asked for comments- none

**Motion** made by Tom Schackman to accept, **second by** Doug Miller, **approved**

**Financial Report:**

Sue Adkins-Clerk, mentioned that copies are available.

**Motion** made by Don Clay to accept, **second by** Tom Schackman, **approved**

Helga Township  
Annual Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2014

**Roads:**

Don Clay presented a report on the roads. He discussed the roads that were graveled in 2013 and the planned road work for 2014. Greg Henzel will inspect the road ditches this year for noxious weeds. Total costs of gravel, snow plowing, grading, maintenance and mowing was: 186,625.56

**Motion** made by Bob Klienschmidt to accept, **second by** Doug Miller, **approved**

**Ordinance:**

Don Clay commented that Jeff Schussman and he were headed to speak with Troy Gilcrist on March 21<sup>st</sup> regarding changes to the ordinance. Jeff Schussman stated that some of the items they were bringing to Gilcrist are to make the ordinance more uniform to the county such as matching setbacks and sign requirements. Also if there are already governing bodies regulating items that the township not get involved with that. They will bring up non-conforming items and the commercial districts to see if there can be changes. David asked if there were items that the residents want them to bring up at the meeting. It is intended to keep the 5 acres minimum. It was asked about the minimum requirement for a 16' width for trailer houses and it was decided that it was for all buildings not just trailer houses. Jeff and Don will get clarification on that.

**Official Postings:**

Current postings are the Pioneer, Fugate's, Helga Town Hall, and the Website. The previous Balsam Beach site display was moved to Fugate's because of the store closing. Discussion that now that we have the website we shouldn't need other sites.

**Motion** made by Don Clay to discontinue further discussion on posting at the Balsam Beach site or any other sites, **second by** Mark Lawyer, **motion carried**

Don Clay said it was earlier discussed that the Buyline was cheaper than the Pioneer and not everyone gets the Pioneer. It was mentioned everyone did not get the Buyline either.

Jeanier Porter mentioned that Guthrie Township sent out postcards to all residents for the notice of the annual meeting.

**Motion** made by Jeff Schussman to change the official posting to the Buyline instead of the Pioneer, **second by** Joanna Olson-Hammerstrom, Discussion It was decided to leave it up to the board at a later date.

**Motion** made by Jeff Schussman to table the posting decision, **second by** Mark Lawyer, **approved**

Helga Township  
Annual Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2014

**PROPOSED BUDGET AND LEVY 2015:**

David Horn read the budget and levy and sked for discussion.

**2015 PROPOSED BUDGET**

GENERAL FUND	88,000
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	130,000
FIRE FUND	33,000
CEMETERY FUND	2,000
TOWNHALL FUND	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	278,000

**2015 PROPOSED LEVY**

GENERAL FUND	84,000
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	120,000
FIRE FUND	33,000
CEMETERY FUND	2,000
TOWNHALL FUND	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	264,000

It was asked why there is a levy for the town hall fund when there was none previously. The way in which expenses were being accounted for was discussed. It was asked if there is a slush fund for the town hall. It was discussed that there isn't a slush fund it was explained that there is preapproval for an emergency expense only if needed up to \$250.

The increase in the levy was discussed. It was noted that we had to take out of the reserves this year and that there hasn't been an increase in the levy for several years. It was discussed that we won't really know how it will affect an individual's taxes until the tax base is determined and that won't be until this fall. Don Clay noted that according to the county auditor, most townships recess the levy meeting until the fall until there are more details available. It was noted that our assessor is also saying there should be a larger tax base for us because he has identified 383 structures this year that were not being previously assessed. This should increase our tax base.

**Motion** made by Tom Schackman, to recess until the August regular meeting, **second by** Jim Lyle, **motion carried**

**DONATIONS:**

The list of donation requests were reviewed. It was asked if they all meet the criteria for donations that the township can make. The clerk read the list of categories in which the township can donate.

Rich Marsolek, was in the audience from the North Country First Responders and was asked to comment. He explained their role and how they are funded. David asked for comments. It was asked to hear all of the requests before any other action. David commented that there are some that don't seem to qualify, but the entire list was read. A comment was made that all of the other requests don't seem to offer something to us like the First Responders do.

It was brought up that maybe we shouldn't be making donations when we have to raise our levy.

Helga Township  
Annual Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2014

Mona Dagestad, brought up that there was a donation approved by the board last year to the Lake Plantagenet Assoc. and already approved again for this coming year and why wasn't that listed as a donation. The clerk explained that it was already approved and that there are some that can only be approved by the electors and some that can be approved by the board alone. Probably for this reason the annual meeting is when we receive the bulk of the donation requests. Mona noted that we have however, already donated \$1200 for this coming year.

**Motion** made by Joann Olson-Hammerstom to donate \$500 to the North Country First Responders, **second by** Bob Klienschmidt, **motion carried**

Wayne Hoff, commented that it might look better on our historical registry application if we made a donation to the historical society. Discussed

**Motion** made by Mona Dagestad to strike the rest of the donation requests, **second by** Jim Lyle, **motion carried**

### **2015 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Motion** made by Jeff Schussman to hold the 2015 Annual Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:00 pm, **second by** Don Clay, **motion carried**

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Regular meeting 3/18/14; 7:00

Local Board of Equalization 4/23/14; 1:00

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mona Dagestad, noted that it was approved at a previous meeting to have Don Clay snowplow the parking lot. She suggested that it should go up for bids between residents. Don noted that bidders would have to supply insurance to us for that.

Mona, suggested that the warrants that are approved at each meeting be made available to the audience as well.

Mona wanted to note that she thought an audio from a previous meeting criticized and slandered the planning commission and that she resigned that night. She asked where they stand. It was stated that Brian Hughes has also resigned. David Horn said that he has now been appointed to the planning commission. David also commented that it does seem to be a thankless job.

Wayne Hoff asked if there is interest in a motion to have a township picnic. There was a fall picnic last year.

**Motion** made by Don Clay to have a township picnic, **Second by** Wayne Hoff, **approved**

David Horn commented that last year the board did a lot of work and paid for the picnic on their own. He said that if we are going to have a community picnic that there should be some money available for the picnic. He asked for a motion concerning funding the picnic. No motion made. It was commented that we could ask for donations. It was suggested that the date be set by the board at a later time.

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Helga Township  
Annual Meeting  
Minutes  
March 11, 2014

*Draft*

**ADJOURNMENT**

David asked for a motion to recess.

**Motion** made by Tom Schackman, to recess, **Seconded by** Jim Lyle, **motion carried.**  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted

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*Susan Adkins, Township Clerk*

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*Moderator*