

## **Annual Town Meeting April 8, 2014 at 6:00PM**

The meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Pam Christianson at 6:00PM. Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Marvin Claassen, Groveland Missionary Church. Clerk Christianson then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Christianson read the legal notice published in the Pekin Times. Clerk Christianson then asks for nomination for Meeting Moderator. Dave Risinger made a motion to nominate Dan McCormick and John Arnold seconds. No other nominations were offered. Motion carried with all in attendance voting "Aye". Mr. McCormick was administered the Oath of Office by Clerk Christianson and was seated as Moderator.

John Arnold then made a motion to use "Robert's Rules of Order" for this meeting, Tony Feger seconds. Motion carries with all in attendance voting "Aye"

Minutes of the April 9, 2013 Annual Town Meeting were presented. John Shallenberger made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Brian Manuel seconds, motion carries with all in attendance voting "Aye".

Moderator McCormick asks for a motion to set the next "Annual Town Meeting" for the second Tuesday in April 2015. Pastor Mike Turner makes a motion to set next year's meeting for April 14, 2015 and Nick Gauwitz seconds. Motion carries with all in attendance voting "Aye".

### 1) Supervisor's Report - Township Finances

Moderator McCormick offered the Township's Financial Report and explained all the auditing issues reflected in the "odd" looking fund balances. He explained that our new Auditor Eric Jones found a number of issues the previous auditor should have caught; primarily that some expenses over the past four years were being paid out of the wrong funds. With Mr. Jones expert direction and recommendations all of those expenses are now being paid out of the correct funds. One area in particular that will be impacted is support for the Food Banks which previously came out of GA funds but now must come out of the Town Funds. The end result of these adjustments is that there will be a shortfall in the Townships ability to meet normal operating expenses until this year's taxes come in. Road Commissioner Risinger will offer a resolution at the next regular meeting "April 14, 2014" to make a temporary inter-fund loan for the purpose of paying operating expenses. This will save the taxpayers money in the form of an interest expense and will be repaid within one year.

- 2) Groveland Fire Service Updates: Joe Hranka states that the Fire Service has been very active lately with one event already planned for early May. There will be a Groveland Township Fire Safety Day on May 10, 2014 at 11:00AM sponsored by the Groveland Township Fire Safety Boards. This will be the first Fire Safety Day and will be held at the rear entrance of the Groveland Missionary Church. There will be demonstrations of several types of fires and how to extinguish them with your fire extinguisher. They will have personnel on hand to check home extinguishers as well as have fire extinguishers for sale from Getz Fire Equip. There will also be information available about Carbon Monoxide Detectors as well as free Hot Dogs and Soda.

In addition to the above event there are a number of other things in the works at the present time. We are looking into buying "Defibrillators" and arranging for training on their use. We are still working to resolve the fire hydrant issue. Our plan is to work closely with the water department as well as have engineers come in to assess this issue. Mr. Hranka did comment that this is a long and somewhat difficult process but that they are working on it. Mr. Hranka was asked about the status of getting a "Rescue Vehicle". He says that East Peoria is now a first responder for fires and that this took a real group effort, currently AMT is being used for emergency calls. Moderator McCormick adds that it's only been in the last 2 or 3 years that the township has had an active Fire Board and that getting the fire hydrants in use will be really good. Mr. McCormick expressed his thanks to the Fire Board for all of their work.

- 3) Transfer of Funds

Moderator McCormick states that this was already discussed in the Financial Report on how we will be making adjustments.

- 4) Recycling Decision

Moderator McCormick reports that the board of trustee's voted to not renew the recycling contract primarily due to the cost to the township and user abuses. Moderator McCormick asks members of the board to elaborate on the decision. Tony Feger states that having a recycling program is a good idea but the cost to the township for things not covered by the grant could no longer be justified. There are no funds for instance for the man hours needed to monitor and sort through non-recyclable items. John Arnold says that possible injuries in doing these things could end up costing the Township even more money than the already \$3000.00 plus yearly in cost overruns. John Shallenberger suggests having a clean-up day possibly in conjunction with the Garage Sale every year.

Mr. Risinger states that about 60% of use is legal use by residents of the township and about 40% is by people from outside of township. Things like garbage or mattresses are dumped

mostly at night or on the weekends when no one is around.

Moderator McCormick states while it was a difficult decision there is only one full time employee for the business office and it's just not fair to ask them to shoulder the extra work. He states that we have looked into alternatives such as a clean-up day, or using Grimm Bros. who will provide containers for a small fee for roadside recycling. The township will post options on the website as well as have the appropriate phone numbers available for residents who come by the Township office.

#### 4.) Report from the Pioneer Committee

Joe Hranka states that the Pioneer Committee, previously an arm of the Township, now has everything in place making the committee a private entity. The Pioneer Committee is requesting permission to use some of the townships facilities and property to hold the carnival. This year's contract with the Carnival has been signed to lock in the date for this year but will need a motion to continue with the Carnival for this year 2014. Additionally, because the Carnival needs to lock in the dates prior the Annual Town Mtg. each year we need to plan a year ahead and have a request for a second motion for 2015.

Motion to Approve the Carnival for 2014 made by Joe Hranka and seconded by Shelly Hranka.

Discussion primarily centered on the possible sale of alcohol near the Carnival site. Pastor Mike Turner of Christ Fellowship Church is concerned about the sale of alcohol near the carnival which is held on the Church's property. He feels that as a spiritual leader he cannot endorse the practice of having a beer tent for instance so close to what he feels should be a family function. He fears it sends the wrong message with people under the influence attending. Mr. Hranka responds by saying a beer tent for instance would not be on township property and that the County & Liquor Commission allows anyone with valid credentials to set up on their own property. He also says that the committee has no control over what an individual might do but the committee could discourage the idea as well as not accept any proceeds that might be generated.

Motion to approve the Carnival for 2014 made by: Joe Hranka with a second by Shelly Hranka. All in favor voted "Aye" with one vote of "Nay"

Motion to approve the Carnival for 2015 made by: John Arnold with a second by Shelly Hranka. All in favor voted "Aye" with two voting "Nay"

Motion to adjourn was made by John Shallenberger, with a second by Shelly Hranka. All in favor voted "Aye" Motion Carried meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.  
Pam Christianson Town Clerk 4/08/2014