

Annual Town Meeting April 14, 2015 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 of 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. RaeLyn McCormick made a motion to nominate Tony Feger and John Shallenberger seconds. No other nominations were offered. Motion carried with all in attendance voting "Aye". Tony Feger was administered the Oath of Office by Clerk Christianson and was seated as Moderator.

Brian Manuel then made a motion to use "Robert's Rules of Order" for this meeting, Robert Schmidt 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, Shelley Hranka seconds, motion carries with all in attendance voting "Aye".

Tony Feger asks for a motion to set the next "Annual Town Meeting" for the second Tuesday in April 2016. Robert Schmidt made a motion to set next year's meeting for April 12, 2016 and Shelley Hranka seconds. Motion carries with all in attendance voting "Aye".

1) Supervisor's Report - Township Finances

Moderator Feger introduced himself noting that as the senior Trustee for Groveland Township he will be filling in for Supervisor McCormick in his absence. He asked the audience to bear with him as this is the first time he has served in this capacity. Moderator Feger offered the Township's Financial Report and explained that at this time this is a "Tentative Budget" that potentially will require a couple of adjustments before it is finalized at the next Regular Township Meeting. He noted that we have used a little more this year but that we are still in good shape over all.

2.) Report of the Road Commissioner:

Road Commissioner McCool reports that there are a number of road issues this year, about 20 to 25 areas that they are working on. The road department maintains about 45 miles of roads affecting approximately 22,000 residents. One of the larger projects has been the Olympia Fields job in Country Club Estates that required running 70ft of new pipe as well as tilling and seeding. Another large project on Fahey Hollow Rd. has required a significant amount of tree trimming

and replacing a pipe under the road in preparation for future bridge work. The bridge is still closed. This past winters snow and freeze/thaw cycle left in its wake a lot of damage to the roads. Along with routine road maintenance we have been doing a lot of shoulder work, running new pipe, coring and ditching a number of roads in the township. Ross Hovind commented that while he will miss Dave Risinger (previous Road Commissioner) he applauds Mr. McCool for a job well done. Mr. McCool also points out that there are a number of pieces of old road equipment not being used that is for sale. Slides and details will be on the website and if anyone is interested they can contact him directly.

3.) Assessors Report:

Assessor McCormick introduced Jason McClain (part-time assistant). She reports that of the 83 tornado damaged homes have been repaired, 2 properties have been demolished, and another 2 are scheduled for demolition. She says that with over 10,000 parcels of property to photograph and measure she has hired two part time employees for the summer to assist in that effort. Assessor McCormick also discussed with the audience some general information concerning the “Illinois Homestead Exemptions” that residents may or may not be aware of. There are a number of categories of exemptions and says that we do not alert the taxpayer of when they may be eligible so it’s up to the taxpayer to file for any program they may be qualify for. She provided handouts with the types and amounts of exemptions and how to file for eligibility.

4.) Update on Groveland Fire Services:

Terry Cunefare, President of the Central Groveland Fire Board, say the boards are working on being proactive in the area of fire protection and insurance liability as it relates to the fire hydrants. Currently Central is covered and the other is in process. There have been a number of meetings with the water and fire boards and we are making progress but still have a way to go. One area that has been resolved is the hydrant in Whispering Oaks where the Fire Boards are paying for the hydrant and the Water Department is paying for the installation. He also mentioned that last years “Fire Days” was a big hit. North Pekin and Morton brought in their ladder trucks, Getz Fire Equipment was here to demonstrate and educate residents on available equipment and food was served by Les (Woody) Knollenberg. We have been trying to schedule another one again this year but finding a time to schedule has been the main issue. At this point he wanted to thank Joe Hranka for all of his help last year in helping make that event a success. Robert Schmidt then asked two questions; 1.) Why are there two Fire Boards? 2.) What is response time for responding to a call? In response to the first question Mr. Cunefare said he has consulted with the attorney who said it would be a “monster of a problem” to combine fire

departments for a variety of reasons and did not recommend it. As to second question of response time he pointed out that both North Pekin and Morton are all volunteer fire departments and that in itself contributes to a response time window. Last year's 1st responder agreement with East Peoria helps with that time since they are staffed 24/7. As to other emergency issues such as ambulance service he says that the Muller Rd. fire house does not have manned service so calls come out of Central Fire House in East Peoria which takes longer. There is a mutual aid agreement in place between AMT out of Pekin and the East Peoria departments. In regards to the discussion of defibrillators at last year's meeting he says that they have discussed in detail the issue of having defibrillators installed around town and where to put them. Mike O'Brien suggested that one could be installed in his garage but there is still the problem of having accessibility 24/7.

At this point in the meeting Les Knollenberg directed a question to Bill Compton from the Water Board asking if he had board approval to lock the fire hydrants along Springfield Rd, or did he make that decision personally? Mr. Compton did not answer that question directly saying that the engineer made that decision based on the vulnerabilities of the lines and that in discussions with the board there was a consensus to move forward. Mr. Knollenberg pressed Mr. Compton five more times asking the same question until Mr. Compton finally said that the board did not vote to put locks on the hydrants. This comment generated a number of heated questions from the audience with back and forth discussions all around the room until Bill Anderson stood and asked to make a motion. Motion by Bill Anderson and second by Les Knollenberg: "It is the desire of the residents of Groveland Township that the Groveland Water District provide drinking water and fire protection to Groveland Township". Motion carried with a show of hands; 19 in favor and 0 against.

5.) Report from the Water District Board:

Bill Compton Water Board Chairman reports that the Water District Board is comprised of a seven member board appointed by the Groveland Township Board and has Illinois EPA recognition for small rural areas. Currently we have a rolling five year financial plan that projects twenty years ahead. There is approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000 in the bank with about \$400,000 held in reserve. In consultation with the attorney the amount in reserve is set to run out in approximately three to four years. The Water District since 1983 is chartered to supply water to its residents and only supply portable water for firefighting. A recent ISO study revealed that the current system cannot handle firefighting and would need a second system to bring it up to standard at a cost of approximately 22 million dollars. The upgrades along Springfield Rd. from four inch to eight inch lines does not address the fact that the water system

still includes 2-inch and 4-inch pipes that could be overwhelmed if hydrants were used at will by firefighters. He said the increased pressure could trigger an automatic “shut down” causing repairs and boil orders for days.

6.) Permission to sell excess Road Division Equipment:

Motion by: Hranka Second by: Peggy Corra No further discussion.

All voting “Aye” Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn made by: Brian Manuel with a second by: Les Knollenberg.

Motion carried with all in favor voting “Aye”

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30PM

Pam Christianson Town Clerk 4/14/2015