Lake Eunice Township

Treasurer: Ann Hixson Supervisors: Ed Clem, Gerald Johnson

Chairman: Jason Rosing Wayne Jacobson, Al Bergquist

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The Lake Eunice Township board held its monthly meeting at the town hall on April 16th, 2025 at 7:00 pm.  The minutes from February 2025 was reviewed and approved by a motion by Wayne Jacobson and seconded by Ed Clem.  The treasurer report was reviewed. Jason Rosing asked the board to look at the budget numbers today in relation to the annual meeting and the vote on the levy increase. At the annual meeting in March 2025, the residents voted to increase the levy 7 percent. The board noted the last time the levy had been raised was 2017.

Ron Bratlie, Lake Eunice resident was present. He attended the annual meeting. He reiterated that the board has been doing a great job at the budget and he supported the 7 percent levy increase. He stated it is clear Lake Eunice township has been managing within their means and if an increase is needed to continue to provide this level of services, he supports. In addition, he stated the snow plow driver should be commended for this work this past winter.

Jeff Moritz was present as the manager of the Cormorant Watershed with a resolution they passed in regards to the closure of the Lake Eunice Compost. He verbalized concerns over the closure and the effects of water quality and the potential for people dumping in the lakes and road ways. Mike Foley, was also present from the Cormorant Watershed. He stated the closure in compost is not ideal for the residents of Lake Eunice. He concerned about where people are going to go? He encouraged the board to re-open the compost site or create a new one. He has spoken to Environmental Services-Steve Skoog – Administrator, about this situation and the concerns noted in statue about the responsibilities of the compost site regulations. He stated Steven Skoog does not think this is an issue and related that townships will fly under the radar of these regulations. Heather Anderson indicated Lake Eunice has been told by the MN Association of Township and the township attorney, Lake Eunice Township is not excluded from these regulations. Due to that legal advice, the board must ensure they adhere to regulations just as the Cormorant Watershed must. Al Bergquist indicated he closed the compost mainly because of individuals that do not respect the rules and that this compost was on his private property. He stated people will drive around the gate when closed and deposit items that were not brushing, clippings etc. In addition, Al Bergquist noted that he has been doing this for no compensation for years. Also discussed was the possibility of Lake Eunice residents using other compost sites in the area that are closer than the site north that Becker County controls. John Okeson, road supervisor for Lakeview Township was present. The board asked him to consider allowing Lake Eunice residents to use their sites with reimbursement from the township. John Okeson will bring this request to his board this month and contact Jason Rosing about the decision.

The board discussed Pearl Lake Circle and the need for a hammerhead this year. Jason Rosing will contact Meadowland Survey and come back next month with possible budget.

Jeff Moritz did ask about paving Erickson Road and indicated he would support that. The board advised the large project they have in front of them is over on Pearl Lake. Erickson Road is a through road and will be considered in the future.

John Okeson presented the board his road report and the board discussed Pearl Lake and the other roads. Lake Eunice has about 60 miles of roads and overall, they are looking good. The board did discuss their upcoming road tour. The board will do their road tour on April 16th, 2025 at 2 pm. Heather Anderson will post this tour.

The board discussed ditch spraying that needs to be completed. L and M is still doing ditch spraying and Ed Clem will contact them about getting this done.

The board discussed the possibly levy increase that was approved by the residents at the annual meeting of 7 percent. A few of the residents that were at the annual meeting were present tonight and indicated their support. The board discussed the 7 percent. Ed Clem made a motion to approve that levy increase and Al Bergquist seconded and this was passed. Jason Rosing will fill out the form for the auditor’s office with the changes and submit.

During the 2025 annual meeting, the residents brought up township board compensation and did ask Heather Anderson to do a wage study on compensation. This was shared with the board. Heather Anderson used five townships with similar populations (1500 to 2000). After reviewing the information, Ed Clem made a motion to increase compensation to align with what our surrounding townships are paying.

Clerk $825/month

Treasurer $600/month

Chairman $600/month

Road Supervisors $350/month

Outside meetings $25/hour

This was approved by the board and supported by the residents in attendance who encouraged the board to have adequate compensation for the work they do. Heather Anderson reminded the board to submit mileage totals to Ann Hixson every month. The residents in attendance suggested an advisory committee to possibly deal with these issues when they arise as the board did struggle with increasing their salaries. Jeff Moritz indicated that if there is an advisory committee, it takes the emotion our of decisions and any potential conflicts of interest.

The Audubon Fire Chief is confirmed to attend the May meeting. The board was asked if there are any questions that can be sent ahead of time to maximize the time. This is the list for the meeting.

* How many fire calls did you respond to last year?  How many of those calls were for Lake Eunice township?
* Do you have any data on how far away those calls were from your building?  How many miles away?  Or any data on the average length of time it takes for your crew to arrive at the address?  The board has heard from many residents that other fire departments are coming before Audubon.
* They are wanting to make sure that the money that is given to Audubon Fire every year goes directly to Audubon Fire.  Of course, we realize that there may be some administrative costs but that much of the amount goes directly to Audubon Fire.

An email was received by Cindy Sperl, a Lake Eunice resident, in regards to continued concerns with Audubon Fire Department. She would like her correspondences posted as public information. She will be encouraged to attend the next meeting as the Audubon Fire Department will be present and hopefully be prepared to answer questions from the board and public. Please see emails from Cindy Sperl and posted as she requested:

Also we are concerned about Lake Eunice private data being protected under MN Statute 13..43 as we have noticed that the City of Audubon and its so said representatives have failed to follow so said statute and provided private information to the public. Requesting what safeguards they have in place to protect private information such as banking information etc and how it is being stored and protected. Please add this correspondence as public.

We are requesting the information we requested regarding the Fire Contract be provided prior to the meeting so that we have time to review. Also if Lake Eunice provides a council packet please provide. We would like to see what other fire departments in our area would charge and what other services they offer in comparison to what we are currently receiving. We are also very concerned about the City of Audubon water infrastructure and the fire hydrants having adequate maintenance. With the extreme amount of Public Works employee turnover (2 in just the last 6 weeks) and the City not having a current Water and Sewer License for 5 days is very concerning.

Also last week the Utility Billing Clerk resigned which would in turn affect accurate fire billing to our residents amongst other issues due to this turnover. We are requesting that this email correspondence be made public at the discretion of our township.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm by motion from Wayne Jacobson and seconded by Ed Clem.

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Heather Anderson, Township Clerk Date

15320 Blackhawk Road

Audubon, Minnesota 56511

218-287-0562