

Pine Lake Township

Annual Meeting March 11, 2025

1. Call to Order by Bob Sieling, chairman – Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
2. Tom T was nominated to act as meeting moderator
3. The vote count for open position was announced with no write-ins.
 - a. Pete Snortum 16 votes for supervisor
 - b. Ken Guck 16 votes for treasurer
4. Tom T read the Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting. -- Motion by Ed Roberts, 2nd by Larry Bucholtz – motion carried.
5. Donations
Perham Library (Tom T), EOT Agricultural Society (Monique R), and NYM Regional Cultural (Betsy R) each gave short presentation. – Motion by Ed R, 2nd by Jerome M to allocate \$3,000 -- \$1,000 to each party. –motion carried
6. Supervisors Report – Chairperson Bob Sieling
 - a. 2024 projects
 - a) patched a section of 490th (tower road).
 - b) Graveled part of 450th as general maintenance
 - c) Shaped and added material to 470th –470th and river road are high maintenance because of amount of traffic.
 - d) Other normal maintenance
 - b. 2025 projects
 - a) Tower road will probably need more repair. Asphalt thickness varies from ½ inch to 3 inches.
 - b) Road trip will be done in May
 - c) Potential issue on 445th

Ben P asked about condition of the access between the tracks on MN Street and highway 10. Bob S thought it was part of the State right of way. He will find out.

Discussion on the minimum maintenance road off Big Pine Road (the right of way to the lake). Ed R talked about it being an issue when he came on the board (mid 90s). Chairman Sieling added that Dan H, the adjacent owner, is working with the township. His concern is people tearing up his yard. The county cannot find evidence of it being recorded. Ed R stated there are ROW markers from a survey. The county shows where it has been labeled a platted right of way.

- c. 2 resolutions were passed by the board last year
 - a) Cannibus – the board turned the regulation over to the county.
 - b) Open book – eliminated the annual April equalization meeting. Bob S stated since the board had no authority, it is just an extra step taxpayers

must go through to appeal their tax valuation. Larry B added that several years ago, the township had its own assessor that made the meeting with the county more meaningful—but that changed.

7. Perham EMS director Becca Huebsch gave an update on the ambulance service and challenges. 2024 there were 1,511 ambulance calls (26 in Pine Lake). Perham is an Advance Life Support (ALS) organization with around the clock paramedics on duty. 33% of the calls are transfers. 81% of their calls require ALS response. The ambulance is owned by 15 joint power entities (12 townships, 3 cities). 2025 was the first year the ambulance needed additional funds. It is an issue across the county for rural services. In 2023, the joint powers board voted to subsidize ambulance operations. Pine Lake's amount for 2025 is \$37,738. One of the main issues is only being able to collect between 28-44% of the cost of services due to federal and other guidelines. There was much discussion of moving to a taxing district. Becca gave examples of the difference between the existing subsidies which are paid through township levy vs. taxing district which would be a line item on individual tax statement. More discussion after Becca left for another meeting. Joint powers will meet in April. Dale W asked that the board keep them informed.
8. Bob Sieling gave the 2024 Financial Report. He presented a chart that showed the revenue and expenditures for the year. Motion by Jerome M, 2nd by Larry B to accept the treasurer's report. Tax levy recommendations were presented.

Current Levy Taxes:

2025 General Fund \$10,000
2025 Road and Bridge \$245,000
2025 Fire \$60,000

Proposed 2026 Levy

2026 General Fund \$10,000
2026 Road and Bridge \$245,000
2026 Fire/EMS \$75,000

Motion by Ed R, 2nd by Jerome M to accept proposed levy for 2026. Motion carried.

9. Motion by Ben P to set Gopher bounty at \$3.75, 2nd by Jayden M. motion carried. Beaver Prices for 2025 will stay at \$25.
10. Town Hall Addition – discussed a few potential changes to existing hall (new windows, etc.). Dale W suggested putting another door in for fire code.
11. Set 2026 Annual Meeting Time – Tuesday, March 10, 2026
12. Being no other Business –Meeting adjourned

