

**CASTLE ROCK TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 9, 1999**

The annual meeting of the Township of Castle Rock was convened at the town hall at 8:15 p.m. Present were Darrel Gilmer, Paul Irrthum, Norman Torbenson, William T. Neil, John Day, William ?, Roger G. Randall, Douglas Wiedder, Norbert J. Kuhn, Harvey Ozmun, Thomas ?, Mark Henry, Mark Wagenknecht, Jonathon Kuhn, Maralee Rother, Kenneth Betzold, Bob Hart, Charles Sachs, D K?, Rich Betzold?, Cindy Becker, William Fitch, Randy Becker, Tom Hooper – Dakota County Deputy, Michelle Nicolai.

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Nicolai, Clerk. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Clerk called for nominations for a moderator. **John Day made a motion, seconded by Bill Neil to nominate Bill May as Moderator. Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Bill Fitch, seconded by John Day to approve the March 9, 1999 Annual minutes as read with the following changes; Change Harry Ozmun to Harvey. Under Road Committee fix spelling errors township and yp to up. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer Roger Randall read the Finance report for the year ending December 31, 1999. The township total income was \$348,733 and expenses \$287,898 leaving a balance of \$60,835. The XOther income in the 1998 compare. Rev & Expense was the loan for the town hall. The XOther expense for 1999 was for a performance bond. Mr. Randall explained that a Mr. John Kisch of Hastings is in the process of doing an audit and it should be done by tax time. **Bill Neil made a motion, seconded by Bob Hart to approve the treasurers' report subject to audit. Motion carried.**

Road Committee

Mark Wagenknecht read the 1999 Road Committee report. Capital Improvement Projects were estimated over the next 10 years. Year 2000 Overlay Rocky Hills, the Village and King Castle Estates \$80,000. Year 2005 Reconstruct 2 miles of Denmark \$300,000. Year 2009 Reconstruct 1 mile of road \$160,000, 1 bridge at \$200,000. This is a 10 year estimate, ongoing maintenance included. Gravel 5-6 miles \$48,000, spray brush entire township ongoing \$2,500, large tree removal \$1,000, dust control \$5,000, home must be within 250 feet of road (est. cost per resident \$35) and final installation of drain tile \$3,000.

Gravel testing was implemented proving quality surpasses quantity. Brush cutting is proving to be cost effective. 1998 cost estimate \$4,000 1999 estimate \$700. The road committee is currently working with the Planning Commission to put together road specs.

Bill Fitch made a motion, seconded by Chuck Sachs to approve the Road Committees recommendations. Motion carried.

Sheriffs Deputy

Sheriffs' Deputy Tom Hooper attended the meeting to see if the township has any concerns at this time. There have been some break-ins and we should be advised to lock doors and do not leave keys in our cars.

Communications Committee

Michelle Nicolai read the Communications Committee report. The committee as of lately has no volunteers. Last week Shirley Dubbles and Mary Ellen Smith expressed interest in helping with this newsletter. Clerk and Staff put out the last newsletter on their own time. Any points of interest or volunteers would be appreciated or the newsletter can not be continued.

Parks Committee

Bill Neil gave the Parks Committee report. The township newsletter asked for volunteers and as yet there have been no volunteers. The committee consists of Bill Neil, Kris Akin and Gary Switzer. The township arranged to have both parks moved, fertilized and sprayed for weeds, as well as a satellite toilet rented and treated periodically in the north park on Highway 50. Flowers were planted under the sign at the North Park and the Local Castle Rock Hotshots 4-h club painted the backstop. A sign was posted in the North Park to discourage parking of cars and trucks and equipment for sale by private parties. The sign says – “No overnight parking – violators will be towed.” People are still abusing this by parking their vehicles there during the day and then removing them at night again and again until they are sold. No trees were planted this summer but the Tree Company at no charge replaced one. Some 2000 plans included picnic tables and refuse containers. More trees and shrubs and the parking lot in the north park needs grading and the concrete parking slabs need to be moved to the south side of the parking area to protect the three trees planted there. Flowers will be planted again in the North Park. Bill Fitch asked about this years park maintenance bid proposal sent out this year. It is requesting rodent control and the parking lot to be kept level. Is this asking too much. Road committee replied that it is not an out of line request and most companies have the equipment to handle this.

Ken Betzold made a motion, seconded by Tom Kiser for each committee to submit a copy of their reports to the Clerk as a common courtesy. Motion carried.

Proposed Budget and Levy

Treasurer R. Randall presented the proposed budget and Levy for year 2000. The proposed income for 2000 is \$372,700 and the proposed expense is \$494,300. This is because there is \$180,000 under road expense that is already set aside in the Capital Road Fund totaling \$190,000.

Administration fee also includes legal and engineering fees. The board gave an estimate of increase in this department due to the landfill recovery on highway three and the Prairie Waterway project with Farmington. The residents asked about the situation with the landfill recovery and Mr. Kuhn told them he is closed down and in the process of clean up. He is to pay the township for monthly inspections. He has been given 6 months to complete. Dennis Ozment and Joe Harris are looking into any assistance that might be available from the government in assisting the township with this clean up. It was asked if the landfill recovery will be able to operate again after the clean up. The answer is no. The township presently has no place zoned for this type of operation. Mr. Kuhn introduced our new building official Darrel Gilmer. Mr. Randall then explained the increase in expense under Building Inspections. The State Codes and guidelines have determined an increase in expense and revenue. The current mortgage on the town hall is \$67,000. There was a decrease of \$9,000 in roads due to light snow. X----- **made a motion, seconded by ----- to adopt the \$296,000 proposed Levy for 2000. Motion carried.**

The board put a moratorium on all road improvements for 1 year until the road committee along with the planning commission can put together a road spec policy. There were several road counts done by the county and it was determined that 225th street has 507 vehicles daily. The next highest was Denmark with over 300 vehicles daily. The county determines that a road should be hardsurfaced if more than 300 vehicles travel it daily. This combined committee is going to try to determine who should pay for these type of projects and what our standards need to be. They are in the process of talking to other townships and engineers.

Election results

Supervisor 3 year

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Kenneth Betzold | 162 |
| Tom Harris (write-in) | 2 |
| Blank | 10 |

Supervisor 3 year

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Randy Becker | 90 |
| Norbert Kuhn Jr. | 79 |
| Jack Tutewohl (write-in) | 1 |
| Blank | 4 |

Clerk

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Maralee Rother | 152 | |
| Michelle Nicolai (write-in) | 5 | |
| Mary Ellen Smith (write-in) | 1 | |
| Robert Strachen (write-in) | 1 | |
| Blank | 15 | Total 174 votes |

Dust Control

Harvey Ozmun made a motion that the township should pay 100% of dust control. Dennis Kuhn amended the motion that last years original cards should be sent out to the 78 residents who live within 250 feet of the road. The township will pay 100% of dust control for those who request it by returning the card. Jim Ozmun seconded the motion. The motion and amendment are both carried.

Parks

Bill Fitch requested last year that the ditches in the parks be maintained. This was not done and he is asking again to make sure maintenance will comply with this.

Quarry Issues

Norman Torbenson asked us all to be aware of the issues that the surrounding townships will face with the proposed quarry.

A motion was made by Bill Neil, seconded by Chuck Sachs to set the next Annual meeting date for the second Tuesday of March 2001 at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ken Betzold, seconded by Bill Neil to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Nicolai, Clerk

Attest:

Norbert Kuhn Jr., Chairman