

SLT Board Chairman comments for 2020 SLT Annual Town Meeting

1. WELCOME & THANKS –

- a. SLT voters & tax payers,
- b. SLT Clerk & Treasurer – Election Judges, Staff of Terry Johnson, Jim Piper, and Mike Sundblad,
- c. Grateful for a year of successful operations with no accidents or injuries,
- d. Saddened by the passing of Ray Harthun and Ron Peterson, both good & loyal servants of SLT,

2. NEWSLETTER –

- a. My brief comments tonight are mostly covered in the annual newsletters which were sent electronically last month – hard copies available tonight,
- b. Want to encourage everyone to sign up for email – provides quick, easy, and efficient means of communicating,
- c. Twp communications is challenging – changing environment – fewer active farms-more folk working in town & living at the lake or family farm-fewer reading newspapers-etc.

3. 12M3 CAT Motor Grader –

- a. Board has decided to purchase the leased 12M3 grader.
- b. After investigating the options of leasing a new one, doing a partnership with another Twp., contracting our road services, it was determined to take the buyout on our current machine.
- c. Early on problems with the emissions package while concerning were effectively fixed. Ziegler's service was excellent.
- d. An internet search of this model revealed the retail value to be in the range of \$250K - so \$170K is a good value.
- e. An extended warranty was purchased for \$6K, and a PM contact will be continued,
- f. A front mounted Power Reversible Plow will greatly improve it's snow plowing capability...

4. SNOWPLOW TRUCK.

- a. The Board has determined is time to upgrade this critical piece of equipment,
- b. It's old and it's wore out – hard to get parts – sometimes need fabrication....
- c. Accelerator pedal, light switch, rear duals, sander motor, hydraulic leaks, brakes overhaul, wing & plow overhaul, box rusted off, etc. Good money after bad...
- d. Configuration will remain similar – single axle, short wheel-base, etc. will upgrade plow & wing attachments also. PRP1244 plow with rear mtd'd wing,
- e. Board thinking to be in upgraded plow by next season,
- f. Estimated cost \$75K for 2007-9 model configured to SLT,
- g. Will need to finance a portion – thinking half over 5 years - \$8.6K/yr.

5. OTHER EQUIPMENT.

- a. Sold Massey last spring for \$7.5K,
- b. 96' John Deere 6400 loader from OTC working out well,
- c. 96' John Deere 7200 w/bush-hog – working well also,

6. 2020 CENSUS.

- a. Mandated by congress every 10 years. Starts 4/19/20.
- b. MN at real jeopardy of losing the 7th Congressional Dist. NOT A GOOD THING.
- c. 1st time ever you can complete by phone, email, or snail-mail,
- d. Snow Birds need to register in MN,
- e. When you get your form – JUST DO IT!! Fill it out and get 'er done!

7. ROW ISSUES.

- a. Important thing here is – Don't place, plant, or build "ANYTHING" in the ROW except a legal mailbox and grass.
- b. SLT beginning to incur some legal costs due to non-compliance,
- c. Unfortunately, as our population changes and some old habits continue, these costs will likely increase.
- d. SLT consults regularly with MAT Legal but has also engaged with Pemberton Law for more complicated issues, \$660.00 in 2019

8. NOXIOUS WEEDS.

- a. Long a responsibility of Townships – appearance of Palmer Amaranth has greatly increased awareness,
- b. Tammy – "Noxious weed inspector" noted 31 violations this past season, and this vigilance will continue,

9. DUST CONTROL.

- a. An E-Bulletin went out this week on this year's program,
- b. Still pay as you go plan,
- c. Cost up to \$.78/ft this year as we move to Liquid Calcium Chloride,
- d. Practice is growing. Portions of Starland Shore Drive, Brightwood Drive, and Beaver Dam Rd. came on last year – Buddy Lane is contemplating this year,
- e. Dead Lake, Dora, and Maine all have active programs,
- f. More financial gains with increased DC and use of road packer....

10. 2018-19 WINTER SEASON.

- a. Was awful – lots of snow/drifts and extreme cold,
- b. Estimated costs were about \$24K, probably our biggest budget challenge,
- c. Increased residential/school bus pressure for earlier plowing....
- d. Importance of two reliable units. Grader is slow, but it's an essential piece of equipment – snow ops necessary to optimize...
- e. This season looking better – SO FAR....?

11. SHOULDERING & CULVERT MAINTENANCE & ROAD REPAIRS.

- a. DRAINAGE – Drainage – drainage...
- b. Shouldering to continue...
- c. Culverts inventoried with basic classification – next steps...
- d. Frost Boil Repair...

12. 2021 LEVY RECOMMENDATION.

- a. +Grader costs + PlowTruck +Prof Svcs + potential EMS levy + reserve need
- b. Levy Motion

I MOVE SLT TOWNSHIP ADOPT A TOTAL COMBINED LEVY OF **\$193,000** FOR THE **TAX YEAR 2021**, AN INCREASE OF **\$19,800**; AND THAT THE LEVY BE ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:

FIRE PROTECTION*	\$12,700.00	6.6%	+\$12,700
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$51,800.00	26.8%	-\$5,529
ROAD & BRIDGE	<u>\$128,500.00</u>	<u>66.6%</u>	<u>+12,629</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$193,000.00	100%	\$19,800

*Used to be included in General Government