

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 13, 2010

- I. The meeting was called to order by Town Chair Kris Hampton at 7:00 P.M. Town Clerk Kim Banigan recorded the minutes, and Attorney Connie Anderson provided legal counsel. A list of other attendees is available in the Town Clerk's Office. Hampton suggested that any votes that need to be counted tonight will be tallied by having voters stand and count off as they sit down.
- II. Flag Pledge
- III. The minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting were available in printed form. There was no reading of the minutes at the meeting. **MOTION** by Mike Kindschi/Silvin Kurt to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 Annual Town Meeting as printed. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**
- IV. Additions to agenda by Electors:
 - Hampton asked to add a discussion about having brush pickup in the Town.
 - Hampton presented a plaque to Karen Kessenich in appreciation of her service on the Town Board from 2006-2010.
- V. Presentation of the 2009 Annual Town Financial Report: The 2009 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures was printed on the back of the agenda. **MOTION** by Silvin Kurt/Mike Fonger to approve as printed. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**
- VI. "Things You can do to reduce stormwater pollution", presented by Chuck Nahn, Nahn and Associates, LLC: Nahn used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the risks of stormwater pollution, the requirements of the Town's WPDES Permit to allow discharge of stormwater from urbanized areas of the Town and control stormwater pollution, and what everyone can do to reduce stormwater pollution.
- VII. Discuss options for the future of law enforcement in the Town: Hampton explained that the current agreement between the Town and Village of Cottage Grove for a joint police department expires at the end of 2010, and the Town Board has been exploring the other options due to concerns over costs and benefits of the current arrangement. In 2010 the Town is paying ~\$477,000 towards the joint police department. The Dane County Sheriff's Department has provided a quote of \$330,00 to provide three full time equivalent deputies and patrol vehicle in 2011. The Town Board would be able to interview and select the deputies and the hours of coverage. The contract would be for three years, but could be modified at any time should needs change. Hampton noted that the Town would also have the benefits of the County's support staff and detectives. The quote from the County would not provide 24/7 coverage as the current agreement does. During the times when no contracted deputy is on duty, the Town would have coverage by other County Sheriff Deputies, as it always does.

Sheryl Albers-Anders was concerned over whether the deputies would adequately enforce Town ordinances, and whether not having our own police department would affect homeowners insurance rates in the Town. Attorney Anderson said that she has seen no decline in tickets written when communities she works with have shifted from local to County law enforcement. Albers-Anders also said she would like to see data to show per capita cost of law enforcement around the state. In addition, she wondered what costs the Town would face due to the dissolution of the current department. Hampton said that there would be expenses related to dissolution for the first year, but adding them to the cost of a

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contract with the County would still come in below this year's law enforcement budget.

Roger Williams asked about the current breakout of law enforcement time spent in the Town vs. in the Village. Hampton said that the Law Enforcement Committee sees the number of "actions" on a monthly basis, and generally the Town accounts for ~40%. Williams said he feels the Town has been paying a lot for law enforcement, and encouraged the board to continue pursuing a contract with the County.

Karen Kessenich said it was interesting that not very many residents were present at the Annual Meeting, and stated that as a former Town Board Supervisor, she hasn't had much feedback on this topic. Mike Kindschi said he had spoken with at least 10 residents over the past week about law enforcement, and had urged them to attend tonight, but none were here. Kessenich suggested a mailer to residents, but the Clerk noted that the agenda for this meeting was printed in the Annual Report and Newsletter, which was mailed to all property owners. There has been a fair amount of coverage in the Herald Independent, and Steve Querin-Schultz also pointed out that the people elect public officials to deal with such issues.

Silvin Kurt stated that he does not see the local police in his neighborhood, but he does regularly see County deputies. He doesn't think the Town is getting it's money's worth under the current arrangement.

MOTION by Silvin Kurt/Linda Fonger to encourage the Town Board to continue to pursue contracting with the Dane County Sheriff's Department for police services to the Town, and if there is a savings, to enter into such a contract. **MOTION CARRIED 13-2.** Sheryl Albers-Anders said she feels more facts and data are needed before a decision can be made.

- VIII. Discuss plans for the celebration of the 110th birthday of Flynn Hall: Hampton explained that representatives of the Historical Society, Lions Club, and Town and Village Boards have tentatively set a date of August 28, 2010 to celebrate the 110th birthday of Flynn Hall. Along with this event, they hope to raise funds to re-roof Flynn Hall. The next meeting is set for 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 4th at the Town Hall, and everyone is encouraged to get involved. The planners would like to display memories from the various uses of the building over the years. A food stand and sale of a commemorative pot are among the things in the works. A raffle for use of the building was also suggested. No taxpayer money will be used for the event, it will be funded entirely by donations and sponsors. There was general consensus that this celebration is a good idea.
- IX. Set date for next year's Annual Town Meeting: **MOTION** by Kindschi/Fonger to hold the 2011 Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**
- X. Other Business:
- A. Brush Pickup: Hampton said he and office staff have received calls asking why the Town does not provide brush pickup, especially now that the County brush collection site has closed. Generally Town lots are large enough for residents to burn or shred their brush. Down sides to providing brush pickup include the problem of how to monitor the site so that other "garbage" does not get dumped there, and cost. Highway

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Superintendent Jeff Smith estimated that the Village of Cottage Grove pays \$12,000 - \$18,000 per year for their brush collection. He also said that there are several local businesses that provide the service, and historically the Town has not wanted to interfere with private industry. There was general consensus not to pursue brush collection services in the Town.

- XI. Adjournment: **MOTION** by Mike Fonger/Mike Kindschi to adjourn. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Kim Banigan
Clerk
Approved 4-12-2011