



MINUTES OF TOWN OF OMRO

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: April 19, 2022 **TIME:** 6:00 p.m. **LOCATION:** Omro Town Hall, 4205 Rivermoor Rd.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Brian Noe.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.

Attendance

Electors in attendance were Wendy Krings, Al Silverthorn, Mark Krings, Viola Schmick, Wayne Schmick, Brian Noe, Margaret Krause, Nathan Ross, Rich Kern, Marlena Ross, Steve Disterhaft, Mary Tuschl, Thomas Tuschl, Dave Friess, Tim Wolf, Larry Remer, Taylor Albright, Jackson Remer, Jaime Remer, Russ Volp, Amy Volp, Jay Treleven, Janet Treleven, Luann Devos, Robert Slavik, Brad Ertmer, Olivia Ertmer, Harve Ross, Michael Bennett, and Paula Bennett.

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Tom Tuschl, second by Jay Treleven to approve minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting.
Motion approved on a voice vote with no opposition.

Review of Annual Reports

Chairman Noe reviewed all annual reports detailed in the booklet.

- **Resident Tom Tuschl** asked for clarification about the listing of zero probationary officers in the Fire District report. Chief Jay Treleven was present and helped clarify.
- **Resident Tom Tuschl** asked if the audit report would be posted on the website. Clerk Woods indicated she's willing to post the entire annual report on the website, including the portion with the financial statements and notes from Kerber Rose.
- **Resident Russell Volp** asked what the total cost of the audit was. Clerk Woods indicated we don't have the final bill yet, but the proposal from Kerber Rose was \$9,500/year for a total of \$19,000. Total invoice might be less, but should not exceed the proposed amount.

Review/Update on MS4 Stormwater Permitting Requirements

Chairman Noe explained that a portion of land in the town requires that the town to adhere to MS4 Stormwater Permitting Requirements and offered to answer any questions residents might have about it. No questions were voiced.

New Business

- **Resident Nathan Ross** asked if the town residents could be surveyed about the issue of curbside pickup versus town dump site. Chairman Noe indicated it might be a possibility in the future. Mr. Ross also asked about the possible extended hours for the dump site that were discussed at a previous town board meeting. Chairman Noe indicated it was originally ruled out due to no lighting at the site making evening hours not possible during the times of the year when it's dark after business hours, but the thought was to explore it on a seasonal basis (summer when it's lighter later in the evening) and might be done on a trial basis this summer if it can be coordinated in time and staff is willing to work it. Will

likely come up at an upcoming town board meeting. No other comments were offered on the subject. No action taken.

- **Resident Marlana Ross** asked what the purpose was behind the Hwy 21 Corridor Survey/Study. Chairman Noe explained the survey is just part of the overall study and was done with the desire to get resident input regarding any future development of the land in the corridor. Several other aspects will be considered in the overall study and planning of the area. Supervisor Krings also brought up the fact that the funds used for the conducting of the survey came from IDB funding. Chairman Noe explained how those funds worked and have worked in recent years and told residents if they have any alternative uses the town could use IDB funding for to bring those ideas to the board. Jay Treleven asked what types of projects/expenses IDB funds can be used on. Chairman Noe explained the limitations on the funding and how it needs to be applied for. No other comments were offered on the subject. No action taken.
- **Resident Harve Ross** asked about going to a five-member board. Chairman Noe explained the town hasn't reached the population level that allows the Direct Power to vote that into effect and shared his personal thoughts on it with regard to the added expense and not much advantage. In other communities it is sometimes good and sometimes bad. No other comments were offered on the subject. No action taken.
- **Brian Noe** requested to set the date for next year's Annual Meeting of the electors; April 18 would be the statutory recommendation.
MOTION by Jay Treleven, second by Rich Kern to schedule the 2023 Annual Meeting for April 18, 2023. Motion carried on a voice vote with no opposition.
- **Marlana Ross** asked if there was any update to recent discussion about flooding in ditches in the areas she mentioned at the March town board meeting. Chairman Noe indicated there is no perfect fix but continue to work on it. Supervisor Krings brought up that several culverts would be replaced in that area in the near future. No other comments were offered on the subject. No action taken.
- **Rich Kern** asked about the progress of code project. Clerk Woods explained the update she received from General Code indicating it should be finalized around the beginning of June. No other comments were offered on the subject. No action taken.
- **Russ Volp** asked what prompted the professional audit. Chairman Noe indicated there were a lot of accusations by members of the public and eventually the town board felt it had no choice but to do the audit to put those accusations to rest. Town had looked into it years ago when there was a change in staff, but there was a large cost to it and it didn't seem necessary. KerberRose audit that was finally done showed there were adjustments to be made in the software, but no indication of wrongdoing.
- **Marlana Ross** asked why the audit was only done for 2020 and 2021, asking based on some issues in 2019. Clerk Woods explained that the issues mentioned in the audit were based on the transition back to Quickbooks in 2019 (had been used years prior then the town switched software for a few years). Chairman Noe shared the biggest reason was that at nearly \$10,000/year cost for an audit, there had to be a stopping point somewhere. Clerk Woods also shared that 2019 had already been reviewed by the resident audit committee; two subsequent years had not been reviewed at all, so that's where resources were used. Chairman Noe added that they did need to look back through 2019 to get beginning balances for 2020 and if the auditor had done 2020 and 2021 and then indicated to the town that they thought 2019 should be looked at, there might be reasons to look back at that point.
- **Rich Kern** challenged Chairman Noe's comments that the audit was not necessary and that nothing of consequence was found, pointing to comments in the auditor's management report. Chairman Noe and

Clerk Woods reiterated that the auditor explained those findings were required to be listed because we don't have a large enough staff handling the finances and those findings would be reported each year unless staffing was increased. Mr. Kern referenced the large amount of adjusting journal entries required. Mr. Kern stated, "If you're making adjustments, those represent mistakes." Clerk Woods reiterated the auditor's explanation that those were to be expected based on some errors in the setup during the transition back to Quickbooks in 2019 and that there should be fewer annual adjustments moving forward. Mr. Kern and Clerk Woods engaged in additional discussion about the type and scope of the audit. Mr. Kern offered to share his own spreadsheet with a list of issues he found. Clerk Woods declined his offer and indicated the town has chosen to accept the findings of the professional audit firm and rely confidently on the financial reports from KerberRose.

- **Viola Schmick** said she was the treasurer for a number of years and resents the implication that there is dishonesty among the staff. The audit process that was done in the past cost \$300 for 2 years compared to \$19,000. Suggested those who want a professional audit each year survey the residents and get them to help pay for it themselves.

Adjournment

MOTION by Russ Volp, second by Dave Friess (and several others) to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.
Motion carried on a voice vote with no opposition.

Submitted by Dana Woods, Town Clerk
Approved by the Electors April 18, 2023