

TOWN OF ERIN PRAIRIE
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

The April 15, 2024 Town of Erin Prairie Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Chairman John Van Dyk at the Erin Prairie Town Hall. Present were John Van Dyk, Dennis Mitchell, Mike Monteith, Jackie Mitchell, Dave Meyer, Chris Milliron, and Elizabeth Fall.

A motion was made by Mike to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as written. Dennis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The idea of changing the Clerk/Treasurer position to an appointed position instead of an elected position was mentioned. Jackie intends to retire soon so if it should happen there is no town resident interested in the position the Board will be able to hire someone. A hired individual can, but does not have to reside in the township. A referendum question to make this change had been placed on the General Election ballot in 2012 but was voted down. The decision was made to put in place the necessary ordinance to allow the office of Clerk/Treasurer to be filled by appointment by the Town Board per approval by town referendum. This ordinance will be reviewed, discussed and adopted at our May meeting so that the referendum question can be placed on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot.

Discussion regarding the Town Hall took place. The basement walls are not in good shape, there is no running water in the building, the toilet is a composting toilet, and the walls and insulation are old. In the future a clerk may want to have office hours in the Town Hall. Is it time for the township to build a new building? Would it be better to rent space somewhere? Rent space in the Hammond Town Hall possibly? Would it be possible to rent space from St. Patrick's Church for elections? Should the township look into building an ADU building? These were all questions and thoughts that were brought up.

John mentioned that we will be using the Local Road Improvement Project (LRIP) funds for the 160th St. paving project this summer. We were awarded about \$21,000.00 for that. We also applied for the Agricultural Road Improvement Program grant from the state. The state is awarding \$50 million dollars toward projects that will improve roads used by the agricultural industry. If awarded this grant the state would possibly pay for 90% of the project and the township would be responsible for the remaining 10%. If we do not receive the grant this spring the application can be submitted again this fall. We worked with Cedar Corporation to put together this grant application.

A question was asked about picking up trash in the ditches. On 160th Ave. there is a large amount of cans and trash as well as large items such as tires or electronics, etc. If a resident sees these items you may call the township. Dennis, Mike, and John will pick these up and dispose of them properly.

Recycling was asked about also. We do not have our own recycling here in Erin Prairie but have worked out an agreement with Richmond Township. An Erin Prairie resident may take recycling to the Richmond Town Hall during their recycling hours.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held Monday, April 21.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 6:30p.m. Dennis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Mitchell, Clerk/Treasurer