

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP MINUTES
22295 FROSTVIEW ROAD COLD SPRING MINNESOTA
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING JANUARY 25, 2016 8:00PM

Chairman Glen Stalboerger called the Town Board Meeting to order at 8:00 pm and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Members Present: Glen Stalboerger, Cyril Erkens, John Willenbring and Heidi Stalboerger Others Present: Zoning Administrator Bridget Chard, Cold Spring City Council Member Dave Heinen and Township Residents Rodney and Diana Schneider, Ken and Ruth Simon, Dan and Donna Theis, Paul Bell, Melanie Walz, Bev and Rob Klein, Toni and Keith Becker, LeRoy and Sandy Salzer, Ann and Jon McGee, John and Marie Kahlert, Keith and Janice Klaphake, Bob Torborg, Jon Peter Jokela, Ron Altmann, Louis Hennen, Arnie and Merena Eisenschenk, Bob and Diann Bellmont, Melissa Klocker, Rick and Paula Theisen, Micah and Melissa Wahlen, Mark Stalboerger, Don and Karin Walz, Ken Hansen, Ann Hansen, Jason Holman, Dorie and Harry Bertram.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR WILLENBRING AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR ERKENS TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 25, 2016 AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Supervisor Stalboerger stated that the meeting would be an informational meeting as well as opportunity for questions and answers regarding a recent article in *The Cold Spring Record* stating the possibility of annexation of property north of the Rocori School District campus and south of North Pointe. Stalboerger requested the Clerk to preface the concern. Clerk Stalboerger stated that she has been attending the Cold Spring City Council meetings. The issue of annexation related to a transportation plan was raised and discussed at a recent City Council meeting. Cold Spring City Council Member Dave Heinen provided clarification that no further conversations have taken place regarding annexation at the Cold Spring City Council meetings.

Harry Bertram questioned planning stages and if any of the transportation or annexation issues are short term plans at this point. Supervisor Willenbring explained orderly annexation agreements and stated that Wakefield Township has not entered into this type of agreement with any of the entities that border Wakefield Township.

Jon McGee stated that he opposes annexation and read a letter that he sent to City Council Member Fran Ramler stating his position.

Ron Altmann questioned if the pressure of annexation was due to development issues for the city. Bob Torborg questioned who owns property south of the properties on 241st Street. Zoning Administrator Chard reviewed the area property owners in question based on the Stearns County property records online.

Ann McGee questioned transportation and annexation issues and what benefit it would provide the city in this particular target area. Chard reviewed the most recently proposed long range township transportation plan. John Kahlert asked if the city has expressed interest in connecting 241st Street and 11th Street in the Cold Spring Industrial Park. Supervisor Stalboerger reviewed the past conversations regarding transportation plans with the County. The most important connection for the community would be north/south connections to take pressure off of Red River Avenue. Jon McGee stated that annexation and transportation plans have no relation with 241st Street. He is opposed to a transportation plan that would use 241st Street as a through street due to the residential nature of the neighborhood.

Janice Klaphake asked when the looming annexation discussion will end. Supervisor Willenbring reiterated that the township does not have an orderly annexation agreement with the City of Cold Spring.

Bob Torborg suggested that the group take a vote on whether or not annexation is a desirable option for the residents.

Ann McGee asked why annexation is being discussed when it doesn't solve any problems. Dave Heinen stated that the objective for focusing proposed annexation on the target area is to clean up borders. Heinen stated that 241st Street has no transportation value to the city and that there are no plans to connect 241st Street to the Cold Spring Industrial Park. Pete Jokela stated that he liked to hear what Heinen had to say, but the township residents don't vote for City Council Members. Bob Bellmont stated that the residents of 241st Street go through the "annexation discussion" every time there is a change in the seat of the Mayor and City Council members. He questioned if annexation were to happen if the residents would be entitled to hardship status regarding the assessments. The Clerk stated that any type of aid to residents would have to be worked out with the city or through county aid.

John Kahlert read an article published in the *St. Cloud Times* shortly after Mayor Thelen took office. In the article, Thelen stated that annexation [of the area north of the Rocori School District and south of North Pointe] was one of his primary goals for the city. The group discussed connectivity and usage charges for water and waste water.

Melissa Wahlen asked if the proposed annexation was related to a water issue in the city. Beth Klein stated that she opposed annexation in every way. Her family just installed a new septic system last summer and they do not need any public services. Ann McGee stated that residents aren't interested in paying fees to "clean up borders". Bob Torborg questioned if a street in a township is public. The Board reviewed township roads and setbacks.

The group decided to vote on annexation. By a show of hands, the group unanimously opposed annexation.

John Kahlert asked if the group should contact City Council Members or go to the City Council meetings. Kahlert was assured that City Council members could be reached by calling the city offices or online and that city council meetings are open to the public.

Ken Simon stated that the Green Meadows neighborhood is a great place to live, however it is in between tracts of land owned by the city; and that annexation would generate more tax payers to help pay for the water problems that the city is facing.

Supervisor Willenbring stated that there is a Subordinate Service District (SSD) in Wakefield Township currently for street lights and that the township is capable of providing additional services to residents and/or groups of residents if needed. Zoning Administrator Chard outlined and discussed the details of the street light SSD as well as other potential needs such as water and waste water/septic.

Bob Bellmont inquired about a bike trail linking North Pointe to the Rocori School District campus. Bellmont stated that he has a strip of land that he may be interested in using for a bike trail connection.

Harry Bertram inquired about the state of 158th Avenue and if road repairs are in the budget in 2016. The Supervisors discussed road repair plans with the group.

ADJOURN/RECESS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR WILLENBRING AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR ERKENS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:22 PM. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Date Approved: _____

Respectfully submitted,

WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

Heidi M. Stalboerger, Clerk

Glen Stalboerger, Chairman

Amendments: _____