

Regular Meeting of
Lake Preston City Council
Wednesday March 19th, 2025

A regular meeting of the Lake Preston City Council was held at the Community Room on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 6pm. Present were: Mayor Donna Bumann, John McMasters, Joe Schnell, Jodi Hope, Joel Gerleman, Austin Strande, Rick Olson. Also, present Brenda Klug, Brian Zeeck, Doug Bumann, David Fields from the Kingsbury Journal, Brett Anderson from the LP School Board, David Close, Cedric Hay from Banner Associates.

Board of equalization was opened by Mayor Bumann at 7:40 am on March 17th.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bumann at 6:03 pm.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Gerleman to approve the agenda with the addition of baseball/softball equipment. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Gerleman, seconded by McMasters recess the regular meeting and meet as review board of equalization to hear and act on appeals made by property owners and to review the assessment book. All in favor, motion carried.

David Close explained that he had pulled data from the sales in Kingsbury Co from 2023 to 2024. Close discussed the depreciation of his home and shop; stated that he has spoken to the director of equalization to understand the process. A data base created by himself was presented to the council. According to the sales: Arlington's average bare lot is selling at \$11,000. Desmet's average bare lot is selling at \$23,000. Lake Preston's average bare lot is selling at \$8,000. (Rounded and estimated numbers) Close discussed his own lot assessment along with surrounding neighbors' assessments. Stated that its unfair that sales numbers are used from Arlington and Desmet to value our lots here in town. Housing values and sales were discussed, Anderson stated that there have been some vast improvements around town in the last 5 years.

Council and Close had a long discussion, council reviewed other properties and discussed land values and home values. (The extent of conversation can be viewed on the YouTube video) Discussion about going to the next level and speaking with the director of equalization and the county commissioners.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by McMasters to approve parcel #6853 land value from \$28,125 to \$15,469, parcel #6854 land value from \$18,750 to \$10,312, parcel #6853 structure value from \$391,490 to \$243,364. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Gerleman to approve the recommended change on parcel #6608 structure value from \$49,063 to \$15,000. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Hope to approve whole value book with the changes. All in favor, motion carried.

Bumann stated that next year's equalization meeting will be on March 18th, 2026; school board will need to be in attendance.

Mayor Bumann adjourned as the board of equalization at 7:33 pm.

Hay discussed the proposals for the soil cement testing on Phase 2B: Forester's proposal was \$16,785, Geotek's proposal was \$24,975. Motion by Hope, seconded by Gerleman to approve Forester's proposal for soil cement testing for \$16,785. All in favor, motion carried.

Hay discussed the bid open from March 18th: Prunty Construction \$3,232,279.20, LL & Sons Excavating \$3,349,029.20, Winter Contracting, LLC \$3,488,880.05, First Rate Excavate \$3,613,494.00, Duininck, Inc. \$3,622,803.85, and Halme, Inc \$4,289,277.96. Motion by Schnell, seconded by Strande to award the Phase 2B project to Prunty Construction contingent on DANR. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Strande, seconded by Olson to approve township agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Gerleman, seconded by Hope to approve the purchase of coco basket liners. All in favor, motion carried.

Council reviewed 2 proposals for the Main St. flowers. Motion by Hope, seconded by Gerleman to approve the purchase of flowers from the new owner of Jesser's Greenhouse. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Schnell, seconded by McMasters to approve blocking off Main St. from 2nd St. N to 4th St. N and 3rd St. to the alley E. and alley W on Saturday July 19th. All in favor, motion carried.

Klug presented prices of baseball and softball equipment, also asked council if the funds from the bug sprayer and the tree grant could go towards the Baseball summer rec. Motion by Strande, seconded by Olson to approve the purchase of summer rec items for \$1,342.14. All in favor, motion carried.

Zeeck stated that the siren by city hall is not working, but since it will be getting replaced soon- no reason to fix it. Might be a month without the noon and 6 o'clock whistle. Klug inquired if anyone would want to attend the district 2 meeting in Madison on March 31st @ 6pm. Olson stated that he had talked to Bumann and Zeeck about getting the quonsets in the park painted. Schnell stated that he is continuing to get things cleaned up. McMasters inquired about them looking into getting a part time helper for Klug.

Mayor Bumann declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Brenda Klug, Finance Officer

Donna Bumann, Mayor

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