BALDWIN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 13, 2007

Baldwin Township Clerk/Treasurer Cathy Stevens called the 2007 Annual Meeting for the Town of Baldwin to order at 8:02 p.m. All citizens present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The clerk accepted nominations for moderator. Betsy Wergin was nominated and appointed moderator for the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Approve 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Eleanor Rittenour and seconded by Robin Suhsen to dispense with the reading of the 2006 Annual Meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

2006 Treasurer's Report
A motion was made by Deborah Patrin and seconded by Kim Good approving the 2006 Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Introduction of Township Attorney
Bryan Lawrence introduced township attorney, Troy Gilchrist. Betsy Wergin stated that she has known Mr. Gilchrist for 17-18 years and is well known at the state Legislature and well respected.

2008 Budget Proposal
Bryan Lawrence reviewed, by fund, the proposed levy for 2008. The following is the proposed 2008 budget that had been determined by the Town Board prior to the Annual Meeting:

PROPOSED 2008 LEVY

	Proposed for 2008	Certified for 2007
GENERAL FUND	$125,000	$232,400
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	$400,000	$289,000
CAPITAL FUND	$105,000	$145,000
FIRE PROTECTION FUND	$146,000	$110,000
CEMETERY FUND	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
PARK FUND	$ 10,000	$ 5,000
FIRE RELIEF FUND	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
TOTAL	$812,000	$807,400

(.57% increase over 2007)

Bryan Lawrence explained the reduction in the General Fund was due to the fact that more money was put into the Road & Bridge Fund and the township has realized carryovers in the General Fund in previous years. The increase in the Road & Bridge Fund is mainly due to the increase in asphalt costs. The Capital Fund covers the investments mad in the fire station and maintenance building. The Fire Fund is increased from $110,000 to $146,000. The Cemetery Fund is staying the same at $1,000 as we have $15,000 invested in CD's to make the fund perpetual. The Park Fund increase is due to the park

donated by Kermit Young. The Fire Relief Fund will remain the same. The total that the Town Board is proposing is $812,000, which is an approximate increase of .57%. If there are any changes by the residents it could either increase or decrease.

A resident questioned why the Fire Fund increased $30,000. Bryan Lawrence explained that the Town Board changed the figures in that fund from the levy which increased the Fire Fund for 2007. This increase is a true reflection of the fund.

Gene Nitz questioned where the $50,000 came from for the rescue boat and dive team. Bryan Lawrence responded that the monies came from the Fire Fund. The Sherburne County Sheriff purchased the boat for $12,000 and there is an agreement for the sheriff to improve our radio communications. The remainder of the dive equipment is out for quotes.

Elaine Philippi questioned the Fire Fund's 2007 limit of $110,000. Bryan Lawrence explained that the Town Board increased it to $130,000 without changing the bottom line of the total levy. Robin Suhsen questioned where the $20,000 came from. Bryan Lawrence responded that he believes it came out of the Capital Fund but would prefer to check the Town Board minutes. Mike Seurer stated that the fire department ran with $80,000 after the $50,000 was spent on dive equipment and the proposed $146,000 would be a $66,000 increase. Brian Torborg responded that the $50,000 came out of a 3-year time period.

Fire Department Report

Captain Mary Beth Torborg presented the report for 2006. There were 203 calls for service which consisted of 99 medicals, 50 good intent, 25 fires, 19 motor vehicle accidents and 10 hazardous conditions.

Personnel: 27 committed firefighters consisting of 25 men and 2 women. Five new members completed firefighter I last year and 4 new members completed first responder. Four firefighters have completed state fire school courses throughout the state. Regular training consists of 3 hours a month. The department co-hosted a firefighter I school with Becker Fire Department and sponsored a training burn. So far this year one firefighter is in firefighter I school, 3 firefighters are attending firefighter 2 school and 1 firefighter is attending first responder. There are several training burns planned in the future.

Community service: the department holds an open house/dance and also helps with the township clean-up day. The department holds an annual garage sale which will be held April 26-29 this year. The department members read at the local schools, co-sponsored a safe house at the schools with the Princeton firefighters. The department also plans on visiting home day care centers to introduce the firefighters to alleviate children's fears.

Projects/training tools: installed a rear garage door on the fire station. Tile had been donated and installed in the SCBA room. The department purchased a rescue dummy to be used for a training tool.

Looking ahead: the department is looking for a new automatic tender and would like to replace Engine 2. A tender holds water for firefighting. ISO rating testing impacts the

residents' insurance costs and the department will be applying to reduce the current rating of 10.

In conclusion, the department would like to thank the resident's for their continued support. Betsy Wergin asked the firefighters in attendance to stand for audience applause.

Baldwin Park Committee Progress Report
Dave Patten presented a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the Park Committee. The Park Committee consists of the following members: Kim Good, Mike Seurer, Jeff Holm, Mark Fredrickson and himself along with Town Board liaison, Lester Kriesel. The objective of the committee is to provide safe, convenient places for recreation and exercise, linking recreational areas with the township and outside of the township, preserving open spaces for future generations, and allowing for educational opportunities in the area.

Highlights of the year: constructed a pergola at the town hall site and installed 4 picnic tables and 2 benches near the existing volleyball court and horseshoe pits. It is planned to be a stop along the railroad trail. The Young home has been torn down and the Sherburne County Sentence to Serve has worked on the property to remove fence lines and remove some sheds. West Branch Construction donated their service for removal of the house. A master plan for the property was approved by the Town Board at their March 5th meeting. Construction plans for the trials and boardwalks have been completed and the Town Board is reviewing. Preliminary bids for the plans have been obtained and funding will be applied for through the county. Used park equipment has been obtained through another municipality and they have obtained some used park benches and trash receptacles.

The Park Committee's to-do list: planning, planning and more planning. The resident's are welcome to share their ideas with the Park Committee.

Goals for 2007: construction plans approved, trails, boardwalks and parking area installation, playground equipment planning, bench and trash receptacle revamping. The committee is working with Sherburne County Soil and Water board to install some native prairie grasses in the old hay fields. The committee is also working with other park and trail organizations as they do not want the parks and trails to stop at Baldwin Township's borders. This would encompass School District #477. The project would encompass both townships and cities and working with residents and business owners to improve life in the community. Lastly, formation of a joint powers board to master plan the area so that linkages would come into the area so people, both local and outside residents, could utilize the area. How can residents participate? The Park Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and residents are welcome to volunteer or bring ideas to the committee.

Road Report
Tristin Hicks voiced his concerns regarding 285th Avenue. He was asked to come to the next regularly scheduled Tuesday Town Board meeting. Township Supervisor Lester Kriesel, who is scheduled to give the report, is counting ballots from the township election at this time. The road report was moved farther back on the agenda.

Princeton Area Library Request for Funding
Robin Suhsen and Lois Nord were present with the request from the library. The service area is the school district. The library is requesting $6,300 not $6,500 as is listed on the contribution request form. Township funding allows the library to be open an extra evening, and provides extra materials and programs. Gene Nitz questioned how the money donated last year was spent. Robin Suhsen replied that the library was able to add additional open hours on Tuesday evenings. The library received support from 8 surrounding townships. Elaine Philippi questioned how much the other townships contribute. Robin Suhsen replied $1.00 per resident. Spencer Brook Township contributes $.50 per resident. Only Wyanett Township does not donate. Quintin Reece questioned how many Baldwin residents use the library. Robin Suhsen replied that she is not sure of the numbers. Elly Rittenour stated that she has always appreciated the library in Princeton where she can use it and not have to travel to Elk River and feels that $1.00 per person is a good investment.

A motion was made by Deborah Patrin and seconded by Dick Peterson approving a $6,300 contribution to the Princeton Area Library.

Craig Hilburn questioned how much funding the library received last year from the surrounding townships. Robin Suhsen replied about $13,000. Discussion was held regarding where the majority of the funding for the library comes from. Paul Vollkommer stated that the Town Board has voted to limit contributions to $600 for this year and the township attorney has addressed the narrow guidelines for giving money to a library. Township attorney, Troy Gilchrist, stated the rule of donations for libraries is allowed only if working to pay for a library building or defray debt incurred. There is no general "we can give money to libraries". The idea of a straight donation to the library is hard to find under current state statutes. Robin Suhsen stated that the library has always operated under what is allowed from a paper entitled, "Annual Meeting – What Electors Can Do". Troy Gilchrist stated that electros can authorize a contract that would need to be formed between the township and the library. The donation limit set by the electors is a recommendation to the Town board for them to decide. Mike Seurer questioned what would happen to the extra money if the electorate authorized a $6,300 Donation and the Town Board chose to donate only $600. Troy Gilchrist stated that it would presumably be placed in the General Fund.

A friendly amendment to the motion was made by Mike Seurer and seconded by Craig Hilburn to draw up a contract with the library for $6,300. Mike Seurer questioned if the Town Board can make an exception to the $600 limit that had just been approved by the board at their regular March meeting. Troy Gilchrist responded "yes". Betsy Wergin stated that the motion is to provide a contract for $6,300 based on the 2005 population with the library being aware that the Town Board capped donations to $600 at last week's Town Board meeting. Bryan Lawrence stated that he feels the Town Board owes it to the residents to carry out their wishes at the Annual Meeting. Quintin Reece questioned if it was right to vote on what the Town Board has not allowed.

Upon hand vote on the motion to donate $6,300 to the Princeton Area Library in the year 2008, the motion carried with a count of 38 in favor of the motion and 26 opposed.

Mille Lacs County Historical Society Request for Funding
Jerome DeLong was present representing the Mille Lacs County Historical Society with their request for an $1,800 donation.

A motion was made by Dave Patten and seconded by Deborah Patrin to donate $600 under contract to the Mille Lacs County Historical Society. After discussion, the motion carried.

Road Report
Betsy Wergin stated that Lester Kriesel is still counting ballots. Bryan Lawrence took over and read the report that was to be presented by Lester Kriesel.

ROAD REPORT 2006

Chip Sealing	301st Avenue 310th Avenue 289th Avenue and 127th Street 297th Avenue
Rebuild and Add Turn Lane	283rd Avenue
Rebuild	199 ½ Street at South Sandy
Rebuild and Blacktop	279th Avenue at Lake Diann
Reinforce Land Bridge Banks	Lake Diann Road
Rebuild Low Area And Reinstall Culvert And Blacktop	283rd Avenue
Repair Sink Holes And Blacktop	120th Street
Install Culvert And Blacktop	120th Street
Repair Sink Holes And Blacktop	East Elk Lake Road
Remove Old Soil And Compact 6 inches Of Crushed Concrete	285th Avenue in Elk Lake Estates
Repair Sink Holes And Blacktop	313th Avenue East
Widen Intersection and Install Culvert And Blacktop	125th Street at Anderson Equipment from 314th to Rum River Drive
Rebuild Curve, Widen and Reshape And Blacktop	285th Avenue and 108th Street

Replace Culvert And Rebuild Intersection And Blacktop	100th Street in South Sandy 283rd Avenue in South Sandy
Major Blacktopping	279th Avenue Lake Diann
Major Tree Trimming And Stump Grinding	

Approve 2008 Levy/Budget
The original proposed levy of $812,000 has increased by $6,900 due to donation requests for a total of levy of $818,900.

A motion was made by Elaine Philippi and seconded by Tim Jensen to reduce the Fire Fund to $130,000.

Brian Torborg explained that a portion of the increase in the fund was to cover a pay raise for the firefighters and replacement of turnout gear along with $40,000 of the fund is for payment on the trucks. The $50,000 spent on dive equipment came from 4 years of savings. It is within the department's budget to save for future purchases. Elly Rittenour stated that she would commend the department for looking to the future by putting some money aside. Brian Torborg stated it would save almost 30% on homeowners insurance to save for a new truck.

Upon voice vote on reducing the Fire Fund to $130,000, the motion failed.

A motion was made by Dave Patten and seconded by Mike Seurer to approve the levy/budget in the amount of $818,900. Upon voice vote, the motion carried.

GENERAL FUND	$131,900
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	$400,000
CAPITAL FUND	$105,000
FIRE PROTECTION FUND	$146,000
CEMETERY FUND	$ 1,000
PARK FUND	$ 10,000
FIRE RELIEF FUND	$ 25,000
TOTAL	$818,900

Legal Publisher
A motion was made by Craig Hilburn and seconded by Robin Suhsen to keep the Princeton Union-Eagle as Baldwin Township's legal publisher. Motion carried.

Depository
A motion was made by Jess Hall and seconded by Elly Rittenour to keep U.S. Bank as the legal depository for Baldwin Township. Motion carried.

Public Postings
A motion was made by Quintin Reece and seconded by Deborah Patrin to maintain the Baldwin Town Hall and Marv's True Value as the public posting areas for Baldwin Township. Motion carried.

Any Other Business
A motion was made by Mike Seurer and seconded by Quintin Reece recommending that the Town Board change the name of the Northeast Sherburne Fire & Rescue Department to the Baldwin Fire Department. Motion carried.

2008 Annual Meeting
Scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

Election Results
The election results were not available prior to the adjournment of the Annual Meeting due to the large number of voters.

Adjourn
A motion was made by Deborah Patrin and seconded by Steven Weissenfluh to adjourn at 10.37 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Stevens

Cathy Stevens
Clerk/Treasurer

Attendees: Dick Peterson, Dennis Lindberg, Jerry Mueller, Nancy Dorweiler, Julius Dorweiler, Lois Nord, Ray McGraw, Doug Lepinski, Terry Carlile, Steve Weissenfluh, Rich Harris, Elaine Philippi, JoAnn Graham, Gene Nitz, Jerome DeLong, June DeLong, Bryan Lawrence, Becky Hall, Jess Hall, Larry Boeke, Jim Oliver, Elly Rittenour, Jim Buell, Tim Jensen, Jamin Wood, Robin Suhsen, David Patten, Josh Vaccari, Ray Bauer, Laura Bauer, Marlys Heffron, Ann Martin, Cal Watson, Herb Murphy, Corrine Murphy, John Bjurman, Deborah Patrin, Carol Vollkommer, Paul Vollkommer, Jesse Ewert, Betsy Wergin, Richard Wergin, Matt Bounds, Craig Hilburn, Amy Peck, Don Larsen, Brian Torborg, Mary Beth Torborg, Buck Owens, Andy Schreder, Brian Bumgarner, Brian Vork, Gene Ludwig, Jeff Holm, Bill Pouliot, Rich Lemke, Kim Good, Michelle Ashe, Gregg Ashe, Don Barnes, Lisa Fobbe, Jerry Heffron, Sean Weldon, Quintin Reece, Jeff Dotseth, Troy Gilchrist, Mike Seurer