

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF CROSSLAKE  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024  
6:00 P.M. – CITY HALL

The Council for the City of Crosslake met in a Special Session on Monday, February 12, 2024. The following Council Members were present: Mayor Dave Nevin, Aaron Herzog, Marcia Seibert-Volz, Sandy Farder, and Jackson Purfeerst. Also present were City Clerk Char Nelson, Fire Chief Chip Lohmiller, Park Director TJ Graumann, Public Works Director Pat Wehner, and KAXE Reporter Chelsey Perkins. There were approximately twenty-five people in the audience and on Zoom.

Dave Nevin called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and turned the meeting over to Robin Sylvester.

Robin Sylvester stated that she lives at 12888 County Road 103 and is looking for the Council to secure custody of Crosslake voter ballots for 3 reasons: security and preparedness, trust and transparency, and because the Council is the official canvassing board.

Crow Wing County Administrative Services Director Debby Erickson addressed the Council and reported that the County must still administer early and absentee voting in even year elections because that is a requirement of state and federal law when there are state and federal races on the ballots. The cost for the County does not decrease if Crosslake provides these services as well.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding Cast Vote Records, cost of supplies, the length of time to process one absentee envelope, and the estimated cost to the City of \$41,846.26 to provide absentee ballot supplies and voting services for the Primary and General Elections, given by the City Clerk.

Debby Erickson stated that the Council would need to notify the County by May 1 if they plan to administer absentee voting in Crosslake.

Bob Perkins asked if the County had to duplicate the supplies and services for themselves if the City provided early voting in Crosslake. Debby Erickson replied, yes, because Crosslake residents are still eligible to vote at the Court House in Brainerd. The Court House is an official absentee and early voting location for Crow Wing County. Therefore, no election results would be available until the votes cast in Crosslake were combined with votes cast at the County.

Rebecca Wharton of 13402 Hidden Valley Road stated that she has been an election officer for 10 years and that no fraud has been found in Crow Wing County. Ms. Wharton respectfully asked that the Council not add \$50,000 to the budget for a non-existent problem.

MOTION 02SP4-01-24 WAS MADE BY JACKSON PURFEERST AND SECONDED BY SANDY FARDER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. MOTION CARRIED WITH ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charlene Nelson  
City Clerk