

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 13, 2023 7:30 PM

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 CO 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

Supervisor Tom Rymkos called meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff opened with a prayer of guidance and thanks.

ROLL CALL. Present are Supervisor Tom Rymkos, Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff, Clerk Theresa Chenier, Trustee Al Gareau and Trustee, Norman Fleury. All members are present.

Motion to approve agenda with additions made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve January 9, 2023 minutes by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT. Clerk Chenier made a motion to transfer \$500 from Roads Fund to Board of Review Training. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Clerk Chenier made motion to transfer \$11,000 from Roads Fund to Fire Department Supplies. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Clerk Chenier made motion to transfer \$17,000 from Roads Fund to Fire Department Truck Repairs. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Motion to approve \$500 from Clerk Supplies to publishing fund made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Motion to accept the Financial Report with all accounts balanced made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS. Clerk Chenier announced the Township received a letter from Marty Fittante, CEO Region 1 Invest U.P., expressing gratitude for the renaissance zoning approved for Billerude. The State Senate has approved the Escanaba Mill for a large expansion that will effect the whole community. Supervisor Rymkos announced he has received the annual financial report from the Delta County Waste Management.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Fred Minor. Maradee Luft.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT. Chief Matt Rian gave the report that they had 2 call outs. One was responding to accident near Bay View and one smoke alarm. Meeting was held to approve Fire Chief Bylaws and ~~MAVISA~~ MABAS bylaws. They have one new member. Training in Search & Rescue and JAWS of Life were completed. Clerk Chenier requested copies of the bylaws. He gave 2022-2023 truck usage report. They had 40 calls. Truck#1 28 calls/26 hours. #2 11/17. #3 5/11. #4 2/5. #5 8/115. #6 24/40. Pumper 1/1.5 hrs. All were mutual aid calls. Currently 9 of 13 departments signed on with ~~MAVISA~~ MABAS. Chief Rian will follow up on AED at township hall.

Audit update. The State formal report should be here next month.

Cemetery. Tri-Media is close to completing. There will be a link on the website to access cemetery information. Davis-Wanick has been contacted to perform a survey to depict the certified boundaries with markings. Supervisor Rymkos requested a survey on the Bluff property also. **Motion to approve \$400^(to pay cemetery survey) made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to use ARPA Funds for survey costs. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Website information is progressing. There will be a link to the Fire Department to include burn permits.

ARPA funding suggestions are renovations at Township Hall, Flat Rock, Smart Board used for training for Fire Department and a P.A. System for Township Hall. The Board encourages the township residents to please let all your suggestions be heard.

Verso Grow. The Right to Farm Act will be reviewed. Billerud, the new mill owners, may not continue with VersoGrow. Trustee Fleury suggested Mr. Fittante may possibly be a contact for more information.

Water Leakage: JC Property Maint was asked to submit a bid. They did present an itemized plan of repair. Supervisor Rymkos said he will contact them when to meet and complete a proposal.

Bittner Engineering Review. The firm has been composing renovation drawings for the Township Hall. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff notes that currently the occupancy is approximately 205. With the new layout, it would be 230-240. The bathrooms require to be updated to ADA standards, the kitchen moved upstairs and the coat room placed near end of the bar.

LaBumbard will be receiving a notice directly from the Township attorney's firm.

FEMA. Completion date March 7, 20 for Flood Plain Resolution. Clerk Chenier met with Delta County Zoning Administrator, Jack Smith regarding Inter-governmental agreement. His signature can now be sent on to FEMA.

Motion by Clerk Chenier to approve Ordinance #223 Flood Plain Management. Second By Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed. Motion to approve resolution Intergovernmental Agreement made by Trustee Fleury. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor motion passed.

FLUM. Future Land Use Map has been completed. No responses from publication or notices that were sent. The Public Hearing will be held with the Planning Commission then pass on their recommendation to the Board.

Blight Complaint. Supervisor Rymkos stated he has seen an effort being made.

Address signs cost \$40 each. Cost for 1600 residences is \$64000. There is \$10000 already in a designated fund. The possibility of a grant available will be researched.

Motion to appoint Bob Tourangeau, Vicki Gobert, Nate Neumeier to the Board of Review made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. They will be sworn in within 10 days.

NEW BUSINESS. Assistant Property Assessor, Colleen Maki, gave an annual report addressing commonly asked questions of zoning and assessing. Escanaba Township had 261 deeds transferred. 84 between unrelated parties.

Salary resolutions. **Motion to accept salary changes made by Trustee Fleury. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.** Grounds keeper works between April – October.

Greg Faust resigned from the Planning Commission. Barb Clairmont submitted application to join Planning Commission for a 3 year term. **Trustee Gareau made motion to accept Ms Clairmonts appointment. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.**

N.3 Lane, Gladstone, MI Zoning Amendment. The Planning Commission, after extensive research and recommendation from the ZBA that the zoning map of 2010 is not accurate and a public hearing with documented resident public comment along with published notifications, recommends the zoning map needs to be corrected. **Motion to accept zoning on N.3 Lane to be RR made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff.** Trustee Fleury left the table at 10pm. ALL DISCUSSION WAS STOPPED. Trustee Fleury returned to the table at 10:01 pm. **Trustee Gareau made motion to zone the East side of N.3 Lane RR, Ordinance #23-2, resolution to amend zoning map. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Roll Call vote: Knauf-Wyckoff YES Fleury NO Gareau YES Chenier YES Rymkos NO. Motion passed 3 YEA to 2 NAY. Supervisor Rymkos read the resolution aloud stating at end, adopted in a 3-2 vote.**

Motion for resolution by Clerk Chenier to give Escanaba Township Board the final say in any changes or amendments to the Master Plan. Second By Trustee Gareau. Roll Call Vote: Knauf-Wyckoff YES Fleury NO. Gareau YES Chenier YES. Rymkos YES. Motion passed. 3 YEA 1 NAY.

The Delta County Landfill sent letter addressing fiscal year. Highline Internet service is requesting a signed letter of support to obtain a grant. Clerk Chenier made motion to sign letter of support for

PUBLIC COMMENTS. Isla Minor. Fred Minor. Barb Clairmont.

BOARD COMMENTS. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff announced that February 28, 2023 is the last day to pay taxes before collection goes to the county level. The Townhall Office will be **opened Tuesday the 28th from 9am to 5 pm.** Clerk Theresa Chenier was informed that a youth 4H Group would like to meet at the Township Hall once a week. Updated member contact information was given to each member

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT. Clerk Chenier 4 members were present. Steve Viau, Delta County Commissioner, introduced himself and offered his contact information. Nate Neuemier was voted as Vice-Chair. Future Land Use Map is in progress. The same budget for the Planning Commission will be used for this upcoming fiscal year. No increase.

No commissioner's Report. Mr. Barron is not present.

Approval to pay bills at 10:43pm. Clerk asked if members had any questions. No questions or concerns mentioned.

Motion to adjourn made at 10:46 pm by Trustee Gareau. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is March 13, 2023 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary. *Minutes approved March 13, 2023 with corrections*