

7:30 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 2TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Supervisor Tom Rymkos followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff lead a prayer of thanks and guidance.

Verbal Roll Call. Present: Supervisor Tom Rymkos. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff. Clerk Theresa Chenier. Trustee Al Gareau. Trustee Norman Fleury. All members are present.

Motion to approve agenda with removal of item "I" Township Zoning Fee Schedule due to incorrectly placed in paper and will be re-scheduled, was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion made to approve June 12, 2023 minutes with corrections was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Trustee Gareau. All In favor. Motion passed.

The financial report was reviewed. **Trustee Gareau made motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff second. All in favor. Motion passed. Financial Report approved.**

Supervisor Rymkos received a letter from UPPCO Energy. They are holding a meeting July 12, 2023 at 9:30 am. It can be attended by teleconference.

Public Comments. Barbie Clairmont inquired if Supervisor received certified letter regarding cease and desist. Supervisor respond that he has.

Fire Department report was presented by Mike LaFleur. The department did not receive any call outs since the last meeting. Mr. LaFleur explained the process of the I Am Responding app. Along with having pagers, the volunteers by using this app are in contact with OSF Hospital and Flight to Life. The following update on fire truck inventory as follows: 1989 Tanker Truck at Flat Rock is rusting from the outside in. 1994 grass truck is rotting away. 2016 ladder truck would cost \$1.2 million to replace. A Grass truck would be \$75-\$80k. He recommended the Board to consider a fund be started for truck replacements. On September 10, 2023 the fire department will hold an open house at the Besse Hall. Taylored Entertainment is providing entertainment and a photo booth. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff announced that the Friends of the Escanaba Township Volunteer Fire Department has been established to be able to accept donations. The Fire Department has staying up on applying for grants through the Island Resort and Casino and FEMA.

Unfinished Business.

The Audit finalization is nearing. There was a request for information on special assessment for street lights in the Lake Bluff area. The firm would like the Board to consider a contract to perform an annual audit. Clerk Chenier feels this would be a valuable option to consider.

Basement water issue could be corrected if a trench was dug and place a large pipe with possibly a sump pump then drain into the ditch area. Please send a bid or talk with Supervisor Rymkos if you are able to perform these repairs.

A new judgement in the LaBumbard blight case will be sought to include penalties for non-completion of ruling.

ARPA funds update: A quote is being waited on for fire truck pump and transmission repairs. Renovations for the township hall were measured out and tape indicating changes and updates are suggested to be made. Local blacktopping company, Payne and Dolan, will be contacting Supervisor Rymkos with a quote for Township Hall and Flat Rock Fire Hall lots.

Clerk Chenier met with Bittner Engineering. She explained township hall renovations as they stand at this time.

Addition of gutters to the Township Hall is being looked into. This will also help with the water drainage concerns.

A survey is needed for the Delta County Road Commission to snow plow township road. A turn around and blacktop were items they mentioned. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff suggests information on Highway By Use statute. Supervisor Rymkos the plan could be to have turn around constructed this year and perform the blacktopping next season.

N.3 Lane has been renamed County Road 472.

Motion to pay for a survey of township property on township road was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Board is considering a new internet service, Highline. Since trenching through the black top may be required, it is preferred to wait for black top and internet installation to coincide.

New Business.

The fire department grant from MI Fire Protection Grant of \$10k applied for.

Fire Department savings was considered with discussions. Member comments: Clerk Chenier feels it is a good idea to have a fund. After research, she has not found a previous fund in place. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff stated there is a donation for a grass truck approximately \$20k. She also agrees there should be a fire truck fund established. Trustee Gareau would like to see a 4 year plan with \$25k a year saved to reach \$100k. Clerk Chenier will seek advise from the auditors to ensure compliancy. Supervisor Rymkos feels the DNR may be a place to obtain good used equipment. Trustee Fleury suggested to get the specs of the truck then advertise for closed bids on a truck.

Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made motion to approve and submit L-4029 form. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Notice is regarding the annual equalization department.

Clerk Chenier announced the Zoning Board of Appeals is in need of a Planning Commission member. Scott Mitchell, present at the meeting, agreed to accept and be appointed to the ZBA. The community thanks you, Scott.

Motion to donate 2 sets of old bleachers to Wells Park, through Ann Davison and 2 sets of old bleachers to Gladstone High School, through Principal Andy Jacques was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

Review of Complaints Ordinance. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff provided each member with a copy of Escanaba Township Blight Ordinance. She asked it to be reviewed. Trustee Fleury will ask other townships for their procedures. He has spoken to Civil Attorney on issue. He suggests a split of duties to remove blight issues from the Zoning Administrator. Motion made by Clerk Chenier to appoint Trustee Fleury as Blight Enforcer. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk Chenier will call again to look into a grant to control Phragmites, an invasive species of weeds.

Follow up to the Michigan Land Bank grants will be sought.

There will be a public hearing scheduled to discuss Lake Bluff special assessment for street lights.

It was agreed that any extra meetings need to be approved by the Board.

Trash Vouchers are still available. Treasurer Knauf- Wyckoff was contacted by the Delta County Landfill and was asked to have the vouchers only outstanding for 2 months in the year 2024. Motion was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to adjust 2024 voucher validation during months of May and June. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments. Maradee Luft. Karen Whitney.

Board Comments. None

Planning Commission report given by Clerk Chenier.

The July 5, 2023 meeting had all seven members present.

A Public Hearing to consider and make a recommendation to the Board regarding a zoning change request by Barron Farms was set to be held during the September Planning Commission meeting.

Roofing concerns were discussed.

The ETPC tabled discussing the 2010 zoning issues and the zoning map discrepancies.

Chairperson Nate Neumeier suggested he would like each member to have an email dedicated through the township.

Delta County Commissioner report was presented by Commissioner Steve Viau. He expressed appreciation of the meetings held by our township. Ten applications for a new Delta County Airport Manager were received. The Delta County Conservation District has 2 new members with an amazing voter turnout.

The Board reviewed the packet of bills presented and issued approval to pay.

Motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor.