

## ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES 7:30 PM JUNE 12, 2023

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ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20<sup>TH</sup> RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

Supervisor Tom Rymkos called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff lead with an opening prayer of guidance.

Roll Call. Members present are Supervisor Tom Rymkos, Clerk Theresa Chenier, Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff, Trustee Al Gareau and Trustee Norman Fleury. All members present.

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

**Motion to approve May 8, 2023 minutes with corrected clerical errors made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Financial report was reviewed by Board. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff informed that all accounts have been reconciled. **Trustee Gareau made motion to accept Financial Report. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Communication. Supervisor Rymkos referred to a letter from FEMA regarding Flood Plain areas. Clerk Chenier stated proof of plan has been forwarded to Delta County.

Public Comments Agenda Items. NONE.

Fire Department report was given by Mike LaFleur. Last month there were 8 call outs. 7 were mutual aid. 1 cancelled in route. Mr. LaFleur continued by giving history and information on Mutual Aide Agreement. Mutual aid is usually between fire departments of adjoining cities and/or townships. In 2008 there was a county wide mutual aide agreement made. In 2013 an agreement with the City of Gladstone for a working structural fire aide was made. In 2022 the department signed on with MABAS (Mutal Aid Box Alarm System). Mr. LaFleur explained the participation of Escanaba Township Volunteer Fire Department. The department has the opportunity to refuse a mutual aid call out, but he was proud to say since he joined in 1984, help has never been refused to any neighbors. Clerk Chenier inquired if there were any cost reimbursements available. Mr. LaFleur stated there is not. He feels fortunate to have a great volunteer staff made up several local retirees, young working men & women and two nurses.

Audit. Clerk Chenier said a meeting was held with Auditor. Even though it is progressing, there is additional information now being requested.

Water in the basement and a new well at the township hall will continue to be monitored and discussed.

LaBumard Blight Case. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff has inquired with the County. She recommends a letter from Township Attorney for a hearing to include request for a new judgement against the property owner for the settlement to include collection of penalties and clean up costs. Trustee Fleury feels this is necessary because the clean up could reach \$50,000. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff will proceed.

ARPA Funding. Items discussed for funds at this time are: Fire Truck repair, which is waiting on quote and Escanaba Township Hall renovations. Clerk Chenier requested permission to receive black topping repairs for Township Hall lot. Trustee Gareau requested that the Fire Department lot, next to the hall, be included. Supervisor Rymkos will contact local black topping companies and request quotes.

Bittner Review. Clerk Chenier provided each Board Member with a copy of the blue print plans for township hall renovations and gave explanation while Board reviewed.

Annexation. Mr. Tom Sabor, retired Delta County Treasurer, addressed the Board and presented a prepared analysis of the annexation effects on Escanaba and Cornell townships along with Delta County, that include creating election complications and revising county software among other issues. He requested approval from the Board to present his findings to the Delta County Board. He will contact the county administrator and the County Board. Trustee Fleury spoke that the annexation process was about property rights and not solar. **A motion was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff and second by Clerk**

**Chenier to allow Mr. Sabor to present his findings to the Delta County Board of Commissioners at their next scheduled meeting while a this is his personal work. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Gutters repair is on hold. Roofing repair will be done by Independent Roofing Co. Signature is needed to accept quote estimate. Board previously voted to accept bid but due to weather conditions, there were delays. **Trustee Gareau made motion to accept Independent Roofing Bid Estimate for roof repairs. Clerk Chenier Second. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Township Roads. Supervisor Rymkos and Trustee Gareau visited township road in need of a turnaround which will require a survey. The lot on Lake Bluff needs to be surveyed. Unable to find property stakes on lot. Clerk Chenier informed the survey at the cemetery is completed. Discussion as to whether there needs to be a survey on Lake Bluff property to construct a turnaround (^on township road) for county plow truck was discussed. Clerk Chenier will contact local survey company Davis-Wenick for more details. D7 repairs were discussed.

Supervisor Rymkos received a letter from the Gladstone Library that included explanation of expenses and request to renew a contract. (^Motion by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to renew annual contract with Gladstone Public Library for \$3200. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. ) cmc

Planning Commission Members. Scott Mitchel and Mitchel Bunno submitted applications and then accepted positions on the Escanaba Township Planning Commission. Clerk Chenier informed these are 3 year positions asked if they agreed with the education process and training available to perform the duty and be un-bias to make the best decisions for the township. Both Gentlemen did agree. They will be sworn in by Supervisor Rymkos. Clerk Chenier noted this will fill a seven-member board. Supervisor Rymkos asked for all in favor? 5 Yays to -0- Nay. Mr. Mitchel and Mr. Bunno were welcomed to the Escanaba Township Planning Commission.

Clerk Chenier and Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff presented an option to save on internet fees for the township. Highline Internet service presented an offer. The decision was tabled at this time.

Township Hall reservations from Jan-June 2024 were discussed.

Mr. Joe Kaplan addressed the Board with information on the upcoming Delta County Conservation District election. Previously there was not much information received on how this election works. The last election they held only had 9 persons vote. There is voting now until June 21, 2023 at Pioneer Trail Park office 8am to 4 pm. He was granted approval to have participants ask him any questions. He stated his credentials to be (MSU) Michigan State University degree in Natural Resources and (MTU) Michigan Tech University with a Master's degree in forestry. He holds 35 years of experience in his field. There are 4 open positions of the 5 member board. 2 will be elected June 21, 2023 and 2 will be elected August 9, 2023. Mr. Kaplan gave praise to the Escanaba Township Fire department for their response and handling of a recent fire near his home during this extremely dry season.

Building permits for large projects require more details for site plan. Details like road location and set backs need to be on site plan when turned in. Supervisor would like permits turned as soon as possible.

Job descriptions. Clerk Chenier gave opportunity for the Board members to ask questions or receive clarifications of any township job descriptions. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff suggested Deputy positions should have a written description. Zoning Administrator also.

**Motion to enclose a Township Newsletter sheet along with the Summer Tax Bill mailings, on a trial basis, was made by Treasurer Knauf Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.** There will be no additional cost. Clerk Chenier & Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff see it as informational and expresses friendliness to our residents

Education-MTA Package details were explained and discussed. Clerk Chenier presented a \$900 savings option. She would like to select the Plus Pkg and use savings for the Planning and Zoning seminar July 8, 2023 at the Island Casino. Dues needs to be paid by July 1<sup>st</sup>. to MTA. Education training allows for members to train together without being considered a quorum. **Clerk Chenier made a motion to select the Plus Package with MTA. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.** **Motion made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to send the Planning Commission as well as Board members, who would like to attend, training on July 8, 2023 at the Island Casino. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Roads. **Motion made by Trustee Fleury with second by Trustee Gareau to single seal coat Roads G19 and G15. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Public Comments. Ilsa Minor. Fred Minor.

Board Member comments. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff gave the following update on annexation participation numbers; There are 748/36.958% residents are opposed to the annexation. 217 people want their name removed from petition. This brings the signatures on the petition to 9% and 20% is required for a valid petition. 41.4% are opposed. Clerk Chenier spoke on the following; The Planning has made a recommendation to the township board to adjust the zoning fees. A public hearing will be required to make any change to an ordinance. She is requesting to have that hearing with the July Planning Commission meeting.

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Our current fees are behind what other area townships are charging. She explained the need is due to the cost of publishing in local paper. **Trustee Fleury made a motion to schedule a public hearing during the July Planning Commission meeting. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.** Clerk Chenier also made comments the Planning Commission is continuing with education. Cemetery lawn mower required about \$500 of repairs. Dan and Pauline have been doing a great job caring for the recreation area that is used a lot during these months. The Little League pays for the expense of the ball field lines. New bleachers were installed. Pauline has a plan in motion to stain and preserve benches at the ball field area this year and next year the benches at the cemetery. New flags will be installed.

Planning Commission report given by Clerk Chenier. The Planning Commission met June 5, 2023. All members were present. The 2010 zoning map issue has been tabled due to the new board wanting more training and the passing of Dean since he was the lead on that issue. The annexation issue also is causing a hold until we see what happens with that. The zoning request by Barron Farms was tabled until further training is completed by the members. Nate Neumeier was elected as the Chair. Barbie Clairmont elected as the vice-chair. DJ Dean remained as the secretary. Mitchel Gannon joined as the newest member. Steve Viau gave a commissioner's report at the Planning Commission meeting.

Delta County Commissioner report. Bob Barron stated the county board had discussion on guns. The airport manager position is being covered right now by Ashley Young, Interim County Administrator. The annexation petition will be presented to the Board at the July 20, 2023 meeting. He said the Board should decide annexation issue based on property owner rights. Clerk Chenier asked about what a sanctuary county means and how to find more information. Mr. Barron stated the resolution was already passed. He did not have that information for her.

Clerk Chenier presented a thank you card to be signed by Board members for Charles IRVING <sup>Berube</sup> for his generous donation of wood.

Approval of bills. **Motion was made by Trustee Gareau to pay EMC Insurance billing. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.** Board members reviewed bills from their packets.

**Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Gareau at 9:28 pm. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is July 10, 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20<sup>th</sup> Rd Gladstone, Michigan 49837. Phone: 906 786 6200. Website: EscanabaTownshipmi.org. Please contact 906 280 6182 if you require assistance to attend a meeting.

