

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 14, 2023

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

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Supervisor Tom Rymkos. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a prayer of thanks, guidance and direction and healing for the victims of the Hawaii wildfires by Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff.

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

Motion to approve agenda with addition of Brandon Langenfeld under Township Road and EMC Insurance billing approval as item (H) under New Business made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve July 2023 minutes with addition of * The Board has accepted a contract to participate in annual audits.*** was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to accept the Financial Report as reviewed and approved was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

Communications. Supervisor Rymkos announced there will be a meeting held by UPPCO in Marquette, MI on August 16, 2023 on water reduction plan. The Delta County Landfill will also be holding their meeting.

Public Comments. NONE

The Fire Department report was given by Zach DeNome. They had 5 call outs. The Hannahville Indian Community was appreciative of our Fire Department partaking in being part of their fire awareness program. There will be a business meeting on August 15 at Besse Hall. The public is invited to attend. They will be having their annual OPEN HOUSE September 10, 2023 at the Besse Hall. **Clerk Chenier made a motion to allow the Ladder truck to attend the September ~~(*14*)~~ 13, 2023 Honor Flight reception. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Brenda Gartland, Auditor, addressed the Board concerning the current audit. Years being audited are 2017,2019,2021. She explained that no reconciliations had been found to be done. A Capital Asset Policy needs to be set and maintained with an annual listing of capital assets. The special assessment for Lake Bluff area street lights needs to be a separate fund. All billings need to be initialed by person approving. There is an approval to participate in annual audits going forward.

Blight Enforcement Trustee Fleury updated that LaBumbard is working on blight concerns. The DNR and EGLE are involved and Westridge Heights property is about ¾ completed of addressing complaint.

ARPA funds have been discussed to cover cost of pump & transmission repairs to fire truck. Renovation of the Township Hall, blacktopping the parking lot and gutters are currently being considered.

Brandon Langenfeld addressed the Board concerning the township road he lives on. He would like to see it plowed by the County. He has been plowing. Supervisor Rymkos informed him the survey that was needed to proceed is completed and he will discuss this further with Jody Norman, Delta County Road Commissioner. The County requests the road to be paved in order for them to plow.

The Planning Commission approved a fee schedule for zoning request, to be considered by the Board. Section 502,702 and 704 had changes. **Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made motion to accept the fee schedule proposed by the Planning Commission. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.**

A Motion was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to amend the Zoning Ordinance to remove dollar fee amounts for application Fees. The new accepted fees go into effect seven days after publication. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to accept Ed Brunette quote of \$300 to remove shrubs from around the Township Hall was made by Trustee Fleury. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

A Fire Department savings was discussed. The department will be in need of new trucks. No account was found other than \$25,000 specific for a grass truck and \$10,000 in the jaws account.

Motion was made by Trustee Fleury to transfer \$50,000 from General Fund to start the Fire Truck fund. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk Chenier was informed that the bleachers that were removed from the ball field can not be donated. They have to receive market price, which Trustee Fleury informed was .06 cents a pound for scrap at Coplans.

A procedure to handle blight complaints is a current item of discussion. The Member's evening packets contain other township's Blight Ordinance as a reference guide. Clerk Chenier requested each member reads over information and discuss at the next meeting. She also suggested that MTA webinars could be very helpful.

Phragmites Grant could be option to control invasive weeds on the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Lake Bluff Estates entrance roadside located in Escanaba Township.

The Special Assessment of street lights in the Lake Bluff area will require a Public Hearing, per attorney advise. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff stated there is not enough being collected to cover costs of the street lights billing.

Installation of a security camera is being considered to hopefully stop the vandalism to the rest rooms at Chenier Field.

Fire/Road Signs are in progress still. Many addresses needed to be corrected. Clerk Chenier is looking in to a grant to help offset the \$60,000 cost to the township. Delta County Commissioner Steve Viau said he will provide the township with costs of sign printing he obtained at a conference that could be a savings.

Motion to have Clerk Theresa Chenier sign the policy with EMC Insurance was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second By Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments: Frank Royer. Brandon Langenfeld. Fred Minor

Member Comments: Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff stated the Escanaba Township General Account Fund balance is \$567,000. Clerk Chenier requested the Board to consider granting her permission to attend the Delta County Assoc Meeting in September. **Supervisor Rymkos approved.** Clerk Chenier requested the Board to consider granting her permission to attend a Clerk's retreat conference. Supervisor Rymkos approved. Supervisor Rymkos said there would be a cost of \$2500 if we need to cap a well. Trustee Fleury announced if anyone has a blight concern, come to the township. Trustee Gareau reminded

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE IS SUNDAY SEPT 10, 2023 12-4 PM THE BESSE FIRE HALL.

Clerk Chenier gave the Escanaba Township Planning Commission report. There were questions presented regarding home daycare expanding to 12 in home- care children. There was a public hearing pertaining to zoning fee changes. A subcommittee of 3/7 will research the zoning map of 2010 issues.

Barron Farms re-zoning request was discussed. September is a possibility if able to schedule.

Delta County Commissioners Report presented by Commissioner Steve Viau. He will follow up with information on cost of fire signs. Interviews will be Friday for the Delta County Airport Manager. The Health Department mobile unit for shots is new. He visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall displayed in Manistique. Delta County Landfill fees will increase to \$3.50 ton. Mr. Viau said he always has an open door.

The Board reviewed and approved to pay the bills presented.

Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to adjourn at 9:31 pm. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

The next meeting for the Escanaba Township Board is scheduled for September 11, 2023. 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837 Call 906-786-6200 if you require assistance to attend a meeting.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary