

Escanaba Township Board Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023

Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Road Gladstone MI 49837
906-786-6200 escanabatownshipmi.gov

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tom Rymkos at 7:29pm followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff presented a prayer of guidance and also remembrance for victims and families of September 11, 2001.

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

Motion to approve the agenda with correction of next scheduled meeting date of October 9, 2023 was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve August 14, 2023 minutes with Honor Flight date correction to be September 13, 2023 was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the Financial Statement report as presented was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff and Clerk Chenier both stated all accounts are balanced **** and reconciled**** with the banks. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff is working with Thrivent Financial to set up the fire truck fund.

Communications. Supervisor Rymkos received mail from MTA, The Gladstone Library and a website service.

Public Comments. NONE

The Fire Department report was given by Zach Denome. Matt Rian resigned as Fire Chief. Zach will fill in until election. There were 7 call outs this past month. The Ladder Truck is in need of tires. Quotes are expected to be between \$8000 to \$10,000. Three businesses were contacted for tires and installation quotes including a company in Marinette WI, Mr. Tire, and Pomp's of Escanaba. 11 of 26 SCBA hydro bottles, with a seven-year life span, are outdated and being sent out. There is a \$50 cost per bottle for update. He is sending out 5 now and 6 in the near future. The quote received for repairs to Truck #1 has been turned into the office. The Fire Department open house held September 10, 2023 was a success. **A motion to approve purchasing tires for the Ladder Truck from Pomp's, using the Ladder Truck fund account, was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.** Supervisor Rymkos and Fire Chief Denome discussed concerns for numerous call outs due to alarm malfunction at Sand Point. Billings are being submitted for all these call outs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. Clerk Chenier updated that the audit is still on going. Additional information was requested by the auditor and provided this past week. The auditor has informed that billings for audits of years 2019 and 2021 be paid before they can continue on to 2023 so it can be independent of the State audit.

Trustee Fleury, Blight Enforcer, informed that the LaBumbard blight issue has been referred to the attorney for further direction.

ARPA funds previously approved for pump & transmission repairs to the pumper truck is proceeding with an approximate \$66,000 quote that was received from Rennert's Fire Equipment of Markesan, WI. There are no other companies within close proximity that work on these unique trucks limiting the usual procedure of three quotes. The truck is expected to be at their shop for three weeks to do repairs. **Trustee Gareau made a motion to accept the quote from Rennert's Fire Equipment and send the Ladder ~~Ladder~~ **** Pumper**** Truck for repairs using ARPA funds to ~~cover~~ ****cover**** cost. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Renovation. Clerk Chenier said three contractors have shown up to give quotes for renovations of the Escanaba Township Hall.

A quote was received from Payne & Dolan of Gladstone, MI, in the amount of \$168,500 to blacktop the parking lots of the township hall and Flat Rock Fire Hall. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff said PSA Seal Coating will be emailing an estimate. Clerk Chenier is looking into receiving more quotes.

Gutter installation quotes are being requested from U.P. Seamless and Iverson Home Center. Clerk Chenier will make these phone calls for 3 quotes.

Supervisor Rymkos explained that he and Jody Norman, of DCRC, visited the township road to review if Delta County will be able to provide snowplowing. Supervisor Rymkos stated they found two major concerns. One is that the road placement design

should be in a straight line and it has a curve. The other is the power company installed a power box where the roadway should be. Some suggestions were to hire an outside party to plow the road. The possibility of seal coat application instead of blacktop will be looked into as another option. The Board will continue to work on a solution.

Trustee Fleury gave an update on blight complaints. There are 4 active complaints. West Ridge Heights is working to replace service door and soffits. Bouchard is pending. A letter was sent to M-35 resident, Bruntzens. LaBumbard has been turned over to the attorney. He will obtain photos upon completions. Clerk Chenier will present Blight & Dangerous Building ordinances to the Planning Commission to have discussions and review if any changes should be made.

A Fire Department grant of \$10,000 was awarded and ~~received~~ **** invoices were submitted**** for the 2023 fiscal year.

Special Assessment of street lights was a part of the recent audit. There will be a hearing scheduled with public notice for a resolution to change the amount annually for the cost of the street lights.

The Fire/Road signs cost concern of \$60,000 continues to be explored for available grants. Supervisor Rymkos and Clerk Chenier attended an informational meeting with the Delta County Road Commission that addressed all townships in the county.

NEW BUSINESS. Trustee Fleury talked about EGLE scrap tire grant application. There is a September 29, 2023 deadline. Supervisor Rymkos discussed concerns about storage and implementing an organized plan of procedure in a short amount of time. The Board felt more time is needed to properly address concerns.

Public Comments. Barbie Clairmont announced resignation from the Planning Commission. Fred Minor suggests township land surveys be done to help head off issues in the future. Todd Tardiff requested the ditch in his area of N.3 Lane be cleaned out. He stated this is a job previously performed by the road commission and paid by the township. Supervisor Rymkos will contact J. Norman, DCRC to discuss.

Board Comments. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff announced the next Honor Flight is Wednesday September 13, 2023. The hangar will be open at 7pm with arrival at the airport of the Honor Flight at 8:30 pm. Trustee Fleury shared a concern that Michigan's Governor, Gretchen Whitmore is planning to implement a mandatory turn over of zoning to the State. This would strip the townships and counties from having any voice how their communities are zoned. All permits would be issued by the State. He suggests you email your State Representative with your concerns. Clerk Chenier received election grant monies. She attended a meeting with Delta County clerks to discuss the new 9 days of voting law which will be held at one county designated place. The election day voting will still be held at the Flat Rock and Besse halls. There is a requirement for a drop box and a surveillance camera. The cost of the camera will be an expense of the township. Clerk Chenier added that the election equipment maintenance is completed. There is an election in November for the Gladstone School Board. The Planning Commission is accepting applications for a new member. The zoning ordinance needs updating.

Planning Commission Liaison Report given by Clerk Chenier. The 2010 zoning map concerns continue to be carefully researched. Mr. Charlie Becker was very helpful with his knowledge of the area. CUPPAD will help to re-do the map. Barron Farms re-zoning request will require a public hearing. Notices will be going out. There was a discussion of home-based businesses. No concerns were presented. Clerk Chenier suggests all Planning Commissioners take the Citizens Planner course with commitment to stay on the Commission.

Delta County Commissioner Steve Viau informed that the Landfill is approved to purchase a new \$900,000 compactor and they are looking into a grant to help purchase a tire shredder. There will be an increase in landfill fees. There are state recycling mandates in the future. An amount of \$161,000 was received to assist in combatting the county's opioid crisis. Mr. Viau requested community input on this issue and said the Board will have say how it is spent. He attended a zoom meeting discussing septic tank inspections in the U.P. A possibility may be to have an inspection performed upon sale of the property.

The Board reviewed the monthly billings sheet enclosed in their packets. **Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made the motion to adjourn at 8:58 pm. Trustee Gareau second. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is October 9, 2023. 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone, MI 49837. If you need assistance to attend a meeting, please call 906-786-6200.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Escanaba Township Recording Secretary *Minutes approved w/corrections October 9, 2023*