

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 9, 2023
7:30 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 CO 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE, MI 49837
906-786-6200 escanabatownshipmi.gov

Supervisor Rymkos called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by an opening prayer for guidance, thankfulness and empathy for current unrest in the countries suffering from war.

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

Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

Trustee Gareau made a motion to approve Sept 11, 2023 minutes with corrections. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

The monthly Financial Report was presented to Board members for review. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff and Clerk Chenier each stated all accounts are reconciled with the bank statements. **Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion to amend the budget by transferring \$35,000 from the General Fund savings to the Audit line item. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed. Clerk Chenier made a motion to amend the budget by transferring \$100 from Clerk Supplies to Trash Voucher line item. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Communications. NONE Public Comments Agenda Items. Dan Robitaille.

The Escanaba Township Fire Department report was given by Zach Denome. There was 1 call out this past month to assist the City of Escanaba. Hose test was completed. Some SCBA bottles were updated. There are more to be completed. Jaws parts were received from the Gulliver Community sale. A grant application was completed. They are waiting on new safety gear. They were contacted to assist with a school presentation with Gladstone Public Safety October 25/26, 2023. New tires were installed on the Ladder Truck. There is consideration from the Besse Foundation to gift the expense of the tires. The Pumper Truck pump and transmission repairs may put the truck out for 3-4 weeks. Rennart's is requesting a \$30,000 deposit to start repairs.

Mr. Andy Jacques, Principal Gladstone High School, spoke on behalf of the Gladstone School's request for \$35.39million Millage Bond. Brochures with information were handed out. He explained the updates and the added features, then answered questions. The election will be November 7, 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS. A) audit is close to completion. Years audited 2019 and 2021 require payment to allow for current year 2023 audit to proceed. B) Trustee Fleury gave update that LaBumbard blight issue had court date on October 4, 2023. He was granted 30 days to November 7, 2023 to obtain council. Failure to comply could lead to jail time and still be required to clean. C) ARPA Funds Update. Pumper truck repair quote was received. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff suggested sealed bids to perform renovation work at the Escanaba Township Hall should be published in the newspaper. Sealed Bids will be accepted and opened at the November meeting. Blue prints are available upon request. Blacktopping the Township Hall/Fire Hall parking lot quotes are needed. **A vote to advertise for sealed bids in the newspaper was approved by all members voicing Yays.** Gutter installed on the Township Hall is being discussed to determine sizing and placement. Supervisor Rymkos will look into consideration of a solution to plowing the Township road.

Blight updates given by Trustee Fleury, Blight Enforcer. a) Bouchard is recommended to be referred to the Township Attorney. b) LaBumbard case was in court Oct 4, 2023. Next court date is Nov7, 2023. c) Mata is completed. **A vote was taken to proceed with these recommendations. The vote was verbally held. All members voiced Yays. Recommendation was accepted.**

The Fire Department Grant of \$10,000 for safety equipment was approved. The required invoices showing expenses has been submitted, per Clerk Chenier. There has not been a response back yet.

Motion to close the Regular Meeting was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff at 8:40 pm. Second By Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed. Supervisor Rymkos opened the Public Hearing for Street Lighting Special Assessment District at 9:41 pm.

Public Comments.

Ilsa Minor. Requested clarification behind the Special Assessment.

Member Comments.

Clerk Chenier explained there was a previous agreement with residents of the Lake Bluff Community to create a special assessment district on the Bluff for street lights. This is a formality to properly have the street light district maintained. While Escanaba Township was recently under state audit of years 2019 & 2021, it was discovered this had not been handled as presented. There will be a deficiency report to file for past years. In order to correct this the mathematical calculation was explained as: The previous year UPPCO charges, for the additional street lights only, is \$18498.28. With help of the Assessor, it is determined there are 445.25 parcels. The next winter tax bill will reflect \$41.55. This will be re-calculated annually using this formula with that previous year's UPPCO charges. **** SUPERVISOR TOM RYMKOS ADDED: THERE ARE 100 STREET LIGHTS IN THE LAKE BLUFF AREA. 15 ARE AT INTERSECTIONS THAT ARE PAID FOR BY THE TOWNSHIP. THE 85 ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS HAD BEEN ADDED FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY LIGHTING**** Supervisor Rymkos read Resolution 10-23A aloud. **Clerk Chenier made a motion to accept Resolution 10-23A Street Lighting Special Assessment and to annually determine amount. Second by Trustee Gareau. ROLL CALL VOTE: Knauf-Wyckoff YES. Trustee Fleury YES. Trustee Gareau YES. Clerk Chenier YES. Rymkos NO. Motion passes with 4 Yays and 1 No. Clerk Chenier made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 9:09 pm and re-open regular meeting. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Fire Sign update. Clerk Chenier stated there was a meeting with Delta County Township Association. It has been a very time-consuming process but believes Escanaba Township is about half way done.

NEW BUSINESS

A) The Planning Commission held a hearing October 2, 2023 for a re-zoning request by Bob Barron, partner Barron Farms, LLC. The packets contain a communication piece giving information to the Board from the hearing. The Escanaba Township Planning Commission voted to send their recommendation to the Board to deny this request based on not being in the best interest of the public safety, health and welfare of area residents. It does not comply with Escanaba Township's Master Plan nor The Escanaba Township Future Land Use Map. Supervisor Rymkos read the resolution aloud. **Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion to deny rezoning of property requested by Barron Farms, LLC. Trustee Fleury second. All in favor to deny re-zone request. Motion passed.**

B) Trustee Gareau said he has received complaints regarding excessive Jake-Brake noise from large trucks from N.3 Lane through Co Rd 426. Supervisor Rymkos will handle getting appropriate signs.

C) Clerk Chenier provided a sample resolution and information from the MTA that they are trying to fight the State of Michigan on the State's attempt to preempt local control. It is strongly urged to reach out to our law makers to oppose. Supervisor Rymkos read aloud Escanaba Township 10-23-C, *Opposition to legislation to preempt local control for the siting and permitting of utility-scale renewable facilities including solar, wind and large-scale battery storage facilities.* **Motion to send in the resolution was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed 5 Yays to -0- Nays at 9:35 pm.**

Public Comments.

Todd Tardiff. Nick VanEffen. Reino Maki. All with concerns of ditch on N.3Lane. John Miron. Theresa Pietsch.

Board Member Comments. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff has training November 2, 2023. She also shared her discussion with DCRC Jody Norman that the ditch on N.3 Lane is a private drive and can not be considered a legal expenditure for the township to maintain. N.3 Lane is a county road not a township road. Supervisor Rymkos added the drain is below the ditch and if dug out again it could under mind the road. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff will construct a letter to the concerned residents. Clerk Chenier attended an MTA conference. The recent Risk Management was the ball field ****** RECREATION ****** area and all was good.

Planning Commission-Board Liaison Report given by Clerk Chenier.

- Public Hearing was held for Barron Farms LLC re-zone request and The Blight and Dangerous Building Ordinances will be reviewed, as the Board requested
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Delta County Commissioners Report given by Commissioner Steve Viau. A new airport manager will start October 10, 2023. The airport is being setup to receive 70 passenger planes. A new schedule is coming with 12 flights a week. The airport will be

receiving a \$1million dollar snow removal machine that plows, brooms and blows. This will be federally funded. Trustee Fleury inquired about the Cornell property easement. Mr. Viau states all parks will be taken over by the County as of January 1, 2024.

The Board Members were presented with information on this month's bills to be reviewed and paid.

Motion to adjourn at 10:04 pm was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is November 13, 2023, 7:30pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837. Please contact 906-786-6200 if you require assistance to attend any meeting.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary *Minutes approved with correction and addition Nov 13, 2023*