

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 13, 2023

7:30 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837
906-786-6200 escanabatownshipmi.gov

Supervisor Tom Rymkos opened the meeting at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff offered a prayer of guidance for our leaders and thankfulness and blessings to those in uniform.

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

Motion to approve agenda with addition under New Business 1) of Early Voting Contract with Delta County and 2) State of Michigan's takeover of wind and solar developments , was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve October 9, 2023 minutes with addition and correction was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Financial Report was presented to all members. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff stated all bank accounts are reconciled. Clerk Chenier stated all accounts are also reconciled.

Trustee Gareau made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.

Communications. Supervisor Rymkos received a letter from UPPCO. They are holding a meeting November 16, 2023 that can be observed online.

Public Comments. Barbie Clairmont.

The Escanaba Township Fire Department report was given by Zach Denome. The Ladder Truck passed testing. Stickers of inspection will be purchased. 64 are needed at .82 cents each. First 30 are free. The ladder truck needs some bolt tightening that will be done in house. Truck #1 is scheduled for repairs and waiting on parts. While the truck is down, there will be other trucks available. The Besse Foundation generously donated funds to cover the cost of the tires that were installed on the Ladder Truck. The department members would like to have a personal shower installed at the Besse Hall. He asked for the Board to consider approval of a new cadet, Brandon Couillard, approval of the Ladder Truck to participate in the Escanaba City Christmas parade and Trucks #1, #6 and #5 to perform the annual Christmas "CAN"dy Cane Drive in local neighbors to collect canned goods for the local food pantries.

Trustee Fleury made a motion to start hire process of Brandon Couillard to the Escanaba Township Volunteer Fire Department. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Denome stated he will contact Murray's Country View regarding call outs and charges even when a false alarm. He also stated it appears the bill submitted to Menominee City for October 2022 fire response, has been misplaced. He is working to resolve to try to clear up this matter.

New Business.

a) Audit is completed for years 2019 and 2021. They are now working to complete year 2023.

b) Trustee Fleury informed that the LaBumbard case was granted a 30day extension by the Judge in October and now a new court date will be scheduled in January 2024.

c)ARPA. The sealed bids for paving of the Township Hall and Flat Rock Fire Department parking lots were publicly opened and read aloud by Supervisor Rymkos. Three bids were received for the asphalt. Carlson Asphalt of Peshtigo, WI – Midwest Asphalt of Iron Mountain, MI – Payne & Dolan of Gladstone, MI submitted bids. Clerk Chenier suggested to see where the township finances are before a decision is made. The bids will be kept on record at the office. Supervisor Rymkos opened the one sealed bid received from Brunette Contracting for renovation of the Township Hall. A detail of the work to be performed was attached.

Trustee Gareau suggested all Board members receive a copy of the estimate so they can each review and hold a special meeting if needed. Supervisor Rymkos instructed to the members to keep the information, at this time, confidential while reviewing.

d) Motion to accept ADS Seamless Gutters estimate to install 6 inch gutters at the Township Hall was made by Trustee Fleury. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

e) Supervisor Rymkos has been in touch with Delta County Road Commission regarding the Township Road. Supervisor Rymkos offered three possible options. 1) paying the property owner to plow the road. 2) hiring a plowing contractor, or 3) paying to pave the road for 1 house. He would like to review the cost of each option.

Trustee Gareau inquired on the ditch cleaning concerns from N.3 Lane that was presented to the Board previously. Supervisor Rymkos informed that this is not a responsibility of the township and a letter explaining the situation was sent.

f) Blight updates: The Bouchards, mother and son, were present at the meeting. Trustee Fleury explained the importance of the cleaning of the property and advised them to have a plan to clean. It was agreed that in 30 days, December 11, 2023, Trustee Fleury would visit and take photos. Trustee Fleury thanked the Bouchard's for attending the meeting and explained the township wants to work with the people. The LaBumbard case will have a court date set for January 2024.

g) Supervisor Rymkos said he has not received anything new on the Fire Department Grant. Clerk Chenier explained there is a wait for one more jacket and pants turnout gear.

8:46 pm Trustee Fleury left the table. Meeting was stopped. 8:47pm Trustee Fleury returned. Meeting was convened.

Trustee Gareau made a motion to pay the invoice for the turn out gear before receiving the last pants and jacket to submit for grant purpose. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

h) Clerk Chenier said the fire address signs continue to be worked on. Our township signs possibly will be green in color. The road names may be able to be added to the signs. This helps the fire responders.

New Business.

- a) The Board reviewed a listing of the suggested dates for Board Meetings in 2024.
A motion to approve the dates for 2024 Board meetings was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

2024 ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

All Meetings Scheduled for 7:30pm EST at Escanaba Township Hall 4618 Co. 416 20th Rd Gladstone, MI 49837 906-786-6200

January 15, 2024	May 13, 2024	September 16, 2024
February 12, 2024	June 10, 2024	October 14, 2024
March 11, 2024	July 15, 2024	November 11, 2024
April 15, 2024	August 12, 2024	December 9, 2024

b) Clerk Chenier explained she needs to submit a report of all job descriptions for the Township for the Accident Fund Audit.

c) Motion was made by Trustee Fleury to accept contract of \$40 per hr. with Reva Kleiman Tax & Books to perform Quick Books assistance as needed. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

d) Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion to accept another 3year term for Chairperson Nathan Neumeier and Commissioner Mitchell Gannon to the Planning Commission. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

e) Trustee Gareau made a motion to approve a contract with Delta County for the new 9 day early voting process. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed. The new 9day early voting will be at the Wells Township Hall for all townships. On the official election day, voting for Escanaba Township precincts will be at the Township Hall and Besse Hall as previously done.

Supervisor Rymkos read an email he received regarding the State of Michigan clean energy bill that takes over and strips away local control from townships for solar/wind green energy developments. This has passed the Michigan House and Senate. It is

expected to be signed by Gov. Whitmer. **Trustee Fleury made a motion to contact the township's attorney for recommendations on the energy bill passage. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor.**

Public Comments. Ilsa Minor. Barbie Clairmont. Theresa Pietsch.

Planning Commission Report presented by Clerk Theresa Chenier.

- One member was absent excused. The Commission still had a quorum to hold meeting.
- There will be a review of The Blight Ordinance and the Dangerous Building Ordinance with sub-committee of Neumeier, Gannon and Bunno.
- Clerk Chenier and Scott Mitchell met with CUPPAD to help with correcting the zoning map. A draft map was made as a working piece. A.LaBumbard also submitted information on property that also needs to show corrections. Chenier and Mitchell will continue preparing for a corrected zoning map.

Delta County Commissioner report presented by Steve Viau. Mr. Viau stated that the Michigan Association of Counties is upset with the clean renewable energy bill pushed by the State. The County will be obtaining more information within next month. The landfill will be receiving new equipment. The County is looking into a Veteran Service Officer. The Opioid Task Force will be looking for an eleven- member board. The County Master Plan needs updating. January 1, 2024 the County will take over the management of County parks. There is information out that cold fusion could replace solar which will be obsolete within 15 years.

Member Comments. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff expressed the BS&A training she attended in Marquette for computer training on the tax program was very good. Clerk Chenier was notified by the City of Gladstone that they will be updating their master plan. On December 1, 2024 there will be a township association open meeting hosted this year at the Escanaba Township Hall. \$20 per person to attend.

Trustee Gareau made motion to pay bills. Second by Trustee Fleur. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made motion to adjourn at 9:42 pm. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

Meeting minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary. *Approved December 11, 2023 as written*