

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 11, 2023**  
**7:30 PM Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20<sup>th</sup> Rd Gladstone MI 49837**

**906-786-6200**    [www.escanabatownshipmi.gov](http://www.escanabatownshipmi.gov)

Supervisor Rymkos called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff opened with a prayer of guidance, thankfulness and blessings for our military troops.

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

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

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Clerk Chenier to approve November 13, 2023 meeting minutes as written. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The Financial Report was presented for Board review. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff informed that a few of the line-item balances still need some postings to be accurate. This is due to the new structure of accounting required by the State Auditor. They are currently in the middle of performing these transitions. Knauf-Wyckoff stated all accounts are balanced with the bank statements. Clerk Chenier stated all accounts are balanced with the bank statements.

**Trustee Gareau made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to approve the Financial Statement. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Communications. Supervisor Rymkos said he has contacted Board of Review members to inform them of required training schedule.

Public Comments. Ilsa Minor. Tom Pietsche.

Fire Department Report given by Interim Chief, Zach Denome. The department had 9 call outs this past month. 6 were in the township. 3 were mutual aid. MABAS called out for assistance at large fire in Stephenson, Mich. The Ladder truck and all ground ladders passed inspection. Truck #6, #2 and #5 require DOT inspections. This will be performed by Bay View Trucking. The fire fighters would like to have lockers installed. Denome will be meeting with the Gladstone Wood Working Class to present and inquire if they would like to perform the project. Repairs on truck #1, currently in Wisconsin, are going as planned. Truck #3 was involved in an accident. Denome confirmed the township accident policy was followed. The truck is a total loss. Insurance coverage will pay \$150,000. An additional 25% will also be paid if a new truck is purchased. The insurance company offered \$4100 for the truck as is. Supervisor Rymkos asked for verification that amount paid by the insurance company is guaranteed. Clerk Chenier informed the settlement is as written in the policy. Denome questioned if it may be possible to sell truck #3 outright and obtain additional funds. Denome also initiated contact with businesses that sell the specialty fire equipment. ~~Pomasul~~ \* Pomasl \* of Antigo appears to offer the most benefits by providing availability in 4 months, mobile service at your door, and Freightliner chassis on site. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff added there is \$50,000 earmarked for a fire truck that is available. Trustee Gareau feels if a good used replacement can not be located, a new truck is needed.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion second by Trustee Gareau to re-new and sign a contract with I AM RERSPONDING fire fighter's app, for 3 years. All in favor. Motion passed.**

It was requested to have 2 light poles installed on the westside of fire hall. Denome will follow up.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Trustee Fleury to receive a set price quote on a new truck that will be spec to Michigan Laws. All in favor. Motion passed.** Denome will follow up.

Friends of the Escanaba Township Volunteer Fire Department are holding a fund raiser. A \$30 donation will provide you with insulated travel cup displaying The Escanaba Township Volunteer Fire Department. Zach Denome is the contact for purchase.

Audit. 2023 State audit is continuing. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff informed they are transitioning to a mandatory procedure for township accounting.

ARPA Funds. Township Hall Renovation. A new estimate without replacing all the flooring was reviewed. It reduced expenses by approximately \$50,000. Supervisor Rymkos requested addition of; after plumbing and heating completed, all areas are put back to finished state. Discussion of office usage was held. There are offices located in lower level that could be facilitated also. Trustee Fleury suggested separate dates to occupy office may be help solve concern.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with Second by Trustee Fleury to approve contract for renovation of the Township Hall without complete flooring replacement and finishing work completed. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The plowing of the township road is continuing to be discussed.

Trustee Fleury gave Blight Enforcement update on Bouchard complaint. He requested the attorney be contacted for legal implications. They were granted 30 days to show clean-up process. At last check, it appears more items have been brought on to the property. He added they were asked to be in attendance at this meeting. They did not attend. Supervisor Rymkos preferred to have the township submit another letter explaining the ordinance guidelines and explain what is expected of the land owners. Trustee Fleury announced he was stepping down from the position of township Blight Enforcement due to no enforcement of the Blight Ordinance. He stepped away from the table at 8:41pm. Meeting was stopped. He returned at 8:42. Meeting was continued.

Fire and Road Signs are still in progress. No new information has been received.

Zach Denome asked to add additional fire department information. A 2% grant was awarded from the Hannahville Indian Community. He is now working on a Community Action Grant.

New Business.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau to sign a contract with JC Property Maintenance for snowplowing parking lots at Besse Fire Hall, Escanaba Township Hall and Fire Department. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Zach Denome will contact Delta County Road Comm to obtain information on parking lot lighting and additional fire department notification signs with red lights that warn of active fire trucks entering and leaving from the fire halls. He feels this would be a good safety feature added.

There has been an increased rate for the township to provide dump passes in 2024. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff will have the amount charged in 2023 for next meeting. Further discussion was tabled until then.

Clerk Chenier offered information that the township's zoning ordinance will need to match the State of Michigan's. There will be more information, as received on the Governor's State zoning and Utility Solar. Supervisor Rymkos said the County may have an update.

Public Comments. Ilsa Minor. Mitch Gannon. Fred Minor. Barbie Clairmont. John Miron. Tom Pietche.

Member Comments. Clerk Chenier informed they have received one book from Flood Plain Management. It is in the office. Chenier also inquired with UPPCO to verify if the street lights have LED lighting. She was told some already do and others will be changed. The roof seam on the Township Hall has been sealed. Cost of the new tires

on the ladder truck has been covered by the Besse Foundation. There will be an election update meeting on Thursday.

Escanaba Township Planning Commission liaison report given by Clerk Chenier.

- They are continuing to work on correcting the township's zoning map. Some zoning changes made it to the map of 2010 and some did not. CUPPAD assisted with making a DRAFT zoning map to use as a guide.
- There have been questions on whether the fire department can do a training burn on existing buildings. The department is considering options.

Delta County Commissioner Report presented by Commissioner Steve Viau. The County is following up with access concerns of Cornell Property. He complimented the usage of the Delta County GIS, that he learned about at ET Planning Commission meetings. If County is not compliant, there could be \$925,000 loss if not done by requirement. He stressed the Delta County Airport did not have any security compromised. The new Airport Manager is developing a Standard Operating Procedures Guide. Delta County Waste Mng received approx. \$6000 from a 2% grant from the Hannahville Indian Community. County Rank & File employees received a 3.5% increase. He would like to see recognition awarded to investors and new business in the county. He will keep the township informed of any new information on the State of Michigan solar, wind & battery storage.

Board Members proceeded to review and pay monthly billings.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion. Second by Clerk Chenier to adjourn at 9:19pm All in favor. Motion passed.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is January 15, 2024 at 7:30 pm Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20<sup>th</sup> Rd Gladstone, MI 49837 906-786-6200. Please call if you require any assistance to attend a meeting.

