

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 11, 2024

7:30 PM Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Road Gladstone MI 49837

906-786-6200 www.escanabatownshipmi.gov

Supervisor Tom Rymkos called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wyckoff presented a prayer of guidance and thanks.

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

Trustee Gareau made a motion with Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to approve agenda with addition of moving money around. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with Second by Trustee Gareau to approve February 12, 2024 meeting minutes as written. All in favor. Motion passed.

The Financial Report was present in Board member packets. Both Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff and Clerk Chenier stated all accounts are reconciled with the bank statements. **Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau to approve the Financial Statement presented. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Communications. Supervisor Rymkos received letters from DTE and from Dept of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Public Comments. none

Fire Department. Zach Denome, Interim Fire Chief, gave an update on the departments fire trucks. To continue ISO standards, water on wheels is a requirement. The fire department would like to move forward with truck purchase. Available grants will be looked into. There is a \$1000 credit to sign within a designated time frame. **Trustee Fleury made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to approve the purchase of fire tanker truck for the amount of \$ 281,496.00. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Unfinished Business.

The audit of 2023 is looking to be completed by the end of March 2024. The Auditor will finalize report and then assist with reports needed.

ARPA funds are nearing deadline for allocation a) The Township Hall renovation update: Drywall is being installed.

Blight Updates. Trustee Fleury suggested contact be made with the Township's Attorney to proceed forward with a letter explaining expectations, options and deadline to Bouchard. This complaint was originally filed in May 2023. LaBumbard Blight Complaint has court date set. Trustee Fleury gave information on scrap disposal possibilities through the county landfill.

Fire Road Signs continue to be in process.

Locations considered for signs to encourage reducing engine brake (Jake brake) noise was discussed. Areas considered for signs mentioned are: 1) N.3 Lane 2) M35 3) Carrol Corners 4) County Road 416

Trustee Fleury made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau for Supervisor Rymkos to purchase and place six signs reading: PLEASE NO ENGINE BREAKING. All in favor. Motion passed.

A laptop has been purchased for use by Blight Officer. Will wait on a camera.

Barron Farm's pursuement of a lawsuit against Escanaba Township has been denied.

Flashing lights are being looked into for the fire department to activate when trucks are called out. Wireless switch option is being considered. The cost will be researched.

Generator for the Fire Department was discussed. Besse Hall can use Truck #1's attached generator. Flat Rock Fire Hall would need an on-site generator. A recommendation from a professional electrician will be sought.

New Business.

Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to adjust the opening and closing cost of an Escanaba Township individual gravesite from \$400 to \$450. All in favor. Motion passed.

Trustee Gareau made a motion with a second by Clerk Chenier to close regular meeting at 8:52 pm and open Escanaba Township Budget Hearing at 8:52 pm. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments. Open 8:52pm Closed 8:53pm NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Budget Activity/ line items: **Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau, to move all line- item fund amounts ***see attachment (1)*** to make budget correct. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to make changes to the Escanaba Township Charges and Pay Schedule and pay as written. All in favor Roll Call vote. Motion passed.

Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Clerk Chenier to approve fiscal 2024 change amendments with addition of Event Coordinator. All in favor. Motion passed.

General Appropriations Act:

Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to add \$500 to Section 7. All in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to approve the Cemetery Budget. All in favor Motion passed.

Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau to approve the Liquor Law Budget. All in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau to close Escanaba Township Budget Hearing at 9:53 pm. All in favor. Motion passed. Regular meeting resumed at 9:53 pm.

Public Comments. Tom Pietch. Ilsa Minor. Fred Minor. Theresa Pietch.

Board Member Comments. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff would like to add to agenda for next month and she will provide a list to move money.

Delta County Commissioner's Report by Steven Viau. Mr. Viau stated, concerning the LaBumbard blight complaint, managers willing to walk property. He also suggested Ed Brunette for demolition work, if required.

Board members proceeded to review and pay monthly billings.

Planning Commission Liaison report given by Clerk Chenier. The Planning Commission met March 4, 2024. All 6 members were present.

- There was no New Business.
- Old Business. The Blight and Dangerous Building Ordinance has been reviewed.
- There are a few questions that will be sent to the attorney. Public comments with concerns that it is not right to drive around looking for blight.
- A Blight policy should be set. Possible obtaining a Hearing Officer.

Trustee Gareau made a motion with second by Trustee Fleury to adjourn meeting at 10:13 pm. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT (1)

**Amendments to 2024 Escanaba
Township Budget March
11,2024**

Fire Department Volunteer wage 2100.00 to Assessor Tax Expense
Recreation Supplies 500.00 to Recreation Mileage
Zoning Administrator wage 326.00 to Clerk wage
Clerk Supplies 600.00 to Township Board supplies to include plans to purchase a TV **also**
Contingencies 3500.00 to Township Board Attorney
Website 100.00 to Township Board Training
Contingencies 425.00 to Accounting Services
General Fund Savings 26440.00 to Audit
Website 80.00 to Township Hall mileage
Website 800.00 to Snowplowing
Website 30.00 to Treasure wage
Website 200.00 Trustee wage
Website 10.00 to Trustee mileage
Roads 10,000.00 to **Utilities**
Zoning Administrator wage 200.00 to Utilities