

## ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 12, 2024

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

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

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

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with Second by Trustee Gareau to approve agenda with addition of under New Business k) Tomac and L) Fire Department. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with Second by Trustee Gareau to approve January 15, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. 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. **Trustee Gareau made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to approve the Financial Statement presented. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Communications. DTE-Raise Feb 5 rate schedule and distributions. UPPCO-February depreciations and expenses. DTE- February 8, 2024 recovery plan. Opioid pursuance will be sent to attorney.

Public Comments. Tom Barron

Fire Department report given by Interim Fire Chief Zach Denome. There were 3 call outs this past month. Truck # 1 is back. Stickers and details are done. Lighting could be over \$2809 to be NFDA compliant. Need to do tires, springs and lighting. Pump is done. DNR 50/50 \$10,000 grant is signed and submitted. **Trustee Gareau made a motion with second by Trustee Fleury to allow State and County police departments to use Besse Hall to train K9 dogs with a switch from Sundays to Thursday. All in favor. Motion passed.**

### Unfinished Business.

Audit. Clerk Chenier stated they are hoping to have current audit completed by end of March 2024.

ARPA Funds. Township Hall renovation. Drywall is the next scheduled job to be completed.

Township Road. Unable to contact. So far there has been no snow to remove.

Trustee Fleury presented the blight update. Bouchard's 90- day extension last day is March 18, 2024. LaBumbard court date is February 27, 2024. Sending letter to financial institutions was discussed. Supervisor Rymkos requested all letters that are sent regarding blight, need to be approved by the Township Supervisor.

Fire and Road signs are still in progress. No updates.

M-35 Jake Brake concerns. Supervisor Rymkos is working on signs. He has been in contact with Delta County Road Commission.

**Trustee Gareau made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff for MTA Conference to be attended by Clerk Chenier and Treasurer Knauff-Wyckoff. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Publishing. The Township was involved in a court case regarding publishing notices. Attorney for the Township stated we are allowed to use the *U.P. Action*. **Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau that the Township may use the *U.P. Action* or *The Daily Press*, if so wish, for public notices. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Assessor Report given by Colleen Maki. Poverty exemption forms to be placed on website.

Requesting a meeting. Changes to address process will be discussed by Assessor with two (2) Township board members on Building Permits, Zoning permits and Land Divisions.

Special Assessment districts. Tipperary Road was discussed if additional lighting is needed.

Nathan Neumeier, Planning Commission Chair gave a Planning Commission update report. Mr. Neumeier stated that many hours have been put into the zoning changes needed on the zoning map. The commission is working on the Blight and Dangerous Building Ordinance. Members attended an education opportunity held at The Island Casino in Harris, MI. The Planning Commission is in need of one more member. He spoke with owner of the company regarding Jake Brake concerns. Did not go well. There are safety devices on the trucks. Some clean-up is being done.

Budget Amendments. **Clerk Chenier made a motion with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to approve the following line-item transfers. All in favor. Motion passed.** Changes were explained.

- Contingencies 1600.00 to tax supplies expense
- Contingencies 200.00 to Blight enforcement wage
- Fire Department Vol Wages 200.00 to Fire department mileage
- Roads 7000.00 to Fire Department supplies
- Contingencies 75.00 to Recreation mileage
- Planning Commission supplies 211.00 to Planning commission training
- Website 100.00 to Trash Vouchers
- Website 100.00 to UPSET
- Website 100.00 to Insurance
- Supervisor supplies 850.00 to Township Hall Repairs
  
- Contingencies 2500.00 to Election workers

It was discussed to activate the flashing light over the roadway with a switch at the firehall and/or by a fire department member when the garage door for the Fire trucks are opened to respond to a call out.

**Motion was made by Clerk Chenier with second by Trustee Fleury to order a laptop/ camera for Blight Officer within \$500 budget. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau to approve Beyond Pest Management based on quote given for all three township buildings. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Clerk Chenier with second by Trustee Gareau to have a check book for special assessment fund on street lights in fiscal year 2025. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**Motion by Clerk Chenier with second by Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff to change Cemetery Fund to Perpetual Care Fund. Interest only will go into the General Fund for fiscal year 2025. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Board of Review. All is o.k.

Barron Farms LLC lawsuit was discussed and will be handled by insurance attorney.

Tomac Road. Easement information has been found and given to Supervisor Rymkos.

Generator for the fire department was discussed. Power is needed to open doors at fire hall. Truck #1 has a generator. The township hall can be used as a shelter. This will continue to be looked into.

Public Comments. NONE

Member Comments. Supervisor Rymkos will look on map at roads. Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff said \$183,875 will be put into Thrivent money market fund. Clerk Chenier said she received a notice from MTA in regards to using Township property for signatures on petition to keep local control of renewables.

The Planning Commission Liaison report given by Clerk Chenier. The Planning Commission met February 5, 2024. All members were present.

- Review of Dangerous Building Ordinance-- Need more review on this ordinance
- Zoning parcels update.- Discussed putting the parcels into groups to facilitate the number of people coming at once. - Decided to hold off the public hearing until renovations on the Township Hall are finished (Tentatively May meeting)
- Mr. Neumeier stated that he had spoken with the Township Supervisor about visibility issues on the shoulders of the roads and the need for them to be opened up.

Delta County Commissioner's Report by Commissioner Steven Viau. The Opioid Task Force has 8 members. They are considering using settlement fund to open a facility. There is concern of road shoulders being higher than the roads. Mr. Viau talked about Citizens Ballot Initiative to Restore Local Control for Renewable Energy. Amendment P.A. 203. Signatures are needed to be placed on upcoming ballot.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made motion with second by Trustee Gareau to pay the credit card billing presented. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Board members proceeded to review and pay monthly billings.

**Treasurer Knauf-Wyckoff made a motion with second by Trustee Gareau adjourn a 9:45 pm. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is March 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20<sup>th</sup> Rd Gladstone MI 49837. Please call 906-786-6200 if you require assistance to attend a meeting.

Meeting minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary. *Minutes approved as written March 11, 2024*