

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – October 11, 2018

Call to Order

William Carlson, Township Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board members present included Kathleen Carlson, Rachel Sertich and Gary Wommer.

Excused Absence

Patrick Moyle

Agenda

Board members reviewed a revised agenda. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the revised Agenda as presented was approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed the revised minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on September 13, 2018. Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Gary Wommer, the revised minutes as presented were approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Water Crossing Board members reviewed a revised plan for the U.S. 41 water main crossing to service the new Carpenters Union Building. The prior project plan to cross the highway by Tractor Supply had only received one bid. The new plan would have the crossing near Fabick Cat, with the line then running down the south side of U.S. 41. It was the intent of the Water Department to rebid the revised plan.

Purchase 8" Water Pipe In preparation for the water main extension, discussion was held regarding the Water Department purchasing the pipe for the project. While the engineer's estimate showed a cost of \$60.00 per installed linear foot for the pipe, the Township would be able to acquire the pipe at approximately \$21 a linear foot based on prices obtained from two separate companies. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Water Department was authorized to purchase 2,400 linear feet of 8" iron water pipe at a total cost not to exceed \$55,000. Motion Carried.

Capital Improvement Planning Policy Board members again reviewed a proposed Capital Improvement Planning Policy, with revisions made from the September, 2018 Board meeting. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Capital Improvement Planning Policy as presented was approved for inclusion in the Negaunee Township Policy Manual. Motion Carried.

New Business

2019 Scrap Tire Grant Info & Action Plan Information on a proposed 2019 scrap tire collection in conjunction with the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority was reviewed. Board members felt the tire collection would be beneficial to Township residents. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given to move forward with the proposed 2019 scrap tire collection at a date to be determined but with Township personnel seeking to have a separate event location within Negaunee Township. Motion Carried.

Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC) Crack Seal Bid Request Correspondence from the MCRC was reviewed seeking municipal input on possible projects for the 2019 road construction season. Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Kathy Carlson, the Township Supervisor will forward to the MCRC a letter requesting bids for crack seal for all of Forest Drive and Heritage Drive, along with

seeking information on the MCRC's future plans for maintenance (ie crack seal) on Co. Rd. 502 / Midway Drive. Motion Carried.

Michigan Senate Bill 396 – Resolution of Opposition Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Gary Wommer, the following Resolution of Opposition was approved:

**Township of Negaunee
Resolution of Opposition Michigan Senate Bill 396**

WHEREAS, Roads are the backbone to the social, cultural and economic stability of Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 396 (S-5) passed and reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee on September 6, 2018 allows exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions (aka "frost laws") to the forest product industry during the spring thaw when roads are the most vulnerable to damage from heavy loads; and

WHEREAS, It is a fact in Marquette County and throughout the northern states that roads become soft in the spring and applying unrestricted 164,000-pound truck loading on soft roads, is fool hardiness that defies common sense and a law allowing such nonsense is poor public policy; and

WHEREAS, SB-396 also grants exemptions to the forest industry that will allow the hauling of forest products and transport of equipment on the public road system without obtaining proper permits from road authorities at all times of the year; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 396 WILL result in damage to the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 396 WILL negatively impact the traveling public accessing the road system, resulting in burdening road authorities with expensive reactive maintenance repairs and significantly increased taxpayer costs to maintain the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in SB 396 and subsequent impacts to the local road system WILL negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of Marquette County residents and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Road Commission and the other road commissions throughout the Upper Peninsula work closely with the logging industry to keep the economic vitality of the County and the Upper Peninsula moving by continuously monitoring road conditions and permitting the logging industry to move equipment and material on roads when the roads can structurally support such loading without negatively impacting the road system and the traveling public;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Negaunee Township Board hereby STRONGLY opposes SB 396; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote hereon be taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Board.

Aye: W. Carlson, K. Carlson, R. Sertich and G. Wommer
Nay: None
Absent: P. Moyle
Motion Carried.

Community Center Board and Recreation Committee Payment Discussion was held regarding payment for committee member meeting attendance for both the Community Center Board (CCB) and the Recreation Committee. It was noted eventually the CCB will hold a meeting every other month, while the Recreation Committee will hold a monthly meeting. In addition, payment for meetings convened without a quorum was also discussed. This was of concern to Board members as it was felt the individuals who showed up for those meetings should be reimbursed, but the lack of quorum should only occur if there is an extenuating circumstance. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given for both the Community Center Board and the Recreation Committee to be paid per individual meeting at the Township committee meeting pay rate of \$75 – Chairperson, \$65 – Secretary and \$50 member, and for committee members who attend meetings without a quorum to be paid but steps taken to assure this is a rare occurrence. Motion Carried.

Reports

Community Center Board Township Supervisor Carlson provided an update for the CCB including noting the Township Office Manager's Job Description would need to be updated to add information pertaining to the position's oversight for the Community Center / Parks & Recreation Working Coordinator / Lead.

Recreation Committee Board members discussed the need for the Recreation Committee to have financing until they started to receive millage funding in 2019. Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Gary Wommer, the Township Supervisor and Clerk will prepare budget information for the Recreation Committee along with budget amendments for the General Fund Budget in order to account for Recreation Committee expenditures which will be initially paid by the General Fund but reimbursed to the Township from the Rec. Committee – with the information to be brought for review to the November, 2018 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

Fire Department Report Jim Ellenbaas, Assistant Fire Chief, was in attendance and reviewed the Fire Department report dated October 11, 2018. Highlights included 1) 13 calls for the month of September, 2018 (119 calls year to date), and 2) Training for the month was annual driver training practical course, and 3) Annual Spaghetti Dinner to be held on Saturday, October 13th, at the Township Hall from 4 pm – 7 pm.

Probationary Fire Department Members Upon motion of Gary Womer, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given for Kasey McNaeally, Shirley Shigwadja and Robert Miller to be named probationary NTFD / EMS members and to authorized to begin fire class. Motion Carried.

Water Report The Water Department report for September, 2018 was reviewed by the Township Supervisor William Carlson. Highlights included: 1) new water line installed on Forge Road, 2) PFA testing results had been received showing NON-detect for all wells, 3) continued hydrant flushing and valve turnings, 4) work be conducted along with Dick Supina on General Plan and Reliability Study per DEQ recommendation, 5) contractor should start installation of the new generator for the pumphouse in the near future, and 6) gravel is being added to the pumphouse road.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water Fund Checks # 8202 through #8218 totaling \$58,276.13 were reviewed. Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Gary Wommer, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion carried.

General Fund MBank Direct Deposit items #DD1047 through DD#1057 and checks #1876 through #1933 totaling \$281,752.40, along with MBank ACH information for the month of September, 2018 totaling \$35,472.25 were reviewed. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, General Fund direct deposit items, checks and ACH items with a grand total of \$317,224.65 as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

The Clerk noted: 1) the Audit had been completed with all necessary files submitted electronically to the State of Michigan, 2) due to a 10%+ budget variance noted in the audit for the Community Center Fund as a result of a change in the coding for an expensed purchase, information regarding the Township's Corrective Action Plan had been submitted to the State (copy of the correspondence provided), 3) the refreshed Township website had gone live on October 8th, and 4) preparation for the November 6th election was well underway with the Public Accuracy Test scheduled for 3:30 pm on Thursday, October 25th.

BS&A Software Board members reviewed a revised proposal from BS&A to add General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Cash Receipting, Miscellaneous Receivables and Payroll to the Township's software packages. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given for the Township to move forward with the installation and training for BS&A's financial and personnel management software at a cost of \$50,250. Motion Carried.

Planning Report No meeting was held in October, with the next meeting scheduled for 11/13/18. A question was raised regarding the status of the two Miscellaneous Debris violations. Zoning Administrator Nick Leach noted it appears both violations may end up back to the Judge for a Court ordered cleanup. He will be reaching out to Township Attorney Greeley to follow-up on the issue.

Assessor's Report Susan Bovan, Township Assessor, reviewed her written Assessor Report dated October 4, 2018. Highlights included: 1) Re-Appraisals, 2) September hours worked, and 3) Meeting with Marquette County Equalization.

Treasurer's Report A written report from Treasurer, Kathy Carlson, dated October 11, 2018 was reviewed by the Board members. Highlights included: 1) ongoing financial monitoring of the road projects, 2) continued work on Township Board Policies, 3) collection / disbursement of 2018 summer taxes (and 2017 delinquent personal property taxes) continues, 4) various meeting attendance, 5) MTA on the Road seminar in Houghton on 10/9/18, and 6) bank account balances of \$4,688,568.24 as of 9/30/18.

Supervisor's Report The Supervisor provided an update on his project work flow and various meetings attended since the September Board meeting.

Road Projects Gary Wommer noted: 1) subcontractors are working the weekend on shoulders, 2) there are 11 driveways left to be paved by Midwest Paving, 3) there are 21 mailboxes which need to be moved, and 4) project completion date is set for October 26th. He also noted next time road contracts are prepared they should stipulate shoulder work will be completed immediately after road paving takes place.

Electronic Radar Speed Signs With winter weather fast approaching, this item was tabled until Spring, 2019.

Brownfield Authority No report. Township personnel are looking to schedule a meeting in December, 2018.

Wellhead Protection Committee Next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2018.

Advisory Trail Committee Al Reynolds noted they received their grant score for the proposed trailhead at M-35 and CR 492, and they are looking to see if there might be ways for the score to be improved.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, noted a meeting was held on September 26, 2018. Highlights included: 1) discussion of possible Personnel Policy updates for new positions, longevity pay, training reimbursement, uniform date of hire, grandfathered insurance opt-out, fill-in pay upgrade, travel policy and several updated job descriptions, 2) the next Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24th, at 5 p.m.

Employee Health Insurance Renewal – 12/1/2018 Board members reviewed the annual BCBS health insurance plan renewal information. Currently the BCBSM SB HAS PPO GOLD 1300 was in effect, and the Township Personnel Committee had recommended to the Board renewal with the BCBS SB HSA PPO Gold 1350 which would represent a 4.70% increase from the prior Plan which will no longer be available. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given for Negaunee Township to renew the employee health insurance coverage to the BCBS HSA PPO Gold 1350 Plan at a cost of \$44,953.08 annually Motion Carried.

Emergency Management Report Supervisor. Carlson noted address changes had been updated.

Correspondence

- Steve Ayotte – Serving as Alternate on Recreation Committee
- Mike Svec – Drainage issue on Airport Circle
- JNR Adjustment Company – Underground utility damage on South Basin Drive
- MCRC – Request for Hidden Road signage

Public Comment

None

Information Item

- MCTA Minutes dated 4/18/18
- Fahey Correspondence – Escanaba Dark Store issue (Menards)

Board Member Comments

Kathy Carlson:

- 1) Informed Board members the Marquette County Planning group is conducting a survey, including a question from the MCRC regarding what are the 3 most important road projects. She recommended people go out to MqtCoPlan.org to take the survey.
- 2) She asked about Smart 911 and what benefit there may be for the Fire Department if residents log into the system to update the personal history. Jim Ellenbaas noted for it to work in Negaunee Township the information would have to come over mobile data terminals – something the Fire Department currently does not have.
- 3) She asked about the Fireworks Ordinance information which had been distributed to Board members. The Supervisor noted this was information for Board members to review for discussion at the November Board meeting.

Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

With no further business appearing and upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Gary Wommer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Negaunee Township Clerk