

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – September 12, 2019

Call to Order

Gary Wommer, Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board members present included Kathy Carlson, Jeremy Hosking, Patrick Moyle and Rachel Sertich.

Also in attendance: Township Manager, Nick Leach.

Absent

None

Consent Agenda

Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Jeremy Hosking, the Consent Agenda was approved. Motion Carried

- Minutes of the meeting held on August 8, 2019
- Clerks Bills and Claims:

Brownfield	1022
2018 Cap Improvement Bonds	1024
Combined Water	1109
Fire Hall Cap Improvement	1029
GF Pooled	2737-2821
Direct Deposit Payroll	DD64 – DD85
EFT Items	EFT41(E) – EFT42 (E)
Tax	2263-2274
Water Checks	<u>8397 - 8407</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$ 1,142,261.62</u>

Agenda

Board members reviewed the agenda. Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Patrick Moyle, the Agenda as presented was approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Michael Quayle, 1700 Mildred Avenue, Marquette, MI – He had attended the recent Planning Commission meeting and was disappointed in the way Mr. Crimmins had handled himself. He felt the meeting was driven by an individual who attempted to bully the Commission members. The gym was full for the Public Hearing, and he was disheartened it was due to someone who is only concerned about making money and not concerned about Township residents.

George Belkowski, 152 Co.Rd. 510, Negaunee Twp – He was seeking clarification on the “Conditional Use” aspect of the Kona Ridge request, but realized additional meetings will be held by the Township’s Planning Commission regarding the issue.

Old Business

Hoist Road Project Loan Discussion was held regarding payment for the Hoist Road (CR JH) project. The MCRC will not be paying for guardrail installation, resulting in an addition cost to the Township of \$92,111.53. Upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Jeremy Hosking, approval was given to obtain a 5 year loan from the Marquette County Road Commission to pay for the Hoist Road reconstruction project at a total cost of \$558,138.20 with Option #2 chosen for an annual payment of \$158,720.55 to be made 9/30/2020 through 9/30/2023. Motion Carried.

New Business

Township FOIA Policy Board members reviewed information on the Township's FOIA Policy and the need to update information, including certain costs associated with requests. After discussion it was noted the item will be tabled until the October meeting to allow the Township Manager to review and update the entire document.

Marijuana Facilities Ordinance A draft Marijuana Facilities Ordinance was reviewed by the Board members which would cover both the Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act and the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act (2018). Items noted included the fact the limits / number of licenses will not increase, and the potential need to revise the Ordinance as the State officially moves into Recreational Use. For the prior Medical Facilities Ordinance the legwork had been completed by the Planning Commission, with final approval by the Township Board. Members felt this issue should be handled in a similar fashion. Upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given for the draft Marijuana Facilities Ordinance (both Medical and Recreational) to be sent to the Planning Commission for review and updates, with final referral to the Township Board for adoption. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Training Request Information pertaining to MTA On the Road seminar in Houghton for the Treasurer on October 22, 2019. Upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Treasurer was authorized to attend MTA training in Houghton 10/22/19 including overnight accommodations and fuel and meal reimbursement as allowed by the Township Travel Policy at a cost not to exceed \$300 (with \$116 early registration fee). Motion Carried.

Board Room Table Quote A quote from Commercial Interiors for a new Board room table was reviewed. Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to move forward with the construction of the new board room table by Commercial Interiors at a cost of \$4,632 (not including tax). Motion Carried.

Garbage Invoice – 114 Marra Drive Discussion was held regarding the \$30 late payment fee on the garbage invoice for 114 Marra Drive. The fee had been applied as the Township staff had been unable to locate a correct billing address for the owners as this property was used as a camp. Once contacted the owners were willing to pay the 3 quarters due at a cost of \$108. Upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Jeremy Hosking, approval was given to waive the \$30 garbage late fee for 114 Marra Drive as long as the full \$108 payment for 3 quarters of garbage is received. Motion Carried.

Township Employment Agreement A draft Employment Agreement with Negaunee Township was reviewed. Upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Jeremy Hosking, the Negaunee Township Employment Agreement was adopted, with a job description for the position being attached to the signed document. Motion Carried.

NMPSA Invoice Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given to pay annual membership dues to the Northern Michigan Public Service Academy (NMPSA) at a cost of \$140 (\$20 per full-time employee). Motion Carried.

Reports

Community Center Board (CCB) No meeting held.

Recreation Committee Patrick Moyle, Board Liaison to the Recreation Committee, noted the September, 2019 meeting had not yet been held.

- **\$10,000 Soccer Field Retainage – Grass Issue** It was noted the \$10,000 retainage had not yet been paid to Oberstar due to an issue with grass on the soccer field. There may be a partial payment, but full payment will not be made until the issue is resolved.

Fire Department Report Fire Chief Jeff Kontio was on hand to review the Fire Department report dated September 12, 2019. Highlights included 1) 20 calls for the month of August, 2019 (117 year-to-date), 2) training was the annual Haz-Mat PPE and bloodborn refresher. He noted the driver refresher training had not been held and was rescheduled for later in September.

Water Report The Water Report for August, 2019 was reviewed by Water Department employee Andy Hall. He noted: 1) there have been 28 Miss Dig requests for the month, 2) the Department had assisted with the record scrap tire collection, 3) hydrant flushing is underway, 4) hydrants on the south side of US 41 water main extension had been installed, and 5) water line maps at the old airport location are inaccurate and the Department is working to get this information updated.

Well Pump #2 On 9/11/19 it was noticed by Department staff well pump #2 was having issues. The records showed the pump to be 32 years old. A question was posed as to why pump replacement was not a scheduled item in the Water Department's asset management plan. However, with the Water Supervisor not in attendance as he was attending a seminar, the immediate answer was not known. The Clerk did note the Combined Water account does maintain \$15K in funds for pump replacement. It was also noted the Purchasing Policy does indicate if there is an emergency situation, multiple bids need not be received. Upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Jeremy Hosking, approval was given for Kleiman Pump & Well Drilling to replace the submersible well pump, motor, check valves, etc. at a cost of \$22,750. Motion Carried.

Clerk Report The Clerk noted: 1) the State of Michigan is working to implement Risk Limiting Audits after elections to verify ballot counts – with Marquette County municipalities having recently participated in a pilot test, 2) recent upgrades had been made to voting equipment including tabulators and voter assist terminals, with Negaunee Township having been a drop off site for several additional municipalities, and 3) the Township audit is being reviewed and finalized – to be submitted to the State of Michigan by 9/30/19.

Township Manager Report Nick Leach, Township Manager, provided an updated on the Planning Commission meeting held on September 10, 2019, including the Public Hearing. A letter had been forwarded to Kona Ridge pertaining to the study to determine impact on wells and foundations in the surrounding area. The Manager also noted the claims made against Township personnel by the Kona Ridge representative at the meeting were troubling and were not fact based.

Assessor's Report Assessor Susan Bovan was on hand to review her written report for the month of August, 2019. Highlights included: 1) Reappraisal field work is continuing, 2) currently 3 tax tribunal appears are in process, and 3) she and the Assessor Assistant's continuing education credits for 2020 have been completed.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer, Kathy Carlson, provided an update on the Treasurer's Department, including: bank account balances totaled \$2,883,803.66 as of 8/31/19 balance), 2) Positive Pay has been instituted on the mBank pooled account to assist with fraud detection, and 3) continuing to collect 2018 delinquent personal property taxes and 2019 summer taxes. She also noted various meetings, events and trainings she had attended since the last Board meeting.

Supervisor's Report Supervisor Gary Wommer provided an update on items which had been addressed over the last month. These included: 1) record scrap tire collection, 2) MCSWMA continued work for single-stream recycling, 3) MBLP is working on noise abatement at the Marquette Wright Street location, 4) Co. Rd. 510 extension to US 41, 5) Medical / Recreation Marijuana, 6) WE Energies road transfer, 7) Co. Rd. 492 update and 8) South Basin Drive gravel.

Advisory Trail Committee Al Reynolds was in attendance. He noted: 1) the M-35 / CoRd 492 trailhead project has stalled due to the cost of the property, 2) bids had been received on the Carp River Furnace, with low bid coming in at \$167,000, and 3) the Ishpeming Ski Club will now be grooming the trail as the maintain larger equipment to handle the job.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, noted due the next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

Emergency Management Report It was noted the Township's Community Center Board had recently signed a 3 year agreement to continue to serve as an Emergency Shelter should the need arise.

Correspondence

- Miles Parkkonen letter dated 8/14/19 – camp garbage collection fee
- Smith / Link (388 North Road) letter dated 8/7/19 – construction work on right-of-way in front of home
- William Fahey (Fahey Shultz et al) – 3/31/19 Audit Exam Response dated 8/21/19

Public Comment

None

Informational Item

- UPPCO Waste Reduction Plan
- UPPCO Renewable Energy

Board Member / Township Manager Comments

Jeremy Hosking – He noted he appreciates meetings being held in an organized and professional manner with order and decorum. As the Board Liaison to the Planning Commission, he hopes all future meetings of the Commission are held in this manner and members in the audience are not allowed to attempt to overtake the manner in which the meeting is conducted.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion of Kathy Carlson, seconded by Jeremy Hosking, approval was given for the Board to go into closed session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss communication with Fahey Shultz et al pertaining to the Kona Ridge issue.

Ayes: Wommer, Carlson, Hosking, Moyle and Sertich
Nays: None
Motion Carried

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned back to Open Session at 8:50 p.m.

Planning Commission – Review of Rejected Applications

Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given for Township attorneys Fahey Shultz et al to be contacted to provide guidance to the Planning Commission pertaining to any and all rejected applications. Motion Carried with Patrick Moyle abstaining.

Next meeting

The next regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at the Negaunee Township Hall beginning at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business appearing and upon motion of Patrick Moyle, seconded by Kathy Carlson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Negaunee Township Clerk