

Negaunee Township Special Board Meeting – March 13, 2018

Call to Order

William Carlson, Township Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board members present included Kathleen Carlson, Patrick Moyle, Rachel Sertich and Gary Wommer.

Others in Attendance: John Estes, UMERC Iron Mountain Office
Terry Carroll, UMERC Project Manager – Generation, Milwaukee, WI
Jenny Short, UMERC Menominee, MI / Marinette, WI Office

Absent

None

Purpose of Meeting

- The purpose of the Special Meeting was to: 1) Receive an update from UMERC representatives on the generator project, 2) Discuss authority to implement wage matrix increases, 3) Review annual MCRC Dust Agreement, and 4) Assessor Assistant training

Agenda

Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Gary Wommer, the Agenda as revised was approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

UMERC Presentation

The following information was shared with the Township by UMERC representatives:

- Cranes are on site and construction is anticipated to begin shortly.
- The final permit was approved in October and construction was started the following week. Because the Baraga site has clay, they were able to work on the project all winter.
- There is approximately 95 acres of property at the Negaunee Township location, including the property purchased from UP Fabricating.
- ATC will be building the substation in the area and bringing in 4 transmission lines from the East. The site will be turned over to ATC for work on 4/1/18.
- Contractors will include: Boldt Company, MJ Electric, B & B Electric and Burns McDonnell.
- Boldt will be doing the underground work including duct banks, piping and mesh ground grid.
- 70% of the work shifts will be 5 days a week, 8 hour days, approximately 7 am – 3:30 pm.
- There will be an uptick in traffic on Co.Rd. 492 and M-35. At peak they anticipate approximately 200 vehicles daily at the location, with on site parking.
- The site is tricky due to the short road from which to enter Co.Rd. 492. As such, they are working with the Marquette County Sheriff's Department for traffic control during the afternoon quitting time.
- There will also be an uptick in deliveries of equipment, supplies, etc. Some days will be busier than others depending upon project timing.
- Throughout the project there will be concrete deliveries. The foundation for the engines requires are large slab.
 - They anticipate five 1,000 cubic yard pours.
 - The first pour will be on May 1st and will run from 5 am to 2 pm. They are already working with the Sheriff's Department and LS&I regarding the logistics of the pour.
 - Associated will be providing the concrete.
 - Several weeks will elapse between the large pours.

- After the project is complete they will pave Eagle Mill Road and bring in up to MCRC specs in order to turn it over to the Road Commission.
- Eagle Mill Road will be maintained as needed during the project.
- ATC will have a crew at the substation and transmission line construction. There will be several crews which may split time between the Negaunee Township and Baraga location.
- The plant will consist of 7 engines with 1 exhaust stack.
- The building to house the engines will be made of precast concrete. The roof will be double steel with insulation in between for sound deadening.
- They plan to connect to the Township water supply in May or June.
- There will be a 2,000 gallon tank on site for water storage.
- Inside the building there will be a location for chemicals and lube oil to delivered out of the weather and on a concrete floor.
- Each engine will have 24 radiators which are approximately 5' across. Each will have normal exhaust, silencers / mufflers and resonators which help knock out certain frequencies.
- Semco will be doing the connection to the North Natural Pipeline.
- The engines will be shipped into L'Anse as the location has required draft for an ocean going vessel.
- Beginning in June each engine will be moved from L'Anse along US 41 to the Negaunee Township site.
 - Movement of the engines will only take place during nighttime hours (9 pm – 5 am) as the delivery will take up both lanes of traffic.
 - Traffic monitoring will allow backed up traffic to pass approximately every 10 minutes.
 - The trailer is 400' long to allow passing over bridges with the weight always being distributed on at least one side of the bridge.
 - MDOT has approved the route.
 - Each unit weighs 400 ton, with the trailer weighing 300 ton.
- The generators will have their own delivery – which will be the same as what occurred for the Marquette generating plant.
- 200+ pilings need to be installed by a single pile driving rig. This will happen a few days at a time and only during the day. This will go on for several months.
- The site is scheduled to be mechanically complete in December, 2018.
- ATC anticipates a 12/1/18 date to back feed to energize the substation.
- 1/1/19 is scheduled for the first electrical sync, with 1/21/19 scheduled to make the link to the system.
- Control Center will be monitored out of Green Bay, WI control center.
- There will be maintenance employees on site who may have some interaction with the units if needed.
- A 2-3 month commission period is anticipated, with the units online by 4/15/19.
- The Presque Isle site is scheduled to go offline the first quarter of 2020. They are not certain what will happen with the property, although they are speaking with representatives from Marquette County and the City of Marquette.

Q&A

- Will the Board members have the opportunity to view the site?
 - If everything works out, they may have an open house in the Spring of 2019.
- Is it possible to purchase these type of engines in the U.S.?
 - No. While some engines are made in the U.S., they are not of the size needed.
- Is there anything else the Township can be doing to assist with the project?
 - No. The Township has been of considerable assistance to date.
- What will the project cost?
 - The combined Negaunee Township / Baraga project will cost \$275 million – with approximately 70% of the total cost (\$193 million) being in the Township.
- Is it possible for UMERC to contact the MCRC to discuss improvements to the West end of Co.Rd. 492?
 - They can reach out, but are not certain how successful they might be.

The presentation ended at 3:50 pm.

Old Business

Community Center Board Wages The Township Supervisor noted he had received information from Fahey Attorney Chris Patterson that the Michigan Governor had signed the amendment to the Community Center Board Act of 1929 allowing Board members to receive compensation for their service. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, when the Community Center Act of 1929 amendment becomes effective approval was given to begin compensation at standard Negaunee Township committee wage rates (per meeting \$75 Chairperson, \$60 Secretary and \$50 Member) retroactive to the March 6, 2018 date of bill signing. Motion Carried.

New Business

Wage Matrix Implementation Discussion was held regarding implementation of date-of-hire anniversary wage increases per the Wage Matrix. Upon motion Gary Wommer, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Township Supervisor / Personnel Policy Administrator was authorized to implement date-of-hire wage increases for full-time employees per the adopted Negaunee Township Wage Matrix. Motion Carried.

Dust Control Agreement – Totem Pole Road Board members reviewed the annual Dust Control Agreement with the MCRC for Totem Pole Road. However, as the road will be paved with the summer New Road Millage construction project, no action on the Agreement was necessary.

Training – Assessor Assistant Board members reviewed information regarding Michigan Certified Assessing Officer training to take place 5/1/18 – 12/14/18 at a cost of approximately \$3,000 including application fee, certification program and cost of wages for class hours. Upon motion of Gary Wommer, seconded by Kathy Carlson, approval was given for the Assessor Assistant to attend Michigan Certified Officer training at a maximum cost of \$3,000 with the stipulation once the training is complete a 3 year employment commitment will be provided to the Township and with the Township attorney to review the agreement for legality. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

Board Member Comments

None

Adjournment

No further business appearing the meeting was duly adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Negaunee Township Clerk