

Negaunee Township Board Meeting – May 12, 2011

Call to Order

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

Excused Absence: John Ennett

Agenda

Board members reviewed the “Revised” agenda which had been distributed prior to the Board meeting. Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the revised agenda as presented was approved. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed draft minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on April 14, 2011. The Clerk noted the corrections which had been requested for the March 24, 2011 regular meeting minutes were not necessary. One item had noted Fire Publishing was to go from \$0 to \$150 in the Budget Hearing, and the original minute wording had indicated, “The Fire Fund was amended to increase Publishing by \$150 to \$150.” In addition, in the Annual Meeting minutes the elected Community Center Board members were not listed, as this area indicates individuals appointed by the Board. The Clerk noted she would add an item to note elected positions were not included. Carl Nurmi also requested the spelling of his name be corrected under the Planning Report” on page 2 of the minutes. With these items being noted and corrected if necessary, and upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the revised minutes as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Michael Drexler, 77 Krooks Road, addressed the Board regarding the condition of Kivela Road. He noted it would be nice if the road could receive new blacktop.

Dave Ray, White Pine, Michigan, addressed the Board. He stated Pioneer Testing, a store he owns within the Township on U.S. 41 East, is up and running in the community. He wanted to clarify the business is not a medical marihuana dispensary, and they are federally recognized. Patients will not be allowed in the store without a medical marihuana card. In addition, security and video cameras are in place. They also obtain information on every person who enters the establishment.

Joe Scanlan, Zoning Administrator, advised Mr. Ray the new business is in violation of the Township’s Zoning Ordinance due to 3 being operated on one parcel of property. In addition, the business violates Section 902 A. 1. (b) in that the commencement of new business began with no site plan being provided to the Township.

Mr. Ray and Mr. Scanlan step out of the meeting to continue their conversation with regards to the business.

Reports

Community Center Board Duane Soine provided an updated for the Community Center Board meeting held on May 5, 2011. Items highlighted included: 1) information had been received noting the MDNRT grant application had been received and contained the necessary info to proceed, 2) work continues on the millage renewal for the Community Center Board, 3) the Committee approved the buyout of Robert Johnson extra vacation time as the Township converts to a PTO system for awarding and tracking time off.

Fire Department Report A written Fire Department report for April, 2011 was provided by Jeff Kontio, Fire Chief. Items highlighted included: 1) 13 EMS / Fire calls for the month of April, and 2) the start of a 3 month rotation of training for apparatus, portable equipment operation and safety.

Water Report A written Water Department report dated May, 2001 was provided by Mike Adams, Water Department Supervisor. Items highlighted included the arrival of the new Sensus meters and with work to being to install the same.

Clerk Report (Bills, Claims, Budget Adjustments) The Clerk's report was presented by Rachel Sertich.

Water Fund checks #6267 through #6277 totaling \$17,344.14 were reviewed. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the Water Fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #19713 through #19795 totaling \$108,653.62 were reviewed. Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the General Fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

The Clerk noted she was working with the Community Center Board and the Township Attorney to compose the wording for the Committee's millage renewal. In order to have the item on the August, 2011 ballot, the wording needs to be approved and provided to the County Clerk no later than May 24, 2011. A Special Township Board meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 13, 2011, to review the wording.

Planning Report Carl Nurmi, Board Liaison to the Planning Commission, and Joe Scanlan, Zoning Administrator, provided an update on the last Planning Commission meeting held on May 10, 2011. Some of the items addressed included: 1) review of the draft Medical Marihuana Ordinance with a recommendation for the Township Board to approved and adopt the same, 2) continued work to update the Township's Master Plan, and 3) a land split on County Road 480 was tabled due to the lack of detailed information.

Subscription Renewal Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given for a one-year subscription renewal to the publication Planning & Zoning at a cost of \$185.00. Motion Carried.

Outdoor Wood Boiler – 196 Midway Drive Board members were provided with information regarding a request from Ed Beauchamp, 196 Midway Drive, to install a new wood boiler which uses gasification technology. Dennis McGuire from D & J Sales in Skandia was on hand to answer questions regarding the technology, which on average costs about \$2,000 more than the standard wood boiler system. Mr. McGuire indicated with gasification, the furnace runs at over 90% efficiency and is smokeless; combustion is automatic. The system Mr. Beauchamp is looking to install is Phase II EPA certified, which requires emissions to be decreased. Mr. Beauchamp had spoken to his nearest neighbor, who had verbally stated she was not opposed to the installation. After further discussion and upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given for Ed Beauchamp to install a wood boiler at 196 Midway Drive in Negaunee Township, with Mr. Beauchamp to sign a Waiver with the Township noting he understands should be complaints be received and the boiler not be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, he would be required to cease using the furnace. Motion Carried.

Assessor's Report Kelly Laakso's written monthly Assessor's report for May, 2011 was reviewed. Items highlighted included: 1) Tax Tribunal, 2) Principle residential Exemptions, Form 4626 & Rollover, 3) Problem Parcels, and 4) Summer Reappraisal Project.

Treasurer's Report No Treasurer's report was provided.

Supervisor's Report William Carlson, Township Supervisor, provided an update on Township activities since the last Board meeting. He noted he had: 1) drafted a letter of support for a proposed MDOT project to straighten the intersection of Co.Rd. 492 and M-35, 2) consulted with MCRC regarding resurfacing of Township roads, 3) met with the KBIC to provide information on 2% fund expenditures, and 4) reviewed a request for a fireworks display permit.

Brownfield Authority Joe Scanlan, Brownfield Director, discussed the status of work performed on the Old U.S. 41 Trailer Park, and possible work to be performed with the development of duplexes on the Stanaway property on Midway Drive..

Wellhead Protection Committee No meeting held.

Advisory Trail Committee Al Reynolds, informed the Board work had been done to remove 1.6 miles of track between the old concrete plant at the corner of M-35 and Co.Rd. 492 and Great Lakes Wood Products location. The project continues to move forward.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, noted a meeting had been held on May 12th at 3:00 p.m. The Committee had reviewed job descriptions for updating within the Personnel Policy Manual. The next meeting, to be held on 6/9/11, will include the review of several additional job descriptions along with Drug / Alcohol Policy.

Emergency Management Report Mr. Carlson noted the any required updates to the manuals or maps had been completed.

Old Business

Part-Time Treasurer Assistant Board members discussed the process to hire a new part-time Assessor Assistant. Due to the absence of the Treasurer and upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the hiring of a part-time Assessor Assistant was tabled until the June, 2011 meeting. Motion Carried.

New Business

North Road (Co.Rd. JA) Maintenance The need for road work on North Road was discussed, including how any work would impact the Township's Road Fund. Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Supervisor was authorized to work with the Marquette County Road Commission to obtain an accurate estimate of work to repave 9/10 of a mile on North Road, with the estimate to include detail of what exactly will be completed with the project. Motion Carried.

Fireworks Permit Board members reviewed a request from the Dead River Campers, Inc. to obtain a fireworks permit for a display to be held over the Dead River Basin on July 2, 2011 (with a rain date of July 3, 2011). Various information was provided to the Board including, 1) the Supervisor had spoken with the Negaunee Police and Fire Department regarding fireworks which take place in their municipality, 2) the show would be cancelled if the DNR deemed there to be a high fire danger or if high winds were taking place, 3) a 480' fallout area, as required, would be instituted, 4) Keith Collins has 18 years of experience in this area, while Kurt Collins has in excess of 28 years of experience with pyrotechnic display, 5) a certificate of liability insurance had been provided to the Township, and 6) a map had been provided showing the exact location for the fireworks display, including the launch site. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to grant the Dead River Campers, Inc. a Fireworks Display Permit. Motion Carried.

Letter of Support – Realignment of M-35 / Co.Rd. 492 Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolution to Support the
Re-Alignment of M-35 at the Intersection
Of County Road 492

WHEREAS, the current configuration of M-35 / County Road 492 intersection creates safety and traffic issues, and

WHEREAS, Negaunee Township has requested this intersection by re-designed on prior occasion,

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Negaunee Township Board supports the re-alignment of M-35 as proposed by MDOT.

Aye: Carlson, Nurmi, Sertich & Soine
Nay: None
Absent: Ennett

Motion Carried.

EMS Week Proclamation Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the following proclamation was adopted:

EMS Week Proclamation

To designate the Week of May 15, 2011, as Emergency Medical Services Week

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services providers have traditionally served as the vital link in America's healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, approximately two-thirds of all community emergency medical services are volunteer professionals, and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, rescue specialists, dispatchers, educators, administrators and others; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, the residents and visitors of our community benefit daily from the dedication of these highly trained individuals; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Emergency Medical Services Week will also assist in informing the public about the life saving aspects of the local EMS system,

NOW, THEREFORE, *the Negaunee Township Board, in recognition of this event, does hereby proclaim the week of May 15-21, 2011, as*

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

*With the theme, **EMS: Everyday Heroes**, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.*

Aye: Carlson, Nurmi, Sertich & Soine
Nay: None
Absent: Ennett

Motion Carried.

Medical Marihuana Ordinance Board members reviewed a draft of a Medical Marihuana Ordinance for Negaunee Township. The Planning Commission had reviewed the document and recommended its adoption. Because the Ordinance would be a “policing” ordinance, it would take effect immediately upon publication. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to adopt the Negaunee Township Medical Marihuana Ordinance.

Aye: Carlson, Nurmi, Sertich & Soine
Nay: None
Absent: Ennett

Motion Carried.

Blueberry Ridge – Letter of Support The Township was in receipt of a letter from the Citizen’s for the Betterment of Blueberry, seeking a letter of support for a warming facility at the Blueberry Ridge Trails in Sands Township. Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Township Supervisor was authorized to write a letter of support for the warming facility at the Blueberry Ridge Trails. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Letter – Citizen’s for the Betterment of Blueberry
-

Informational Items (for future Board meeting)

- MTA Legislative Report
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Additional Public Comment

Cynthia Lynn, M35 in the Township, asked several questions with regards to the Medical Marihuana Ordinance, including how the proposed location in the Industrial Park had been determined and if the Township was seeking to keep this type of business out of the Township entirely.

Jim Ross, representing the Scott Family (owners of property on US 41 within the Township, asked the Board about what will happen with the three business currently on site. The Zoning Administrator noted the newest business was in violation of the Township’s Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Ross indicated he would work with the Township staff to bring the properties into compliance.

Judith Hintsala, 133 South Basin Drive, thanked the Board for work which has been done and will be done on North Road.

Board Member Comment

Duane Soine stated he was pleased with the direction of road projects within the Township.

Carl Nurmi thanked the Township staff and committee members for all of the work performed over many months to draft the Medical Marihuana Ordinance.

Rachel Sertich posed a question with regards to the employment of a new individual within the Water Department. The Supervisor noted he would look into the matter to make certain proper Policy had been followed.

Bill Carlson advised the Board the Garbage contract calls for an annual increase based on the cost of living increase, along with a possible fuel adjustment amount. He will bring this information to the Board at the June, 2011 meeting.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

No further business appearing, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Clerk