

Negaunee Township Board Meeting – November 7, 2011

Call to Order

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

Absent: John Ennett

Agenda

Board members reviewed the revised agenda. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the revised agenda as presented was approved. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed draft minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on October 20, 2011. Carl Nurmi requested the Planning portion of the minutes be revised to show that he and Joe Scanlan and presented the report. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the revised minutes as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

Reports

Community Center Board Duane Soine and Dave Rice provided an update for the Community Center Board meeting held on November 3, 2011. The minutes for the Special Community Center Board meeting held on September 28, 2011 had not yet been received. Items highlighted included: 1) work had been on the hockey boards damaged during the storm, 2) Bob Johnson had received his certification for pest control through December 31, 2014, 3) the work to repair the basketball court will not take place until Spring, 4) the Winter Recreation program will begin the first Monday after Thanksgiving, with Marcia Chapman once again running the program, 5) Bob Johnson will be the individual to oversee the flooding of the ice rink, and 6) Patti LaFond continues to have ongoing discussions with the MDNR regarding the grant application.

Fire Department Report A written Fire Department report dated November 7, 2011 was provided by Fire Chief, Jeff Kontio. Items highlighted included: 1) 14 runs for the month of October, with 106 runs through 10/31/11, 2) training consisted of cold weather operations, including preparing the equipment for cold weather, and 3) the Annual Benefit Dinner to raise funds for scholarship recipients had been held and had been successful.

Water Report A written Water Report dated November, 2011 from the Water Department Supervisor, Mike Adams, was reviewed. The report noted: 1) water mains will be checked at night to try and determine where the water loss may be occurring, 2) the hand-held meter reader has been programmed to work with the computer system, with new meter installation to begin in December, and 3) all hydrants had been flushed and re-checked.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water fund checks #6350 through #6363 totaling \$38,068.39 were reviewed. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #20285 through #20318 (total \$18,884.73) and ACH items for September, 2011 (total \$7,556.26) with a grand total of \$26,440.99 were reviewed. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the General fund items presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Planning Report No Planning Report was provided, as the meeting was not scheduled until November 8, 2011. It was noted Township staff were still working to find an individual willing to serve on the Township's Zoning Board of Appeals.

Assessor's Report Kelly Laakso's written monthly Assessor's report for October, 2011 was reviewed. Items highlighted included: 1) Miller-Bradford Tribunal Appeal, 2) New Construction, 3) Winter Roll, and 4) Class of Deeds. It was also noted the inflation rate from the State of Michigan was 2.70%.

Treasurer's Report No 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) worked on the Miller-Bradford tax tribunal case, 2) attended the Idea-Exchange meeting, 3) attended the quarterly CUPPAD meeting, 4) inspected the work performed on the Dunn's Ditch watershed project, 5) signed the mapping contract with the Marquette County Planning Department, and 6) attended Co. Rd. 595 meeting with Kennecott.

Brownfield Authority Joe Scanlan, Brownfield Director, noted a meeting had been held on November 3, 2011 where the Brownfield Plan for the Stanaway property had been approved.

Brownfield Plan – Stanaway Property A Public Hearing for the Brownfield Plan will be held on November 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. A Special Township Board meeting will be held on November 17, 2011 immediately following the Brownfield Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the plan.

Wellhead Protection Committee No update.

Advisory Trial Committee Al Reynolds provided updates to the Board. Jim Thomas and Carol Fulsher were also in attendance.

Iron Ore Heritage Trail – Land Swap Board members were informed work continues for a land exchange with the State of Michigan and Northview Properties. In addition the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority (IOHRA) was asking the Township to support the land swap and adopt a resolution to provide the State of Michigan with assurance the lands would be kept open to the public for perpetuity should the IOHRA be dissolved. Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Duane Soine, the Township Supervisor was authorized prepare a letter of support for the land exchange to the IOHRA, with a full Resolution to be reviewed by the Community Center Board at their December, 2011 meeting for possible recommendation to the Township Board for their approval at the December, 2011 meeting. Motion Carried.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson, noted a meeting had been held on November 7, 2011 at which accumulated PTO hours and the Treasurer's Assistant were discussed. The Committee had recommended to the Township Board, 1) a PTO payout and carryover use extension to 6/30/2012, and 2)

revisiting the Treasurer Assistant position with an individual to be hired to fill this position.

PTO Payout As the first year of the conversion to PTO hours, 4 of the 6 full-time employees have accumulated hours which will be difficult to bring down to the 40 hour carryover balance prior to the 12/31 deadline. Currently the PTO hour balances are: Mike Adams – 137.9, Carrie Heard – 123.6, Bob Johnson – 223.4 hours, and Rita Laitinen – 154.0. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by William Carlson, approval was given to payout 40 hours of PTO time for Mike Adams, Carrie Heard, Bob Johnson and Rita Laitinen with excess hours to be carried over into 2012, however, carryover hours not used prior to 6/30/2012 will be forfeited. Motion Carried.

Part-Time Treasurer's Assistant Board members discussed the Personnel Committee's recommendation to revisit the Part-Time Treasurer's Assistant position. The Committee had felt part of the accumulated PTO issue could be resolved with the hiring of an individual to work in the Treasurer's office during tax season and assist with front office coverage as necessary, including coverage for PTO. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to post for an irregular, part-time position using similar wording to what was used when Eva LaFave was hired, with consideration to also be given to individuals with applications on file with the Township for less than a year, and with the Treasurer's office to assist the Township Supervisor in the application review and interviewing process. Motion Carried.

Emergency Management Report Mr. Carlson noted he had updated both the manuals and maps, and the Emergency Management Plan had been received from Cliffs Natural Resources.

Old Business

Dunn's Ditch Board members were advised a majority of the work had been completed on the Dunn's Ditch watershed, which should alleviate the Co. Rd. 510 flooding problem.

Waste Dump Fencing The Township Supervisor indicated he had not received any additional information with regards to fencing at the old dump site.

New Business

Water Department – New Residential Water Hook-Up Costs Board members reviewed the costs, including a 15% Township charge, to install both 1" and 2" residential water lines. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to establish a fee of \$3,120 for a 1% residential water hook-up and \$3,900 for a 2% residential water hook-up effective December 1, 2011. Motion Carried.

MTA Conference Attendance – Supervisor The Board discussed the Supervisor's possible attendance at the Michigan Township Association's Annual Meeting to be held January 25-26, 2012 in Detroit. To save funds, the Supervisor would take a chartered bus down to the event. Upon motion of Duane Sertich, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given for the Township Supervisor to attend the MTA Annual Meeting in Detroit January 25-26, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 and with informational items from the conference to be shared with Board members at the February, 2012 Board meeting. Motion Carried.

Correspondence

- None

Additional Public Comment

Dave Rice, 29 Longyear Drive and Treasurer of the Community Center Board, addressed the Board. He noted the Committee and made recent adjustments to the Committee's 2011-2012 budget. The Clerk noted those adjustments will be brought before the Township Board at the December, 2012 meeting.

Informational Items

- Utility Review Info
- 1% Tax on Health Insurance Claim Info
- MCTA Minutes
- CUPPAD Info
- Kennecott Letter
- KBIC Letter

Board Member Comment

Duane Soine recommended to the extent possible, he would encourage the Township Board to try to maintain the Board meeting schedule of the 2nd Thursday each month.

Rachel Sertich noted she had spoken with several home owners on Longyear Drive with regards to the wood fires which had been taking place, and the individuals she spoke with did not have any issues with the fires despite living in relatively close proximity.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

No further business appearing, the meeting was duly adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Clerk