

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – November 13, 2014

Call to Order

William Carlson, Township Supervisor, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Other Board members present included John Ennett, Carl Nurmi, Rachel Sertich and Duane Soine.

Absent: None

Agenda

The revised agenda as presented was reviewed and item (e) – “Treasurer Office Operation” was moved under Board Member Comments. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the amended agenda as presented was approved. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on October 9, 2014. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, the minutes as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Gary Wommer, 64 Co. Rd. 510, asked the Board if any further discussion had been held or any decision made with regards to saying the Pledge of Allegiance prior to Township meetings.

Old Business

Pledge of Allegiance Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited prior to any Board or Committee meetings of Negaunee Township. Motion Carried.

Box Stores Information Board members reviewed a letter dated 10/15/14 to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners from the law firm of Bloom Sluggett Morgan (Grand Rapids) summarizing “Big Box Store Litigation” and the treatment of issues raised by the litigation in the proposed legislation Marquette County has drafted.

Bussone Request for Compensation – Dead River Plat Revision The Board reviewed correspondence from the Township Attorney dated 10/25/14 regarding Mr. Bussone’s request to be reimbursed for work performed - which the Board had previously denied. Prior to even reconsidering the request, Board members asked the Township Supervisor to clarify with the Attorney the notation in paragraph #3 that “... the Plat revision work is not yet completed” to ascertain whether or not any items are still outstanding.

New Business

MTA Conference – January, 2015 Information was provided to Board members on the Township Supervisor’s request to attend the Annual MTA Conference to be held in Grand Rapids January 28-30, 2015. Board members requested a more detailed breakdown of possible expenses be provided prior to a decision being made as to whether or not to authorize the expense. The item was tabled until the December Board meeting.

Zoning Administrator Certificate Program Board members revised information on a Zoning Administrator Certificate Program to be held in the first quarter of 2015. Board members requested an itemized breakdown of possible expenses prior to a decision being made as to whether or not to authorize the expense. The item was tabled until the December Board meeting.

Solid Waste Authority Tipping Fee Increase Information from the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority regarding the potential increase of tipping fees by \$43.23 in the near future. Board members will be kept updated on what decision is made by the Authority.

MCRC M-35 Property The Township Supervisor had forwarded correspondence to the Marquette County Road Commission about whether or not their sand pit property on M-35 was available for purchase. Board members were not certain purchase of the property was necessary as it was felt the Wellhead Protection

District should be able to address any concerns as to the use of the property. However, the MCRC had tabled the item as their meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Supervisor would wait to see what response was received.

Charter Franchise A Notice of Intent from Charter Communications to renew their cable franchise within the next 30-36 months was reviewed.

Board of Review Appointments Board members reviewed applications from individuals seeking appointment to Negaunee Township's Board of Review:

Yvonne Clark Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to appoint Yvonne Clark to the Negaunee Township Board of Review for the term years of 2015 and 2016. Motion Carried. Aye: 5 Nay: 0

William J. Michelin Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to appoint William J. Michelin to the Negaunee Township Board of Review for the term years of 2015 and 2016. Motion Carried. Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Doug Pascoe Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to appoint Doug Pascoe as an Alternate to the Negaunee Township Board of Review for the term years of 2015 and 2016. Motion Carried. Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Wayne Moilanen (Alternate) Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given to appoint Wayne Moilanen as an Alternate to the Negaunee Township Board of Review for the term years of 2015 and 2016. Motion Carried. Aye: 5 Nay: 0

Land Splits Board members discussed the current fee of \$150 to process land splits. The Supervisor recommended the fee be reduced to \$50 to match what is charged by other Townships. Other Board members discussed the amount of time and effort which is required to process a split and felt the \$150 may be appropriate. The item was tabled until the December Board meeting.

Employee PTO The Supervisor asked if there was an easy way for employees to track the current status of their PTO. The Clerk noted PTO information is provided on each pay stub. However, if employees ever believe there is a discrepancy it should be brought to the Clerk or Office Manager's attention as soon as possible so it can be reviewed for accuracy.

Reports

Community Center Board Duane Soine, Board Liaison, provided a report on the Community Center Board meeting held on November 6, 2014. Items highlighted included: 1) an update on work being performed on the garage roof, pavilion roof, warming shack and new dugouts, 2) the Winter Recreation Program will get underway on November 17th, 3) the kitchen renovation is tentatively set for the spring, and 4) Johnson Controls continues to work to tweak the heating and cooling systems – including rewiring all of the thermostats.

Fire Department Report Jeff Kontio, Fire Chief, was in attendance and verbally provided the Fire Department / EMS report for October, 2014: He highlighted items including: 1) 7 runs for the month of October, 2) training had been traffic safety, 3) the Department had purchased 4 new traffic signs to be used at emergency scenes, and 4) the parking lot washout was fixed at an approximate cost of \$2,600.

Water Report Board members reviewed the written November, 2014 report from Water Supervisor, Russ Williams. Items highlighted included: 1) leak detection conducted on June 25th had found two leaks which had been repaired, 2) lead and copper samples had been collected as part of a 3 year testing cycle, 3) with the new equipment, all water meters had been read by one individual in a 4 hour period.

Welder Purchase Board members were notified the cost of the new welder purchase had increased due to EPA Tier 4 Emission standards being mandated. Three bids were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given for the Water Department to purchase a new welder and trailer at a cost of \$21,736.17 from Air Gas in Marquette, MI. Motion Carried.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water fund checks #6892 through #6903 (River Valley) and checks #7501 through #7515 (Range Bank) totaling \$102,445.41 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #23714 through #23821 totaling \$159,232.63 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Duane Soine, the General fund items presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Planning Report Carl Nurmi, Board Liaison, provided an update on the Planning meeting held on November 11, 2014 along with a written report by Lauren Nenadovich, Zoning Administrator, dated November 6, 2014. Highlights included: 1) accessory structure size regulations, 2) a wood boiler permit, 3) an update on the Lindberg gravel pit litigation and 4) review site plan for Wellhead.

Assessor's Report The Assessor's report dated November 7, 2014 from John Gehres was reviewed and included information on: 1) equalization study, 2) transfers and 3) inspections.

Treasurer's Report John Ennett, Treasurer, indicated he had no items to update the Board members on.

Supervisor's Report William Carlson, Township Supervisor, provided an update on Township activities since the last Board meeting.

Wellhead Protection Committee A Wellhead meeting had been held, however, minutes were not yet prepared.

Brownfield Authority No meeting held.

Advisory Trial Committee Al Reynolds indicated due to the weather, no work was taking place on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, provided copies of Job Descriptions for the Assessor, Assessor Assistant and Deputy Treasurer. The Personnel Committee recommended to the Board the items be adopted. In order to allow Board members sufficient time to review the information, the Job Descriptions were tabled until the December, 2014 Board meeting.

Emergency Management Report Mr. Carlson noted manuals and maps were up-to-date.

Correspondence

- None

Additional Public Comment

None

Informational Items

- Insurance Claim
- MCRC Meeting
- Speed Limits
- Thank You Letter – Fire Department

Board Member Comment

John Ennett provided a brief history from 1998 to present time of the Township Assessors. He was concerned that the Assessor Assistant was only able to “view” items in the assessing computer system. He also asked if any new information was available on the Carp River property access – and he was advised the Township Attorney is being contacted to get his assessment on the property's easement.

Next Meetings

The next scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014, to be held at 7 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

No further business appearing and upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the meeting was duly adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Negaunee Township Clerk