

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – April 10, 2014

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 Duane Soine, John Ennett, Carl Nurmi and Rachel Sertich.

Absent: None

Agenda

The previously amended agenda was reviewed. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the amended agenda as presented was approved. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed minutes for the Budget Hearing, Annual Meeting and Regular Board Meeting held on March 27, 2014. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the minutes as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Water Rates Board members discussed water rates and the Public Hearing which had been held earlier in the evening. A new rate structure was looking to be implemented to cover costs for maintenance, improvement and extension. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to adopt the Michigan DEQ formula for water rates based on the Water Department 2014-2015 budget using 30/70 ratio for variable / fixed costs and based on 510 Ready-to-Use units with an effective date of 6/1/14. Motion Carried.

Assessor Position It was noted John Gehres had accepted the full-time Assessor position with the Township and would begin his employment on Monday, April 21, 2014.

Zoning / Brownfield Administrator Position Board members were informed the position opening was being advertised and applications / resumes being accepted through April 14, 2014.

Committee Appointments The Supervisor noted two individuals had expressed interest in the two Committee openings. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, Thyra Karlstrom was appointed to the Wellhead Protection Committee and Lisa Peterson was appointed as the At-Large member to the Personnel Committee effective immediately. Motion Carried.

Johnson / Anderson Plat Letter Board members reviewed a draft letter prepared by the Township Supervisor to the Michigan State Office of Land Survey regarding the lot line adjustment to Lot #10 and #11 of the Dead Rivers Assessor Plat. It was recommended the letter be tabled held at this time as Township tax records have not been revised as indicated in the correspondence.

New Business

John Greene Company Water Bill Board members discussed a \$2,626.80 bill received by John Green Company for the 343,600 gallons of water. Mr. Green was seeking relief for the bill and requesting the charge be reduced by 50%. The Water Department Supervisor noted it was the Township's belief the water usage was accurate as a new meter had been installed in August, 2013. It was unknown how long the water had been running, however, when the Department had noticed the usage a follow-up meter read 24 hours later had shown approximately 6,000 gallons of water had been used during a one day period. Sandy soil in the crawl space would allow for the absorption of the water below the leak location. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given for the Township to obtain 100% of the invoiced amount of \$2,626.80, with the customer being allowed to pay the balance over a 6 month period and with water service

to not be turned back on until the bill is paid in full. Motion Carried.

Reports

Community Center Board Board members reviewed the minutes of a meeting held on April 3, 2014. Highlights included: 1) a plan was received for the kitchen renovation, 2) kick plates on doors and new foaming soap dispensers in the restrooms had been suggested, 3) Tommy and Bob had reviewed last year's OSHA items to be certain they had been resolved, 4) Steve Ayotte had volunteered to assist with some updates to the ball fields, 5) bolts on the John Deere tractor had been tightened, and 6) the Community Center truck was in need of transmission repair, and the Committee was looking to acquire a new vehicle as the current was 10 years old.

Fire Department Report Jeff Konio, Fire Chief, was in attendance to review the written Fire Department / EMS report dated April 10, 2014: Items highlighted included: 1) 13 calls for the month of March and 39 calls to date, 2) training for the month was Hazmat and blood borne pathogens, and 3) the new fire pumper truck had been ordered with delivery anticipated for Fall, 2014.

Water Report A written Water Department update for March, 2014 from Water Supervisor, Russ Williams, was reviewed. The report noted: 1) 21 water thaws had been done in March, 2) Bay Electric will be sending a contract regarding the new VFD drives for the pump house, 3) tree jobbers were working in the well field, and 4) it is hoped to start taking off the let-runs the week of April 14th.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water fund checks #6785 through #6797 with a total of \$4,418.60 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #23046 through #23108 (total \$54,237.80) and ACH items for March, 2014 (total \$10,496.54) with a grand total of \$64,734.34 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, noted the next Planning meeting would be held on April 15, 2014, with the ZBA meeting on April 17, 2014 to discuss the Kona Ridge (gravel pit) situation.

Joe Scanlan / Contractor Wage With Joe Scanlan leaving the employment of Negaunee Township, it was recommended a contractor wage be established should he need to assist the Township through the transition process. Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given to pay Joe Scanlan \$30 per hour for contracted services, with the Township Supervisor to be the point of contact and to authorize all expenditures. Motion Carried with John Ennett casting a negative vote.

Assessor's Report Kelly Laakso's written monthly Assessor's report for April, 2014 was reviewed. Items highlighted included: 1) Summer Plans, and 2) Principle Residential Exemption, BS&A System update and Rollovers.

Treasurer's Report John Ennett, Township Treasurer, noted tax settlement with Marquette County had taken place, and he wished to thank Carrie Heard for the exceptional job she had done.

Supervisor's Report William Carlson, Township Supervisor, provided an update on Township activities since the last Board meeting, including: 1) mining issue – north / south truck route through Marquette, 2) DNR grant meeting to discuss grant opportunities between communities, 3) water rate study, and 4) Michigan Township Supervisors meeting in Frankenmuth, MI the week of April 22nd.

Wellhead Protection Committee No report.

Brownfield Authority No report.

Advisory Trial Committee Al Reynolds was on hand and noted with spring coming, work on the Heritage Trail would start including the installation of signs.

Personnel Committee No meeting had been held.

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

Correspondence

- 2 letters from Township Attorney – Kevin Koch

Additional Public Comment

None

Informational Items

- None

Board Member Comment

None

Next Meetings

The next regularly scheduled Township Board Meetings will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2014, to be held at 7 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

No further business appearing and upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Negaunee Township Clerk