

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – December 13, 2012

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

Absent: None

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed the revised minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on November 8, 2012. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the revised minutes were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Garbage Contract Board members again discussed renewing the garbage contract with North Country disposal. The new contract would include an annual Cost of Living adjustment, fuel costs to be reviewed quarterly and changed when there is a \$.50 per gallon increase or decrease, monthly rubbish pickup to include only containers placed in the parking lot – with additional containers during the peak months. The Township Attorney had reviewed the contract, including item “C” under Obligation (fuel cost adjustments) Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given for the Supervisor to sign the Garbage Contract with North Country Disposal, retroactive to October 1, 2012, with the contract to cover a 5 year period. Motion Carried.

Financial Report – Road Fund John Ennett provided clarification on the Road Fund update he had provided at the November meeting. In February, 2013 the last payment for Buffalo and Heritage Drive will be made at a cost of \$128,886. A Road CD comes due at the same time, and will be used to help fund the payment. Mr. Ennett recommended the Township obtain estimates to complete the projects recommended by the Road Committee (including Heritage from Airport Circle to U.S. Highway 41), in order to determine what projects might be financially feasible.

New Business

MTA Conference Attendance – Township Attorney The Board reviewed correspondence from the Township Attorney regarding attendance at the annual MTA conference in January, 2013. In previous years the Township Board has split the attorney’s cost to attend the conference 3 ways with both Forsyth Township and Richmond Township. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Township Attorney was authorized to attend the January, 2013 MTA conference with the expenses to be submitted and reviewed for approval (to be divided 3 ways) at the February, 2013 Township Board meeting. Motion Carried.

New Street Light Request Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to install a street light at the bus stop located at 471 North Road in the Township. Motion Carried

Street Light Request Procedures Board members discussed the handling of street light requests. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, street light requests for the purpose of illuminating school bus stops may be approved by the Township Supervisor if the cost does not exceed \$500 per installation. Motion Carried.

MTA Conference Attendance – Township Supervisor The Board reviewed a request from the Township Supervisor to attend the annual MTA conference in Detroit January 22-25, 2013. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Duane Soine, the Township Supervisor was authorized to attend the 2013 MTA conference in Detroit, Michigan at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 for registration, transportation, room and meals. Motion Carried.

Water Department Supervisor Position The Township Supervisor noted 17 applications had been received and 3 individuals had been interviewed for the position of Water Department Supervisor. The interviews were conducted by a panel consisting of the Township Supervisor, the Township Clerk, current Water Department Supervisor Mike Adams and Community Center Board Treasurer Dave Rice. The panel recommended to the Board Russell Williams be appointed to the position. Board members reviewed Mr. Williams application and resume, which includes a current S-2 water license (higher than the S-3 required for the Township). After further discussion and upon the motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to offer the Water Department Supervisor position to Russell Williams at a starting wage of \$15.00 per hour and effective December 21, 2012, with Mr. Williams to pass the required physical, accept the Township's current benefit package and for the Township to clarify how Mr. Williams retirement from the City of Negaunee might impact his contribution to the Negaunee Township MERS plan. Motion Carried.

Computer for Webinar Use Board members reviewed a \$572 quote from 906 Technologies to acquire a laptop for use with webinars. It was noted for a cost of \$116.04 (plus electrical cost) the Zoning Administrators old desktop computer could be used for webinar purposes. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given for the old Zoning desktop computer to be adapted for webinar use in the Board Room at a cost of \$59.99 for a wireless adaptor, \$56.05 for a wireless keyboard and mouse, and an additional charge to connect the electrical at the location in the Board Room where the computer will be housed. Motion Carried.

Zoning Administrator Certificate Program Board members discussed the cost and merit for the Zoning Administrator to attend the Michigan State University Zoning Administrator Certification Program at a cost of approximately \$1,250. It was noted 2013 is only the second year the program was in place. The course would allow the Administrator to have more knowledge of Zoning issues and provide the Township more standing in court cases. Due to the cost involved, the item was tabled until January, 2013 in order to help determine the current status of the Township General Fund budget to see if this type of expense could be afforded.

KBIC Pass Through Funding – Iron Range Hockey Association Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, the Township will provided pass-through funding for \$1,350 in funds received from the KBIC to the Iron Range Hockey Association, as Negaunee Township residents are participants in the hockey program. Motion Carried.

Reports

Community Center Board Duane Soine, Board Liaison, updated the Board members on meeting held on December 12, 2012. Highlights included: 1) the Committee had reversed its standing on banning horses on Township trails and will work with horse owners to make certain the trails are kept in good condition for other trail users – the issue will be revisited in July, 2013, 2) the C.C. Board has finalized the 5 Year Plan and will bring it to the Township Board for review and approval, and 3) the C.C. Board will be re-evaluating the portion of the Water Department Supervisor's pay which will be adopted moving forward – the Board currently pays 25% of the wage.

Fire Department Report Jeff Kontio, Fire Chief, provided a written Fire Department report dated December 13, 2012. Items highlighted included: 1) 9 calls for the month of November and 112 calls year-to-date and , and 2) combined fire and EMS training was mass casualty scenario.

Election of Officers – 2013 Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the following individuals were appointed as officers of the Negaunee Township Fire Department for 2013.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Jeff Kontio	Fire Chief
Jim Elenbaas	Assistant Fire Chief
Dale Rogers	1st Hose Captain
Joe Huskey	2nd Hose Captain
Doug Pascoe	1st Ladder Captain
George Saip	2nd Ladder Captain
Bridgett Karusas	EMS Captain
Keith Mingori	First Lieutenant
Marc Herring	Second Lieutenant
Reuven Romback	Secretary
Bill Ellerbruch	Treasurer

Motion Carried

Water Report A written Water Report dated December, 2012 from the Water Department Supervisor, Mike Adams, was reviewed. The report noted: 1) the MDOT annual construction permit was renewed for 2013, 2) new meters installation on Midway Drive from US 41 to Longyear Drive should be completed by the end of December, and 3) the Township's water supply system had been reclassified from an S-4 system to an S-3 system – water supply serving 1,000 to 4,000 customers.

PTO Carryover Waiver Board members reviewed a request from the Mike Adams to carry over a total of 109 hours into 2013 (an increase from the 40 hour carryover currently allowed), otherwise he will look to retire early in order to not lose his earned PTO time. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given for the Water Department Supervisor, Mike Adams, to carry over 109 hours of PTO into 2013 to allow him to have additional time for on-the-job training with the newly appointed Water Department Supervisor. In addition, the Township Supervisor was authorized to send a Letter of Thanks to Mike Adams, recognizing his years of service to Negaunee Township. Motion Carried.

Fire Suppression – Marquette PowerSports Board members questioned what type of fire suppression system will be installed in the new PowerSports building. It was noted the system is based on a well system with holding tanks.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water fund checks #6519 through #6536 totaling \$45,555.95 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #21491 through #21592 (total \$82,028.77) and ACH items for November, 2012 (total \$11,379.67) with a grand total of \$93,408.44 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, and Joe Scanlan, Zoning Administrator, provided an update on the monthly Planning Commission meeting held on December 11, 2012, including: 1) a webinar which was virtually attended regarding natural resource extraction and how it pertains to the Township's Ordinance, including the possibility of implementing a dollar or percentage fee for the conditional use permit for resource extraction, and 2) Kurt Waters had received a written citation but had not attended the court hearing – an informal hearing is now scheduled for January 10, 2013 with the Township Attorney also to be in attendance.

It was recommended the Township Board members again take the opportunity to review the section of

the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to natural resource extraction prior to the next Planning Commission meeting and the next Township Board meeting.

Assessor's Report Kelly Laakso was in attendance. Board members reviewed the December, 2012 Assessor Report which included highlights on: 1) Assessor's Plat, 2) 2012 Roll Prep, 3) 4016 Report, 4) December Board of Review, and 5) Personal Property Statements.

Treasurer's Report John Ennett, Treasurer, noted the Michigan House is pushing for the elimination of all new personal property tax (PPT). If this would occur, ultimately all PPT funding would ultimately be eliminated.

Supervisor's Report William Carlson, Township Supervisor, provided an update on Township activities since the last Board meeting. He noted he had 1) attended meetings for the 911 Committee, the MCRC Relations Committee and the CoRd 595 Ad Hoc Committee, 2) met with the MCRC on road funding and culvert replacement and had forwarded correspondence regarding washout control, 3) discussed changes to the Township's garbage disposal contract, 4) screened applicants for the Water Department Supervisor position and conducted interviews for the position, and 5) meeting with representatives from CCI regarding the Carp River land.

Brownfield Authority Joe Scanlan, Brownfield Administrator, noted there was no update to provide.

Wellhead Protection Committee No report.

Advisory Trail Committee Al Reynolds noted work continues on the trail, despite Smith Paving having blocked a portion of the trail with a gravel pile.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, noted no meetings had been held.

Emergency Management Report Mr. Carlson noted a number of address changes had come in, and all maps and manuals had been updated.

Correspondence

- MDOT Letter

Additional Public Comment

None.

Informational Items

- Co. Rd. 595
- Section 1005 Zoning Ordinance – Natural Resource Extraction
- Landfill Memo

Board Member Comment

Carl Nurmi wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Rachel Sertich asked if any Board members had heard of any updates regarding the Governor's decision for the KBIC casino. (No one had heard any news). She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Carlson extended his wishes for Happy Holidays to everyone.

John Ennett recommended the MCRC look at the culvert at the end of Heritage Drive

Duane Soine thanked Payne and Dolan for the work they had done on North Road.

Next Meetings

The next regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

No further business appearing, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Clerk