

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – February 9, 2012

Call to Order

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

Excused Absence: Duane Soine

Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed draft minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on January 12, 2012. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, the minutes as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None

Reports

Community Center Board Board members reviewed the minutes of the Community Center Board meeting held on February 2, 2012. Items highlighted included: 1) work being done to pursue the DNR land purchase grant, 2) an update on the ice rink including the upcoming 4 on 4 hockey tournament and replacement flooring for the warming building, 3) an update on the Winter Rec Program, 4) the new ski trail access signs had been posted, 5) the 5 Year Plan needs to be updated and approved by the December 15, 2012 deadline, 6) adjustments were made to the Community Center Board budget, and 7) a correction to the minutes to show the bid price per acre to the Forestland Group was \$1,150 per acre and not \$11,500 per acre.

Fire Department Report Jeff Kontio, Fire Chief, was on hand to present the Fire Department report for January, 2012. Items highlighted included: 1) 11 calls for the month of January, 2) training for the month was arson recognition, and 3) at the Annual Banquet Rick Carlson was named the Negaunee Township Fire Department Firefighter of the Year.

Water Report A written Water Report dated February, 2012 from the Water Department Supervisor, Mike Adams, was reviewed. The report noted: 1) the hydrant at the corner of Longyear Drive and Midway Drive was damaged due to a hit and run accident and will be repaired in the spring, 2) a new water service was installed at 68 Co.Rd. 510, 3) the annual reports had been submitted to the DEQ, 4) the first group of “let runs” began on January 26th when the frost level reached a depth of 54”, and 5) the Water Supervisor will be attending a free class on February 29th on Controlling Water Loss.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water fund checks #6387 through #6399 totaling \$8,049.28 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #20572 through #20656 (total \$58,217.23) and ACH items for January, 2012 (total \$14,752.84) with a grand total of \$72,970.07 were reviewed. . Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the General fund items presented were approved. Motion Carried.

The Clerk noted: 1) plans were underway for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary, 2) 4th quarter taxes had been completed, 3) W2's, W3's and 1099's had been completed, and 4) the Michigan Unemployment rate had increased from 1.8% for the first \$9,500 of wages to 2.07% for 2012.

Budget Adjustments Upon motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the following budget adjustments for 2010-2011 Community Center budget were approved:

	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Adjustment</u>	<u>Ending Budget</u>
<u>COMMUNITY CENTER FUND</u>			
B265950 – Park Expansion	8,000	7,000	15,000
B265967 – Special Projects	7,000	2,000	9,000
B751892 – Rec Supplies	2,500	1,500	4,000
B265970 – Capital Outlay	24,400	(10,500)	13,900

Motion Carried

Planning Report Carl Nurmi, Board Liaison, gave a Planning Report for the meeting held on February 7, 2012. Items highlighted included: 1) Conditional Use request from Kurt Waters for a building contractor storage yard had been tabled, 2) the Commercial Site Plan for UP Power Sports was tabled in order to move the site 60' to the east to remove it from the Wellhead Protection area, and 3) the new Miller Bradford building will be within the PUD at the old airport site.

Assessor's Report Kelly Laakso's written monthly Assessor's report for February, 2012 was reviewed. Items highlighted included: 1) New D.N.R. properties, 2) final inspection and roll preparation, and 3) personal property statements.

Treasurer's Report John Ennett, Treasurer, provided an update as to various bank account balances as of January 1, 2012.

Supervisor's Report William Carlson, Township Supervisor, provided an update on Township activities since the last Board meeting. He noted he had 1) advised the KBIC of the ad-hoc Committee which will be working on the Casino project, 2) met with the Marquette County Administrator and Planning group to discuss ownership of the sewer line between the old airport and the City of Negaunee, 3) met with Marquette County Resource Management to determine the minimum qualifications regarding meter replacement, and 4) prepared a report on the various meetings attended at the MTA conference held in Detroit.

Brownfield Authority It was noted a meeting was held on February 7, 2012, but no update from the meeting was available..

Wellhead Protection Committee No report was provided.

Advisory Trial Al Reynolds provided an update on the trails. He noted: 1) the group is in the process of preparing bid requests, and 2) the trail will begin work to head in the direction of Tilden Township, which has approximately 2 miles of trail within that Township.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson, noted a meeting scheduled for earlier in the day on February 9th had been cancelled due to the number of members who could not be in attendance. The meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, February 15th.

Emergency Management Report Mr. Carlson noted he had updated both the manuals and maps.

Old Business

None

New Business

Annual Salary Schedule Discussion was held regarding annual Board salaries. As in previous years and due to the continued reduction in revenues, Board members once again felt it prudent to maintain current salary levels for the upcoming fiscal year. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, the following Resolution was adopted:

Whereas it is the obligation of the Township Board to establish a suitable salary schedule for its officials for presentation at an annual budget hearing, the Negaunee Township Board submits the following schedule for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2012 and ending March 31, 2013: Supervisor \$16,000 per year, Clerk \$15,000 per year, Treasurer \$15,000 per year, and Trustee \$4,200 per year.

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

Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting Discussion was held regarding the establishing the date and time for the Township's Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, the following Resolution was adopted:

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the Township of Negaunee to hold a Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting in 2012, the Negaunee Township Board resolves that such a Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting will be held. That Budget Hearing is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. to be followed immediately by the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be a review of various budgets, empowering the Township Board to buy and sell property, designation of a Township attorney, and such other business traditionally constituting an agenda for such annual budget hearing.

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

Attorney Reimbursement – MTA Conference Expense Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given to reimburse the Township Attorney, Kevin Koch, for \$253.45, or 1/4 of his total expenses incurred to attend the MTA Annual Seminar, with Forsyth, Richmond Township and one additional Township to also pay 1/4 of the \$1,013.80 total balance. Motion Carried.

Poverty Resolution Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the following Poverty Resolution was adopted:

**TOWNSHIP OF NEGAUNEE, MICHIGAN
BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING POVERTY EXEMPTION APPEALS**

WHEREAS, P.A. 390 of 1994, which amended Section 7u of Act 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, as amended by Act 313 of the Public Acts of 1993, being Section 211.7u of the Michigan Compiled Laws, requires the governing body of the assessing unit to determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines for the granting of poverty exemptions under MCL 211.70;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to be eligible for a poverty exemption pursuant to MCL 211.7u in the Township of Negaunee, Michigan, a person must be the owner and must occupy the property as a homestead, as defined, for which the exemption is requested; file a completed and notarized application; file copies of federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including property tax credit forms and/or Statement of benefits Paid from Michigan Department of Social Services or Social Security Administration; meet local (Charter Township of Marquette) poverty income standards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant must have an annual adjusted income less than the amounts shown in Attachment A (shown below);

**ATTACHMENT A
2011 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines**

Size of Family/Household	Maximum Total Income
1	\$10,900
2	\$14,700
3	\$18,500
4	\$22,400
5	\$26,200
6	\$30,000
7	\$33,800
8	\$37,600
Additional Person(s)	\$3,800

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant must have an annual taxable and/or non-taxable dividend income less than \$3,000;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant's asset level, excluding the homestead, may not exceed \$50,000;

Be it further resolved, that the applicant may not have ownership interest in any real estate other than the homestead;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a poverty exemption may be granted for only one year (1 year) at a time;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the 2012 tax year the Township of Negaunee, Michigan, Board of Review will begin its proceeding on Monday, March 12, 2012;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board of review shall request identification of the applicant and/or proof of ownership of the homestead under consideration for poverty exemption request;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the completed poverty exemption application must be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the Board of Review in the year for which exemption is sought;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board of review shall administer an oath wherein the applicant testifies as to the accuracy of the information provided;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Review may deviate from the established policy and guidelines only for substantial and compelling reasons. The applicant will be notified, in writing, the reasons for deviating from the policy and guidelines for poverty exemption;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to conform to the provisions of P.A. 390 of 1994, this resolution is hereby given immediate effect.

Motion Carried

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1

Assessments – Protesting in Writing Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW TAXPAYERS TO PROTEST ASSESSMENTS IN WRITING

WHEREAS IN ORDER TO ease the burden on taxpayers, the Assessor and the Board of Review, and to ensure all taxpayers have an equal opportunity to be heard by the Board of Review,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Township of Negaunee hereby resolves according to provisions of MCL 211.30(5) of the General Property Tax Act, that the Board of Review shall receive letters of protest regarding assessments from all resident and non-resident taxpayers from the first Tuesday in March until it adjourns from the public hearings for this it meets to hear such protest;

IN ADDITION, all notices of assessment change and all advertisements of Board of Review meetings are to include a statement that the resident taxpayers may protest by letter to the Board of Review.

Motion Carried

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 1

Computer Server Upgrade Joe Menze from 906 Technologies addressed the Board regarding the current status of the Township's network server. He noted the server was over 6 years old and was coming to the end of its useful life. 906 Technologies performs free equipment audits to governmental entities, and noted any money put into upgrading the current equipment would not be cost effective. If the server was upgraded, the Township would not only receive more storage capacity, but the system would also become more compliant with regards to data retention. After further discussion and upon the motion of Rachel Sertich, seconded by Carl Nurmi, approval was given to purchase a new HP server and software at a cost of \$2,876.81 (no sales tax) and labor to not exceed \$1,200 (24 hours at \$50 per hour). Motion Carried.

Correspondence

- KBIC Correspondence – Ad-Hoc Committee

Additional Public Comment

None

Informational Items

- Township Supervisor MTA convention notes
- MCTA meeting information

Board Member Comment

None

Next Meetings

The Annual Budget Work Sessions will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 8th and March 15th, 2012, with both sessions being held at the Negaunee Township Hall.

The next scheduled Township Board Meetings will be held on Thursday, March 29th, 2012, beginning with the Annual Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m., followed immediately by the Township's Annual Meeting, followed immediately by the Regular monthly Board meeting. All meetings to be held at the Negaunee Township Hall. *** Note Date / Time Change ***

Adjournment

No further business appearing, the meeting was duly adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Clerk