

Negaunee Township Regular Board Meeting – September 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 previously revised agenda. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, the revised agenda as presented was approved. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Board members reviewed minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on August 9, 2012. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by Duane Soine, the minutes as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Keith Harvala, 39 West Jarvi Road, spoke about the condition of West Jarvi Road. He completed his home in 2005 and contacted the Township about the roadway. During the winter months the road narrows due to trees in the right-of-way making it difficult to plow. In addition, water drainage issues exist. He feels he is going in circles as the Marquette County Road Commission told him to speak to Negaunee Township, but he felt Negaunee Township put the responsibility back on the Road Commission. With school buses also using the road, he would like to see a plan put in place for the trees to be removed and 22A gravel laid to crown the road.

Todd Ogea, 33 West Jarvi Road, addressed the Board. He was in during the Fall of 2011, and Bill Carlson had spoken with the Road Commission about doing some work on the roadway. However, nothing was done. During certain points in the year vehicles, including emergency vehicles and school buses, are not able to use the road. When he spoke with Mike Harrington at the MCRC, he put the issue back on the Township.

Travis Reamer, 37 West Jarvi Road, agreed with the comments made by Mr. Harvala and Mr. Ogea. He also stressed the drainage issues with exist. He would like to know how they can work with the Township to resolve the issues which exist on Jarvi Road.

Reports

Community Center Board Duane Soine, Board Liaison, updated the Board members on meeting held on September 6, 2012. Highlights included: 1) Tommy Spencer was appointed as the temporary Safety Officer through December to work with the custodial staff, 2) Dick Supina had attended the meeting to discuss the Community Center's 5 Year Plan – with a work session scheduled for September 20th at 6 p.m. at the Township Hall, and 3) the Community Center Board is looking to hire a part-time worker for the fall and winter months.

Fire Department Report Jeff Kontio, Fire Chief, was on hand to review the monthly Fire / EMS report dated September 13, 2012. Items highlighted included: 1) 10 calls for the month of August and 85 calls year-to-date, 2) training was annual drivers training course, and 3) the new brush truck #2186 was delivered with hopes to have the members trained and the vehicle put into service by October 1, 2012.

Water Report A written Water Report dated September, 2012 from the Water Department Supervisor, Mike Adams, was reviewed. The report noted: 1) Negaunee City's leak detector is being used to check for water main leaks, 2) 4 separate curb stops had been put into the property at 162 Midway Drive, 3) per the bid opening and Board approval, the new water truck was ordered from Frei Chevrolet, 4) the water rate survey will be sent in when the Township receives the DEQ evaluation, 5) new water meters are now being installed on Horseshoe Lake Circle, 6) the main water meter at the pump house will be replaced,

and 7) the new water line to Miller Bradford had been buried prior to inspection and will need to be opened in order for the inspection to be finalized.

Clerk Report(Bills, Claims)

Water fund checks #6483 through #6492 totaling \$43,408.91 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the Water fund checks as presented were approved. Motion Carried.

General Fund checks #21225 through #21322 (total \$89,429.31) and ACH items for August, 2012 (total \$7,699.39) with a grand total of \$97,128.70 were reviewed. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Carl Nurmi, the General fund items presented were approved. Motion Carried.

Planning Report Carl Nurmi, Board Liaison, noted the monthly Planning Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on September 18, 2012.

Assessor's Report Board members reviewed the August, 2012 Assessor Report provided by Kelly Laakso. Items reviewed included: 1) Miller Bradford – Assessor's Plat, 2) 2013 New Construction – Land Value Study, 3) July Board of Review and 4) Land Division Webinar.

Treasurer's Report John Ennett, Treasurer, noted Gary Enright had paid his delinquent taxes in full, and the Assessor had visited his commercial location to review the equipment on site.

Supervisor's Report William Carlson, Township Supervisor, provided an update on Township activities since the last Board meeting. He noted he had 1) attended a 911 meeting, 2) attended several ad hoc meetings for Co. Rd. 595, 3) attended an EPA hearing with regards to the proposed road, 4) obtained an update on Rio Tinto including the plan to begin hauling from the new mine in May, 2013, 5) spoken with Paul Arsenault about waterline financing possibilities, and 6) the MCRC is working to determine their funding options going forward (100% or remain 60%/40%), with the Supervisor recommending to the MCRC they should speak with each Township to inform them of the plan going forward after a decision has been made.

Brownfield Authority Joe Scanlan, Brownfield Administrator, noted work continues on the 4 residential structures for the Stanaway project on Midway Drive. Delays have taken place, and they now hope to have renting begin as of October 1st. In addition, there is still interest to perhaps use Brownfield Funds to improve the property on the corner of M-35 and Co. Rd. 492.

Wellhead Protection Committee No report.

Advisory Trial Committee Al Reynolds noted Smith Paving's bid on the project had been reject by the State of Michigan. Their appeal had been rejected as well. The bid was awarded to Arrow Construction (???), with hopes the work would begin the week of September 17, 2012.

Personnel Committee Rachel Sertich, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, provided an update on the meeting held on September 6, 2012.

Revision Section 12.2 Personnel Policy The Committee had reviewed an amendment to section 12.2 of the Personnel Policy in order to help clarify back-to-work requirements should someone be out of the office on unscheduled leave for 3 or more days. It was recommended the Township Board adopted the revised Section. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, section 12.2 of the Personnel Policy Manual was revised to include:

All requests for scheduled PTO will be submitted in advance in writing and approved by the Township Supervisor / Immediate Supervisor, with failure to do so being subject to payroll deduction for the hours not accounted for. Unscheduled PTO for up to 24 hours will be approved as soon as possible upon an employee's return to work. Unscheduled PTO greater than 24 hours will be reviewed by the Township Supervisor / Immediate Supervisor and may require a Doctor's Permission Slip before an employee is allowed to return to work if illness related.

Motion Carried

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

Old Business

Brian Marlow – 142 M-35 – Driveway Culvert At the August, 2012 meeting the Board discussed the fact Mr. Marlow had contacted the Township about driveway and culvert work done on the property when the new water main was installed in that area. Because the culvert under the driveway had not been replaced, erosion was taking place. He wished to have the culvert replaced at a cost of \$1,500. Board members had inspected the area and noted a drainage issue exists in the area due to lack of grading and no culverts under multiple driveways. Board members again questioned why it had taken in excess of 5 years for the issue to be brought to the attention of the Township. Upon motion of Carl Nurmi, seconded by John Ennett, Mr. Marlow's request for culvert installation at the expense of the Township was denied, however, the Marquette County Road Commission will be made aware of the drainage issue. Motion Carried.

New Business

NSF Fee Waiver Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to waive the _____ Department NSF fee incurred by Kurt Ball. Motion Carried.

West Jarvi Road Board members discussed the concerns about West Jarvi Road brought up during Public Comment. It was commented the Board wished residents had come to back to the Township to inform them of the lack of action by the MCRC so the issue may have been addressed more quickly. The Township Supervisor will contact the Marquette County Road Commission to obtain cost information to remove trees on the road right-of-way and improve drainage on West Jarvi Road.

Assessor Contract Assessor Contract Board members discussed extending Kelly Laakso's employee contract as the Township's Certified Level III Assessor. Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given to renew Kelly Laakso's contract as the hired Negaunee Township Assessor for a 2 year period from September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2014 at an annual cost of \$29,500 (\$2,458.33/mos). Motion Carried.

5 Year Road Maintenance Plan Board members discussed the Township's 5 Year Road Maintenance Plan. Duane Soine and Carl Nurmi will review the roads and return to the Board with a recommendation on roads which need attention and how the work should be prioritized.

Risk Management Seminar Upon motion of Duane Soine, seconded by Rachel Sertich, approval was given for Rita Laitinen to attend a Risk Management seminar in Marquette on October 15, 2012 at a cost of \$10.00. Motion Carried.

Connect Michigan Broadband Initiative The Board reviewed information on the Initiative, which is a non-profit organization (broken down by state) which works to increase access to broadband by acting as a liaison between municipalities and cable / broadband providers.

Digital Overhead Projector Upon motion of John Ennett, seconded by Duane Soine, approval was given for the purchase of a digital overhead projector at a cost of approximately \$900, with the cost to be split three-ways by the General Fund, Planning Committee and Community Center Board (as long as the CCB is agreeable to the purchase). Motion Carried.

Correspondence

- Letter from Landfill – Compostable Materials

Additional Public Comment

None

Informational Items

- 595 Ad Hoc Information

Board Member Comment

Carl Nurmi noted the paving job on North Road had turned out quite nice. In addition, he was pleased to see the MCRC doing cracking filling on Co.Rd. 502. He hoped, perhaps, crack filling could be done on Buffalo Road in order to help maintain the same.

Next Meetings

The next regularly scheduled Township Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Negaunee Township Hall.

Adjournment

No further business appearing, the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Sertich
Clerk