

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 21, 2024 – 6pm

MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Jeremy Laakso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Aaron Carr, Trustee; Glenn Wing, Trustee; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Molly Taseris, Clerk;
Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor- all present.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Tracy Quayle, Ted Pepin, Lou Ouellette, Shannon Junak, Julie Hosang, Al Harris.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Wing, supported by Taseris, to approve the agenda. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Previous Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Clerk's Report
- D. Pay Bills
- E. Assessor Report
- F. First Responders Report
- G. Supervisor Report
- H. Water System Operator Report
- I. Planning Commission Minutes

Motion made by Wing, Supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW (SEE SUPERVISOR REPORT FOR DETAILS) (VOTE)

Motion made by Wing, Supported by Carr, to approve the Budget Review. Roll Call Vote. Ayes – Supervisor Laakso, Trustee Carr, Trustee Wing, Treasurer Schuhknecht, and Clerk Taseris. No – Nays.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OVERVIEW

Trustee Carr advised the Board that there was a public hearing for revisions to the Master Plan.

a. BY-LAW UPDATES/CHANGES

Motion made by Supervisor Laakso, Supported by Schuhknecht, to Approve revisions to Planning Commission By-Laws:

- Change Article numbers from Roman Numerals to Regular Numbers.
- Added page numbers to bottom of each page.
- Article 7.4 updated cancellation of meetings for Chairperson to notify all members via email by 12:00pm on day of the meeting.

All Ayes – Motion Carried.

POVERTY EXEMPTION RESOLUTION

Motion by Wing, Supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the Poverty Exemption Resolution. Roll Call Vote. Ayes – Supervisor Laakso, Trustee Carr, Trustee Wing, Treasurer Schuhknecht, and Clerk Taseris. No – Nays.

RISK REDUCTION RESOLUTION

Motion by Carr, Supported by Wing, to approve the Risk Reduction Resolution. Roll Call Vote. Ayes – Supervisor Laakso, Trustee Carr, Trustee Wing, Treasurer Schuhknecht, and Clerk Taseris. No – Nays.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2024 WETESA EXPENDITURE

Motion by Wing, Supported by Carr, to approve the 2024 WETESA Expenditure Resolution. Roll Call Vote. Ayes – Supervisor Laakso, Trustee Carr, Trustee Wing, Treasurer Schuhknecht, and Clerk Taseris. No – Nays.

MISS DIGG MEMBERSHIP \$978.62

Motion by Wing, Supported by Carr, to approve the Miss Digg Membership in the amount of \$978.62. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

ATTORNEY BILL \$1692.06

Motion by Wing, Supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the Attorney bill in the amount of \$1692.06. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

OIL SPILL/LEAK/POTENTIAL VANDALISM AT FORMER DIORITE SCHOOL UPDATE

The property owner, Mr. Slawski stated that the amount of the fuel spill was limited to 10-15 gallons and the remaining fuel was taken by a contractor and resident. He believes the spill was caused by an act of vandalism. Mr. Slawski also stated that the affected soil was dug up, bagged, and is awaiting disposal. EGLE will re-evaluate the spill location in the Spring when conditions allow.

FORMER DIORITE SCHOOL CITATIONS UPDATE

Ruling by Judge Kangas for Citations:

- Mr. Slawski shall immediately disconnect the solar panel energy system and remove the system as soon as the weather permits, not later than May 15, 2024. There was a fine of \$125 plus a \$10 justice system assessment charged for this citation.
- The Judge also ordered Mr. Slawski to remove the existing fence or propose an alternate less aesthetically offensive solution to the Ely Board. The removal or implementation of the alternate solution shall be completed no later than June 30, 2024. Fence will not be permitted to remain in its current condition later than June 30, 2024. There was a fine of \$125 plus a \$10 justice system assessment charged for this citation.
- The Ely Township Attorney may try to recoup \$500 per Citation for court costs, \$1,000 in total.
- Judge Kangas ruled in favor of Mr. Slawski for the citation involving “business” allegations and activities occurring within the garage.

ELY MAINTENANCE POSITION/NON-STATUTORY DUTIES

Motion made by Schuhknecht, Supported by Taseris, to allow Supervisor Laakso to complete non-statutory duties as needed at Ely Township Hall for \$18/hr. This is due to the absence of a current maintenance worker at the Hall. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

SOLAR ARRAY AT TWP HALL (SUPERVISOR LAAKSO TO UPDATE)

Motion made by Supervisor Laakso, Supported by Carr, to use ARPA funds to hire Mr. Hendrickson to remove the trees/brush for the new Solar Panel location behind the Hall. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PH METER FOR DIORITE H2O APPROXIMATELY \$1700.00

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, Supported by Taseris, to approve the purchase of a new PH Meter for Diorite H2O costing approximately \$1700.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received a bid from GEI Consultants for the purchase of a Sand Filter for the Greenwood Water System.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

- Shannon Junak questioned the dumping of septic from campers located on the old Diorite School property. Supervisor Laakso advised that the Health Department made a visit to the property, but he has had no report from them.
- Julie Hosang advised the Board to remove all trees around the future Solar Panel site for the best results. Mrs. Hosang also inquired about repair to her road and Supervisor Laakso said there is no plan right now.
- Ted Pepin advised the Board that some of the trees needing to be cut for the Solar Panels are in the highway right of way. Supervisor Laakso stated that he is aware of this issue.
- Lou Ouellette asked about any plans for road repairs in Ely Township this year. Supervisor Laakso advised that there are no plans for the year 2024, but 2025 will have some planned repairs.
- Al Harris told the Board that the letter to EGLE about the oil spill on the old Diorite School property is documented on the State Website for viewing. Mr. Harris also stated that Supervisor Laakso did a very good job of plowing.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed.

BOARD COMMENTS (ROUND TABLE)

Treasurer Schuhknecht advised the Board that she had to order new checks for the Township accounts.

Supervisor Laakso advised the Board:

- Still waiting for word of foreclosure on the Carello/Beaupied property and they may have started to remove some of the cars from the property.
- There have been bridges built without permits on the Quinnell property and it is being investigated by EGLE and the DNR.
- Supervisor Laakso made a complaint to EGLE about a culvert that was added to the outlet of Boston Lake in Diorite.
- He also stated that the light at the Greenwood Water System is on during the day. It is something that will be addressed when the new building is constructed.
- Supervisor Laakso is looking into replacing the existing light bulbs in Ely Township Hall with LED bulbs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Quayle, Deputy Clerk