

ELY TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
June 16, 2021 – 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**

Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Glenn Wing, Trustee; Art Gischia, Trustee; present. Molly Taseris, Clerk; absent-excused. Deputy Clerk Wing present for Minute taking.

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Rick & Julie Giuchin, Susan Bovan, Eleanor Langsford, Kevin Nancarrow, Al Harris, Allison LePage, Mindy Pepin, Ted Pepin, Steve & Erica Wing

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Supervisor Laakso recommended the Board approve the Agenda with the following additions: 9.1. Mindy Pepin, 17. First Responders, 18. Principles of Governance, 19. Andrew/School, 20. Deputy Clerk Pay. Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve the Agenda with the above mentioned additions. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried. Trustee Gischia noted he would like to see any changes in the Agenda in advance so there is time to review.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Supervisor Laakso pointed out that all Public Comment will be handled during the two available time slots. Mr. Pepin discussed a few issues he had. Mr. & Mrs. Giuchin along with Eleanor Langsford discussed the asbestos issue at the Diorite School and concerns they had with what is going on at the school.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Previous Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report

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

Motion by Wing, supported by Gischia to approve the Consent Agenda, noting the amendment to the water report along with a minor correction to the Special Board Minutes of June 2, 2021. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried.

### **BUDGET REVIEW**

Supervisor Laakso noted there was a few internal budget adjustments, and that he has listed them in his Supervisor's report.

### **WATER SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Kevin Nancarrow noted UPEA had just received results from the recent hydrant testing. ARPA funding will be coming out with \$13.6 million earmarked for Marquette County. This funding can be used for water projects. There will be a legislative meeting this Friday that will be attended by UPEA and Matt Treado will be presenting to all UP legislators next week.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

Trustee Gischia updated the Board on recent Planning Commission activity including reviewing the Marijuana Ordinance, various approvals, and a letter which was sent to Gold Mine residents which there was some confusion about.

### **MINDY PEPIN**

Ms. Pepin apologized for recent behavior and had numerous concerns regarding State requirements for a rig along with a waiver as well as the potential for the closure of the Township First Responder Team. Trustees indicated their recommendation that the Board take no action on Ms. Pepin's status on the team at this time and encouraged a mediation effort between the Supervisor, Ms. Pepin and the First Responder Director. Ms. Schuhknecht noted documentation would be placed in Ms. Pepin and the Supervisor's folders. At this time Ms. Pepin can still take calls.

### **ELY TOWNSHIP HALL RESTROOMS**

Trustee Gischia noted he has the specs ready to go out for bids and would like the bids in before the July Board Meeting. Mr. Gischia was directed to proceed.

### **NON-STATUTORY OFFICE ASSISTANT FILL IN PAY**

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve a pay increase for non-statutory office assistant fill in pay from \$14.85 to \$15.40. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried.

### **OLD FIRST RESPONDER PAGER DISPOSAL**

Motion by Gischia, supported by Wing to give Supervisor Laakso the discretion to either donate or dispose of the old First Responder pagers. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried.

### **MTA DUES**

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Gischia to approve the MTA dues of \$1302.03 which includes the legal defense fund option. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried.

### **TWIN PINES CHIP SEAL PRICE INCREASE**

Supervisor Laakso indicated there has been a price increase for the Chip and Seal project at Twin Pines. The new quote is \$55,775. Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve the updated quote. Roll Call Vote:

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Ayes:   | Wing, Schuhknecht, Gischia, Laakso |
| Nays:   | None                               |
| Absent: | Taseris                            |

Motion carried.

### **DANGEROUS BUILDINGS ORDINANCE**

It was the Board's consensus that the Dangerous Buildings Ordinance move forward to a Public Hearing.

### **NOISE ORDINANCE**

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board with a draft of a proposed Noise Ordinance. It will proceed to the Planning Commission.

### **FIRST RESPONDERS**

Supervisor Laakso updated the Board on his attempts to contact the State regarding a waiver for the Township First Responder Team. He hasn't had any success connecting with any State officials nor UP legislators. Mr. Laakso has made significant progress with the West End Authority, noting

that Tilden, Humboldt, Republic, and Champion have all joined discussions. The last meeting was held with an attorney. Various items being discussed is funding, how to buy in, and gathering records from Central Dispatch. Trustee Wing will attend the legislative meeting on Friday at Marquette Township.

### **PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE**

Motion by Wing, supported by Gischia to approve signing of the presented Principles of Governance which MTA provided. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0, Absent – 1. Motion carried.

### **ANDREW/SCHOOL**

Supervisor Laakso updated the Board on activities and conversations he has had with the owner of the Diorite School. Mr. Laakso has notified EGLE along with the Building Inspector of the Township's concerns.

### **DEPUTY CLERK PAY**

Supervisor Laakso noted the Clerk will be unavailable at times due to health concerns. MTA was consulted about the proper way to reimburse the Deputy Clerk for additional hours. Motion by Laakso, supported by Gischia to assign an hourly wage (without benefits) to the Deputy Clerk for above-needed hours. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gischia, Schuhknecht, Laakso

Nays: None

Abstain: Wing

Absent: Taseris

Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Giuchin's along with Ms. Langsford again had complaints about the asbestos and activity at the School. It was reinforced that the Township does not own the property and can only make complaints to the proper authorities (EGLE and the County Building Inspector). Residents were encouraged to file their own complaints as well.

Mr. Pepin wanted to know who will enforce the Noise and Dangerous Building Ordinances. Ms. Pepin asked for clarification on her status.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Not needed.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Trustee Wing updated the Board on the recent Broadband presentation he attended. Mr. Wing also noted the need for air conditioning in the Hall if we are going to continue to offer rentals.

Ms. Schuhknect issued a clarification to Mr. Pepin about a sign issue.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Taseris, Clerk