

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 19, 2024 – 6:00pm

(Recess from 6:30 – 6:45 to hold the Ely Township Annual Budget Hearing)

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

Glenn Wing, Trustee; Al Harris, Trustee; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor-present.

Molly Taseris, Clerk Deceased June 13, 2024

PUBLIC PRESENT

Tracy Quayle, Lou Ouellette, Patty Cornish, Russ and Glenda Mock, Melissa Burdick, Virginia Hedberg, Ken Saari, Larry Lemerand, Bob Hendrickson (IOHT), Lance Miller, Julie Hosang.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the Agenda. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

- Lou Ouellette inquired about the installation of the basketball hoops. Supervisor Laakso stated that the township is working on getting them up soon.
- Larry Lemerand suggested that the Board withdraw the letter opposing the abandonment of County Road CCR as there is another route that can be used. Supervisor Laakso stated that he would like to see the plan for the alternative route before deciding to withdraw the opposition letter.

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 Schuhknecht, to approve the Budget Review with current adjustments to the report. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OVERVIEW

Al Harris informed the Board of the status of the ongoing issues:

- Slawski/Diorite School no progress.
- Carello/Beaupied has had a few cars removed and property with the house is still in foreclosure.
- Jerzi'S has had no complaints this month.
- Harsila's have not responded to correspondence.

IOHRA RESOLUTION/BALLOT LANGUAGE

Motion made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the Ballot Language to add Ely Township joining the IOHRA to the November ballot. 3 – Ayes and 1 – Nay. Motion Carried.

MI TWP ASSOCIATION DUES (\$1499.89 With Legal)

Motion made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve payment of MI Twp Association Dues of \$1499.89 with Legal. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

MRWA MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$400)

The Motion made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve payment of the MRWA Membership Dues in the amount of \$400.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

APEX SOFTWARE (Assessor Sketching) (\$260)

Motion was made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve payment of the Apex Software bill in the amount of \$260.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PENINSULA SOLAR (\$17,177.42)

Motion made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve payment of the Peninsula Solar bill, to be reimbursed from ARPA Funds, in the amount of \$17,177.42. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

MCSWMA LETTER

The County Board had to change the payback time from 7 years to 20 years for the Water Treatment System at the current landfill.

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to support a change to allow the chairperson to be an elected position instead of automatically having the chairperson be from Sands Township. 3 – Ayes and 1 – Nay. Motion Carried.

WATERT SYSTEM RATES PUBLIC HEARING

The Board stated that both the Greenwood and Diorite water rates will need to be increased by 2% to keep up with the growing costs involved with running the water systems. The new amounts will be rounded up to the nearest dollar and the new rates will start the fourth quarter billing cycle.

a. Greenwood Water Rates 2% proposed increase for all.

b. Diorite Water Rates 2% proposed increase for all.

- Melissa Burdick inquired about the reasons for the increase. Al Harris informed her that it is to keep up with the increasing costs and the need for upgrades. Mrs. Burdick also asked what the total increases will be over the coming years. Al Harris stated that it depends on any possible grants the Township may get.
- Ken Saari stated that he understands the need for increases to keep up with costs.
- Patty Cornish talked about the need for home filtration systems, due to the high levels of Manganese, for the safety of people and pets until a filter system can be added to the water systems in the future.
- Virginia Hedberg informed the board that she would appreciate keeping the costs down as much as possible.

METRO ACT PERMIT

Motion made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the Metro Act Permit. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

ELY TOWNSHIP CLERK APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Laakso Motioned and it was supported by Treasurer Schuhknecht, to appoint Glenn Wing as Ely Township Clerk for the remainder of the term of office. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Al Harris, Trustee; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; and Supervisor Laakso. No Nays. Glenn Wing abstained. Motion Carried.

Glenn Wing motioned to formally resign as a Trustee of the Ely Township Board, and it was supported by Schuhknecht. All Ayes. Motion Carried

a. Ely Township Trustee Appointment

Supervisor Laakso recommended the Board appoint Lance Miller as a Trustee of the Ely Township Board for the remainder of the term of office. Motion by Harris, supported by Wing. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

FORMER DIORITE SCHOOL ATTORNEY LETTER/FENCE DISCUSSION

The Board decided to deny the proposal by Andrew Slawski for the wooden fence without a complete plan moving forward.

WORKMANS COMP INVOICE (\$1970.00)

Motion made by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht, to approve the payment of the Workman's Compensation Invoice in the amount of \$1970.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Laakso will inquire with the County to see if County Road CL going to Red Road has been abandoned.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Julie Hosang and Lou Ouellette informed the Board that there are many large rocks left in the middle of the roads by the County. Supervisor Laakso said the County is working on it. Glenn Wing suggested that they attend a County Board meeting to address the issue.

CLOSED SESSION

Not Needed

BOARD COMMENTS (ROUND TABLE)

- Al Harris thanked Glenn Wing for taking on the Clerk position and Lance Miller for taking on the Trustee position in this difficult time.
- Glenn Wing commented on the difficulty of elections with all the new procedures.
- Dawn Schuhknecht thanked Lance for taking the Trustee position and Tracy for all the extra help during a difficult time.
- Supervisor Laakso thanked Lance, Glenn, Al, and Tracy for everything. He also asked the board if they would support him granting some extra hours for the Deputy Clerk until July 1st. The Board agreed to the extra hours.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Quayle, Deputy Clerk