

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 19, 2020 – 6pm

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Jeremy Laakso called the meeting to order at 6pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor; Kim Wing, Clerk; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Carl Hosang, Trustee; Art Gischia, Trustee – Present.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Ted Pepin, Molly Taseris, Kevin Nancarrow, Al Harris, Susan Bovan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Laakso recommended the Board approve the presented Agenda. Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Hosang to approve the Agenda with the above-mentioned change. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pepin requested that water customers be notified if there was going to be a rate increase. Mr. Pepin was informed that there would be a Public Hearing which residents would be invited to attend.

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

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Gischia to approve the items listed in the Consent Agenda. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Hosang noted there have been some First Responder team members that haven't been on any runs yet this year. The Supervisor noted he would be pushing this issue with the Director.

BUDGET REVIEW

Supervisor Laakso noted there were a few internal budget adjustments required due to excessive office machine repair. It was noted we are not under contract with Compudyne and the cost to be so is prohibitive.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Trustee Gischia updated the Board on various activities which the Planning Commission has been dealing with such as the sign request on County Road CJ (Road Commission will install at a charge of \$25), Recreation Plan and Master Plan, and the Fowl Ordinance. A representative of CUPPAD will attend the next Planning Commission meeting and the new attorney is reviewing the best way to proceed with the Fowl Ordinance. Mr. Gischia attended the electronic Corridor Committee meeting which dealt with Front Street improvements, M28 improvements, the tunnel in Marquette Township, MarqTran door to door service, Lakeshore Blvd., and the excessive traffic being experienced at the Firehouse in Negaunee Township.

GREENWOOD WATER

- A. Repair of Waterline: Supervisor Laakso noted Lindberg was the only company willing to repair the waterline in Greenwood. Trustee Gischia recommended contacting Oberstar. Motion by Hosang, supported by Wing to set a repair budget of \$10,000 for the waterline repair in Greenwood. Mr. Laakso to secure written proposals from Lindberg and Oberstar (if they are interested), and contract with the cheapest option. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Hosang, Wing, Gischia, Schuhknecht, Laakso

Nays: None

Motion carried.

- B. Potential Water Increase: Supervisor Laakso noted the need for a rate increase for the Greenwood water customers due to the repair, contracted rehab, potential for another rehab, as well as the upcoming Engineering study. Trustee Gischia noted his concern about going to the public for two potential rate increases. Other Board members indicated their concern with the ability to pay for the above mentioned items without a rate increase. Mr. Pepin indicated he felt the Township should raise the rate to \$40 per month.

Treasurer Schuhknecht asked about changing the quarterly billing system to a monthly billing system. This would require an amendment to the Ordinance.

Motion by Wing, supported by Hosang to conduct a Public Hearing at the September 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting for the purpose of discussing raising of the Greenwood water rate as well as switching from quarterly to monthly invoicing. Ayes – 4, Nays – 1 (Gischia). Motion carried.

LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE UPDATE

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board with the updated Land Division Ordinance provided by the Township Attorney. Motion by Wing, supported by Laakso to conduct a Public Hearing at the September 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting for the purpose of approving the amended Land Division Ordinance. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PARKS

Supervisor Laakso presented quotes for repair work to the Clarksburg Ballfield bleachers and Diorite outhouse. It was suggested that the Supervisor secure quotes from other lumber companies as well. Motion by Gischia, supported by Hosang to approve a budget of \$1400 for repairs to the bleachers and outhouse with the Supervisor purchasing from the cheapest option. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gischia, Hosang, Schuhknecht, Wing, Laakso

Nays: None

Motion carried.

SALVAGE OF CLERK'S OLD HARD DRIVE

Motion by Hosang, supported by Wing to declare the Clerk's old hard drive as salvage and destroy it. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

WATER SYSTEMS RFP

Supervisor Laakso updated the Board on work being done on the water system RFP. Mr. Laakso, Mr. Gischia and Mr. Harris have been working on this project. Mr. Laakso recommended a Special Meeting be held to interview the three firms which submitted proposals and thanked Mr. Gischia and Mr. Harris for their work on this project.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pepin asked to be notified of all Special Meetings. Mr. Pepin was informed that all Meetings are posted at the Hall, on Facebook, and the Township's website.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not required.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Laakso noted Attorney Heikkila had transferred all files to the new attorney, Roger Zappa. Recyclables will not be accepted from September 1, 2020 until October 22, 2020 at the Transfer Station.

Treasurer Schuhknecht noted that according to the MTA, 100% of road millages on the ballot passed and the Board and Planning Commission should consider that. Ms. Schuhknecht questioned the tire increase from \$2 to \$5 and found that was correct. North Country Septic noted there are basketballs in the outhouses when they recently pumped. The grass has been cut at the previous Junak residence and the bank is now taking care of the property.

Trustee Hosang noted the recent free tire collection and the MCTA will not conduct any meetings for the rest of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hosang, supported by Gischia to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim D. Wing, Clerk