

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 16, 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, Glenn Wing, Ken Saari, Wayne Emmert, Dustin Kennedy, Gary Hedberg, Danielle LaForest, Matt Treado, Scott Currie, Steven Dales, Allison LeSage, Erica Wing, Steven Wing, Robert LaForest, Tom Ahola, Jordan Langness

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Laakso recommended the Board approve the presented Agenda, changing the second 9 to 9.1. Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Wingto approve the Agenda with the above-mentioned change. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Harris noted all lead and copper testing have passed for the water systems. Ms. LeSage noted she sent out letters of involvement to all First Responder team members. Only one has not responded. Robert LaForest noted he appreciated the communication efforts taken by the Township as well as checks clearing promptly.

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 Hosang to approve the items listed in the Consent Agenda. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

Trustee Hosang noted the Hall AED battery needs checking. Ms. LeSage will take care of it.

BUDGET REVIEW

Supervisor Laakso noted there was one internal budget adjustment required this month.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Trustee Gischia updated the Board on various activities which the Planning Commission has been dealing with such as a solar panel request in Diorite (will need to go to the Zoning Administrator first) and updating of the Master and Recreation Plans. The Planning Commission recommends the Board approve contracting with CUPPAD/SAIL \$1500 for an Universal Design Survey. Motion by Laakso, supported by Gischia to approve contracting with CUPPAD/SAIL for an Universal Design Survey for the park system. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

CUPPAD MEMBERSHIP DUES

Motion by Wing, supported by Gischia to approve membership dues for CUPPAD in the amount of \$390. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Wing, Gischia, Schuhknecht, Laakso Hosang

Nays: None

Motion carried.

WATER SYSTEMS

A. BOTH SYSTEMS PUBLIC HEARING: CHANGE BILLING FROM QUARTERLY TO MONTHLY

There was a request from a few residents to change the quarterly billing to monthly. After reviewing costs, the Supervisor recommended no change be made. Various residents voiced their agreement. Treasurer Schuhknecht noted there would be more options available for paying such as ACH withdrawal, credit cards, and a possible portal on the Township website.

B. GREENWOOD WATER PUBLIC HEARING: POTENTIAL WATER RATE INCREASE

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board and public with the current state of affairs regarding the Greenwood Water System. Currently there are two costly repairs needed and we have contracted for one well rehab. We are also looking to hire an engineering firm to come up with a concrete plan for the future for both water systems. These costs necessitate a rate increase. Concerns were raised by residents about the quality of the water which the water operator responded to and explained.

Motion by Gischia, supported by Hosang to raise the monthly residential water rate in Greenwood from \$31 to \$50. The Line Maintenance Fee will remain the same (\$20). Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Gischia, Hosang, Schuhknecht, Laakso, Wing

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Wing, supported by Gischia to begin the \$50 monthly water rate on October 1, 2020. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

It was decided to table the discussion on any proposed water rate for the two trailer parks until October's Board meeting.

C. DIORITE WATER: SPARE CAUSTIC PUMP

Motion by Gischia, supported by Hosang to approve purchase of a spare caustic pump in the amount of \$539. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Laakso presented an update to the Land Division Ordinance. The only change noted was changing the point of approval from the Ely Township Planning Commission to the Land Division Officer. Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve the presented Land Division Ordinance. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Wing, Schuhknecht, Hosang, Gischia, Laakso

Nays: None

Motion carried.

MULLINS DRIVE WATER REPAIR

Supervisor Laakso reported to the Board that residents in the Mullins Drive area are experiencing low to no water pressure. Mr. Laakso contacted Ishpeming Township about looking at the project and noted they declined.

RFP PRESENTATIONS REVIEW AND AWARD

Supervisor Laakso gave a brief update on the interviews held with the three engineering firms and asked the Board for their input. Most Board members indicated a preference for UPEA due to their long-standing history with the Township and their local presence. UPEA was also the most cost-effective choice with their bid at \$14,937.60. Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Hosang to approve contracting with UPEA for engineering services for the water systems. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Schuhknecht, Hosang, Gischia, Wing

Nays: Laakso

Motion carried.

Mr. Saari and Mr. Carr indicated they felt the Board made a good decision. Mr. Saari asked how the bill will be paid and suggested it be paid by customer base. Discussion of how to pay the bill was tabled.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Laakso noted Champion Township delivered a letter indicating their interest in joining a West End EMS group. Ms. LeSage will coordinate this group.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was not required.

BOARD COMMENTS

Clerk Wing noted the Treasurer should be commended for the work she has done in the front office as Office Manager. Ms. Schuhknecht has accomplished a lot of improvements in a short period of time.

Trustee Gischia thanked those in attendance for their participation. Mr. Saari felt the Township set up a fair water rate for Greenwood.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hosang, supported by Wing to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim D. Wing, Clerk