

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 21, 2022 – 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 joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.; Glenn Wing, Trustee; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Molly Taseris, Clerk; Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor- all present

PUBLIC PRESENT

Ted Pepin, Lou Ouellette, Mike Hytinen, Gary Bjorne, Steve Wing, Erika Wing, Nicole McGill, Matt Winfield, Doug Pennala, Sherry Prusi, Paul Kangas, Glenda Mock, Russel Mock, and Kirk Frechen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Laakso recommended that the Board approve the agenda with the following changes:

Add Diorite School to #15

Pull Water System Operator Report, add it to line # 16

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Wing to approve the agenda with the above mentioned changes. Ayes: Laakso, Taseris, Schuhknecht and Wing- Carr absent. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ted Pepin asked: He would like to know if during the Diorite School discussion, is the Board going to allow “back and forth” conversations with the public. He stated that in the past, the Board has not allowed this. Supervisor Laakso stated that the public can make their comments and he will address the Diorite School during Item # 15 on the Agenda.

Glenda Mock stated: She was concerned about what is going on at the Diorite School Location. She is concerned about property values being decreased, the Lead and Asbestos, and would like to know what Mr. Slawski’s plans are for the property.

Mike Hytinen stated: He is concerned with the junk vehicles and boats, wondering what is going into the ground and contaminating the water.

Lou Ouellette asked: Who is responsible for brushing/trimming the trees along County Roads CJ and CL? Supervisor Laakso stated that the County is responsible for that and he would contact them regarding this.

Kirk Frechen stated: He is concerned with property values decreasing, Mr. Slawski putting up a fence, seeing kids working on the property, and it looks like a “junk yard”.

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 by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve the Consent Agenda, pulling the Water System Operator Report, moving it to #16 on the Agenda. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW

Supervisor Laakso noted there were a few Budget adjustments as stated in the Supervisor Report dated August-September 2022.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Trustee Carr updated the Board: He stated that the Planning Commission is currently working on the DNR grants. He also asked the Board to consider a millage for the Heritage Trail and that the Marquette County Road Commission needs an updated list of road repairs to send out for bids in the fall.

TOWNSHIP HALL STOVE DISCUSSION/DECISION

The old stove in the Township Hall: went out on bids-Supervisor Laakso received 2 sealed bids and opened them at the Board Meeting- the first was from Dale Richards for \$153.00 and the second was from Justin Richards for \$128.00. Dale Richards won the bid. Supervisor Laakso will contact Dale Richards to pick up the stove when the new ones arrive.

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Taseris to purchase 2 new stoves, from Menards, totaling \$1071.56. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

WATER SYSTEMS UPDATED COST OPINIONS

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board with Cost Opinion options for the water systems. He stated that we need to come up with funding. Kevin Nancarrow is working on our "Intent to Apply" for grants.

Trustee Wing is going to help Supervisor Laakso in dealing with the Water Systems.

AMERICAN LEGION LAND FOR SALE

Supervisor Laakso stated that the American Legion asked him if Ely Township would be interested in purchasing 40 acres that is attached to a 40 acre parcel that Ely Township owns. The current bid is at \$54,000.00. The Board decided to not act on this at this time.

RETAINER AGREEMENT

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board with a retainer agreement with Attorney Jeremy Pickens. Ely Township's current attorney, Roger Zappa, can not represent Ely Township on the Ordinance Violations with Kenneth Quinell, Jr. due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Zappa recommended Mr. Pickens.

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to hire Mr. Pickens for legal services regarding Kenneth Quinell, Jr. Ordinance Violations. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK (ITFD) REQUEST

Supervisor Laakso stated that he has received a request from Ishpeming Township Fire Department for a donation to purchase handouts for the Fire Prevention Week event which will be put on at Aspen Ridge Elementary School. This year's event will be October 12, 2022.

Motion by Wing, supported by Carr to give a donation to ITFD in the amount of \$100.00. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL AUDIT PROPOSAL

Motion by Wing, supported by Taseris to accept the proposal from Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC for continued services through June 30, 2024. The proposed fees are June 30, 2022-\$8,600.00, June 30, 2023-\$9,000.00 and June 30, 2024-\$9,500.00. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

DIORITE SCHOOL

Supervisor Laakso gave a detailed explanation about the Diorite school and the steps the Board has taken to deal with the Diorite School Property, and Mr. Andrew Slawski. Mr. Slawski has been given notices of Ordinance Violations and a “Stop Work” order. The next step is Citations if he doesn’t satisfy the Violations.

Supervisor Laakso gave out phone numbers for the following: State of Michigan-Wages, Joe Scanlon from EGLE, DNR Tipline, MIOSHA and Secretary of State Tipline. Laakso informed the Public that they are welcome to call any or all of these places to lodge their complaints.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR REPORT

Supervisor Laakso went over the Water System Operator Report. Aaron Carr stated that the work will be done on the Greenwood tank.

Operator Al Harris stated he would like to see 2 dehumidifiers purchased for both wellhouses, to help with the moisture and corrosion that occurs on the boards in the pumps.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenda Mock is asking for a “reminder call” for water shut-offs. She also appreciates all the help from Supervisor Laakso and neighbors during her husbands recent health issues.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Laakso stated that Maintenance Worker, Steve Wing, told him that the storage unit in the back of the Ely Township Hall building is in need of repair or replacing. Supervisor Laakso is going to look into it, and report back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Taseris, Clerk