

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 19, 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

Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor; Molly Taseris, Clerk; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer and Aaron Carr, Trustee; all present. Glenn Wing, Trustee; absent-excused.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Ted Pepin, Lou Ouellette, Joe Derocha, Doug Pennala, Kevin Nancarrow, Randy Rupel, Sue Bovan, Erin Bertucci and Al Harris.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Taseris to approve the agenda as written. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ted Pepin asked: Is someone going to give a report on the First Responders Meeting? Also why isn't the Board asking about the missed 1st Responders calls and isn't it a requirement for the 1st Responder Coordinator to be at the Board Meetings.

Lou Ouellette stated: The culvert has been replaced on her road, County Road CL, and would it be possible to have some cold patch put down to fill in the potholes.

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

BUDGET REVIEW

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

Trustee Carr updated the Board: He stated that the Planning Commission is going to work on the Maps for the Master Plan at the next meeting.

A. Rezone of Anderson property from TP to R-10

Motion by Laakso, supported by Taseris to rezone the Anderson property from Timber Production to Residential-10. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Zoning Administrator to update on several properties in violation of ordinances

Zoning Administrator, Erin Bertucci, stated the following:

Diorite School Property: Current permit issued for Demolition of the “Boiler Room” as was recommended at the Dangerous Buildings hearing with Rich Uren, owner of Northern Design Works, on January 18, 2022. The County has not issued him a permit yet as the correct fee was not paid. Mr. Andrew Slawski (owner of the Diorite School) has been issued 3 citations: one for solar panels, the fence location and operating an auto/salvage yard in a residential neighborhood.

Quinnell property at 11891 Co Rd CH: Current operations on the property include building a campground with at least 6 hook-ups, excavated sand and gravel and created a pit with 4,000 cubic yards (Per conversation with Attorney Jeremy Pickens) removed, standing garage and sauna (single-family home burnt in January 2022), and inquiries about placing new single-family home on property. This is all on one parcel that is 31 acres and zoned Timber Production. Property owners have had instructions on rezoning, failed to apply yet. Stop work orders sent by Zoning Administrators in May and August. Stop work order sent by new attorney in September has been followed, but property owner does visit regularly and could be doing more work. Main issue is only one of these uses are allowed on the one parcel per Ely Zoning Ordinance. Also, the two uses of excavation and campground are commercial in nature, and this is in a residential area. Possible options for this property to come into compliance would involve a lot line adjustment to include the sand and gravel pit on an adjacent parcel, then a land division to have the campground and single-family home on separate parcels. Easement would be necessary through the parcel that would have the single-family home on it for each new parcel and the other adjoining parcels that the Quinnell's

own. Attorney Picken's perspective is Ely intends to cite Quinnell for additional ordinance violations to the extent he proceeds without permits and appropriate zoning, and the burden is on him to bring his property into compliance (e.g., curtail his activity, seek rezoning, apply for permits, etc.) The deadline for rezoning at the next Planning Commission meeting is next Thursday, October 27, 2022.

Carello property at 38350 Co Rd 581: Two more citations of \$500 have been issued. Attorney Zappa had a hearing scheduled with Jamie Carello (property owner) and Mr. Carello did not attend. Per the Ely Township Miscellaneous Debris Ordinance, further action could include the Township hiring a contractor to clean up the property and add the cost to the tax bill. There has been no contact from Mr. Carello to the township on any plan for clean-up or remediation.

DORITE WATER REPAIRS BILL FROM LINDBERGS

Motion by Taseris, supported by Schuhknecht to pay the Diorite Water Repairs Bill from Lindbergs in the amount of \$5085.00 All Ayes, Motion Carried.

GREENWOOD WATER REPAIRS BILL FROM LINDBERGS

Motion by Laakso, supported by Schuhknecht to pay the Greenwood Water Repairs Bill from Lindbergs in the amount of \$2960.00 All Ayes, Motion Carried.

STORAGE SHED PRICES

Supervisor Laakso looked into the prices for storage units and informed the Board of his findings. He is currently waiting for the High School, teacher John Jessen, to get back to Trustee Wing to see if the High School class would be able to build it and what the cost would be. The Board will make a decision when they have all the information.

SCRAP TIRE CLEANUP GRANT

Supervisor Laakso told the Board about a Scrap Tire Grant email that he received. He looked into it and there is currently no Scrap Tire Haulers in the Upper Peninsula and the closest one is downstate. The Board decided that this would not be cost effective for Ely Township.

OLD ELECTION LAPTOP SALVAGE

Supervisor Laakso stated that there is one old election laptop that is not working. We have 2 new election laptops.

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Laakso to Scrap the old election laptop. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

SECURE TRANSPORTER DISCUSSION

Motion by Laakso, supported by Carr to approve Medical Transport application for Joe Derocha and Honey Badger Holdings. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

AUTO DIALER BILL (DIORITE WATER)

Motion by Laakso, supported by Schuhknecht to pay the invoice from Wolverine Water Works, Inc. in the amount of \$825.00 All Ayes, Motion Carried.

BS&A CONTRACT

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Taseris to pay the invoice from BS&A in the amount of \$1,729.00 All Ayes, Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Supervisor Laakso read a Thank-you note from the Sesquicentennial Board, thanking the Ely Township Board for their donation, in memory of Rosemary Junak, to the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Bovan stated: that she wanted to Thank the Board for “putting up with her” and that she has been training Erin Bertucci and feels that she is leaving Ely Township in good hands with Erin. October 31, 2022 is officially Sue’s last day.

Ted Pepin stated: In his opinion, the Board should follow the advice of the attorney for the Marijuana ordinance.

Randy Ruppel stated: The school is a “pain in the butt”, he wishes that they would have torn it down when it was abandoned, then we wouldn’t be having all the issues with that property.

Joe Derocha stated: Every Township that has a school left behind is facing the same problems. The schools should have been torn down when they were abandoned. The School districts should be responsible for tearing the schools down.

He also stated: That his family has been in Ely Township since 1978, and he stated that he has had “wonderful boards to work with”. He wants to thank the current Board.

He stated: That if Ely Township would like, he would drop of 3 Cargo Boxes for scrap tires. If Ely Township will pay to dispose of the tires, he would drop off the Cargo boxes, and pick them up when they are full and deliver them to be disposed of for no cost for his service.

Doug Pennala asked: Where the Board stands with the Iron Ore Heritage Trail? Supervisor Laakso asked Mr. Pennala if he would go to a Planning Commission meeting to discuss this with them. He stated that he would.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed.

BOARD COMMENTS

Treasurer Schuhknecht wanted to thank Sue Bovan, saying that it has been a pleasure working with her. She also told Erin Bertucci thank you for all your hard work!

Supervisor Laakso told the board about the letter from EGLE stating the Greenwood and Diorite Water System Sanitary Survey Deficiencies and Requirements

He also stated that the 1st Responders had their 2nd meeting and they are working with Treasurer Schuhknecht (also Treasurer for 1st Responders) on getting an EIN # and bank account set up. Also, the 1st Responders did an inventory of supplies, vehicles and discuss how to pay the 1st Responders.

Laakso also mentioned that the water bill for the Diorite School is going to be \$140.00 per month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Taseris, Clerk