

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

November 15, 2023 – 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; Glenn Wing, Trustee; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer; Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor-present.

Molly Taseris, Clerk; Tracy Quayle, Deputy Clerk – absent/excused.

PUBLIC PRESENT

Lou Ouellette and Leah Dompierre.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Wing, supported by Carr to approve the agenda with the addition of ZBA Appointment to item number 23. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou Oulette asked if there will be coffee and cookies at the December meeting as in years past.

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

Treasurer Schuhknecht wanted to clarify a discrepancy found on the Clerk's report for the water accounts is due to certain checks not being cashed in a timely manner, she will be sure to avoid this issue in the future. Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

BUDGET REVIEW

Supervisor Laakso noted that there were several budget adjustments.

Motion by Wing, supported by Carr to approve the Supervisor's budget adjustments. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OVERVIEW

Aaron Carr updated the board on recent Planning Commission activities including the appointment of a new Vice Chairperson, Michael Anderson, and they have Public Hearings coming up in December.

ASSESSOR APPLICANTS

Two applications were reviewed for the open Assessor position.

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, supported by Wing to approve the hiring of Dylan Jurasin of Superior Assessing, LLC as the new Assessor for Ely Township. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

9 DAY EARLY VOTING INFO

Any questions regarding the 9 day early voting information can be directed to Clerk, Molly Taseris.

BS&A INVOICE

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, supported by Wing to pay the BS&A Invoice of \$1866.00. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

USA BLUEBOOK INVOICE: DIORITE WATER

Motion by Wing, supported by Carr to pay the USA Bluebook Invoice of \$584.57. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

CORRPRO ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR CATHODIC PROTECTION

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, supported by Schuhknecht to approve contracting with AEGION/Corrpro for cathodic protection in the amount of \$730.00. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

EGLE H20 SUPPLY FEES: DIORITE

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to pay the EGLE supply fees invoice in the amount of \$809.03. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

EGLE H20 SUPPLY FEES: GREENWOOD

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to pay the EGLE supply fees invoice in the amount of \$809.03. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

RISK REDUCTION GRANT APPROVAL LETTER

Ely Township was awarded \$2,500.00 for security cameras.

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to sign and accept the Risk Reduction Grant Program Agreement. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

ASPEN RIDGE CHEER DONATION REQUEST

A donation request letter was received from the Aspen Ridge Cheer Team. Board agreed to table request.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK DONATION REQUEST

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to donate \$100.00 to Ishpeming Township Fire Department for Fire Prevention Week. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

ATTORNEY BILL

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, Supported by Wing to pay the Attorney bill in the amount of \$712.50. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

MARESA 2024 SUMMER TAX AGREEMENT

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, supported by Wing to approve the MARESA 2024 collection agreement for summer taxes with no changes. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE WAGE DISCUSSION

Supervisor Laakso initially offered the new maintenance hire the incorrect pay amount. Based on qualifications and experience, he suggests an increase in pay.

Motion by Wing, supported by Supervisor Laakso to rescind the Maintenance Worker Hourly Wage Resolution and to approve the raise of \$18.50 per hour. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

1 ACRE ON HIGHWAY/OLD BARNES HECKER MEMORIAL

Supervisor Laakso was approached by the former property owner of the one acre that was gifted to Ely Township for the Barnes Hecker Memorial asking if the Township would be interested in selling the acre back to him. WETESA has shown interest in possibly placing an ambulance garage in that location as studies they have had done show this would be the best location for one. The Board agreed to keep the property for now.

ZBA APPOINTMENT

The Township received an application from Wade Cohoon regarding the open position on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). There is currently one opening to be filled, however the removal of current member, William Derocha will open one more position as well.

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, supported by Wing to remove William Derocha from the Zoning Board of Appeals due to lack of attendance and correspondence. All Ayes, Motion carried.

Motion by Supervisor Laakso, supported by Carr to approve Wade Cohoon as a new member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you card was received from the family of Calvin Prout thanking the Township Board for the dedication sign on the Black River Bridge.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lou Ouelette asked if the back door to the Township Hall is available to use during the Ely Township Scholarship Committee Craft Show this weekend.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Carr updated the Board on the water service lines being dug up in Diorite stating everything is going well. He has also noticed activity happening behind the former Diorite School, there appears to be a generator and lights running with loud building equipment being heard. Supervisor Laakso will ask Zoning Administrator Bertucci to look into the activity occurring.

Trustee Wing asked for an update on the court hearing with Mr. Slawski over the former Diorite School. Supervisor Laakso stated no updates have been received. Trustee Wing also questioned the appearance of junk cars on a property along Co Rd 496.

Treasurer Schuhknecht stated that the auditors were in the office last week and everything appeared to go smoothly. Now just getting ready for Winter Tax season coming up in December. The Greenwood Hydrant Rental payment was missed in June, it was paid with this month's checks. Proper steps have been taken to ensure timely payment each year in the future.

Supervisor Laakso updated the board on:

- The dry hydrant in Diorite is ready to go, just waiting on parts for installation.
- No progress on the oil leak at the former Diorite School. EGLE intends to send another citation/letter.
- No updates about the court hearing for the Diorite School.
- Increase in Attorney costs were explained via correspondence from Attorney Zappa regarding the need for communication with him before issuing any civil infraction citation (ref. MCL 600.87072). Reasons for most correspondence with Attorney Zappa as of late were explained as well.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Dompierre, Recording Secretary