

ELY TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 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; Glenn Wing, Trustee; Art Gischia, Trustee; Molly Taseris, Clerk; Dawn Schuhknecht, Treasurer, present

PUBLIC PRESENT

Al Harris, Ted Pepin, Randy Ruppel, Sue Bovan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to approve the Agenda. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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
- I. Planning Commission Minutes

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Wing to approve the Consent Agenda, after taking out the Board Minutes from December 15, 2021 and the Planning Commission Minutes from January 10, 2022. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Wing to approve the Board Minutes from December 15, 2021 with the following correction made. Under Township Hall Bathroom Occupancy Permit, it was stated that Gischia signed the copy of the Bathroom Occupancy Permit, and it should have said Final Pay Request.

BUDGET REVIEW

Supervisor Laakso stated that he made a few internal adjustments. He explained that he and Treasurer Schuhknecht had to fix some mistakes made in the last 6 months Budget reports. There were mistakes in billing and coding. Clerk Taseris re-printed the last 6 months of reports for the files.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Trustee Gischia updated the Board on the Planning Commission Meeting, January 10, 2022.

Some of the things discussed were the Public Hearing on Re-zoning 3 properties, and a Conditional Use hearing on 3 properties.

There was a Public Hearing on January 17, 2022 for the Recreation Plan.

ZBA APPLICANT

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board with an application from Michael Nardi, to be appointed to the ZBA. Laakso is going to call Michael's references.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Treasurer Schuhknecht stated that the auditors said our audit went really well.

Motion by Gischia, supported by Wing to accept the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2021. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

MARQUETTE COUNTY TAX PREP BILL

Motion by Wing, supported by Gischia to pay the Marquette County Tax Prep Bill in the amount of \$2,141.42. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

STATE OF MI ELECTION SUBSCRIPTION BILL

Motion by Wing, supported by Gischia to pay the invoice from Election Source in the amount of \$615.00. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

ANDERSON, TACKMAN & COMPANY AUDIT BILL

Motion by Wing, supported by Taseris to pay the invoice from Anderson, Tackman and Company for the audit, in the amount of \$8,200.00. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to have Supervisor Laakso sign the contract for the Recycling Partnership Grant and make the necessary adjustments to the budget to cover the cost of the carts up front, to be re-imbursed from the Recycling Partnership Grant. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Laakso, Taseris, Schuhknecht, Wing and Gischia, Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Ely Township is responsible for \$2,395.00. This is the cost of education and educational materials.

Supervisor Laakso is recommending transfer of funding from; \$28,000.00 from Parks Capital Outlay, \$10,000.00 from 1st Responders Capital Outlay, \$10,200.00 from Street Contractual Services, and \$500.00 from Clerk Training. Total \$48,700.00 to cover the cost of the Recycling carts.

AMERICAN RESCUE GRANT

Treasurer Schuhknecht tasked the Board with coming up with a list of suggestions as to where to use the American Rescue Grant money. She also stated that approximately \$200,000.00 is expected as Ely's share of the American Rescue Grant Funding.

WEST END RESPONDERS

A. Ely Township Representative Appointment:

Motion by Schuhknecht, supported by Taseris to appoint Supervisor Laakso as Ely Townships Representative. Ayes-4, Nays-0, Laakso abstained. Motion Carried.

B. Updated Draft Articles and Attorney Zappa comments:

Supervisor Laakso presented the Board with Updated Interlocal Agreement to Incorporate the West End Townships Emergency Services Authority and Adopt Articles of Incorporation. He also gave the Board comments from attorneys, Zappa and Koski.

Laakso stated that they are still gathering information and once each Township has appointed their representative, they can nail down the budget and keep working on the Agreement.

WEST END POLICE AGREEMENT DISCUSSION

Supervisor Laakso and Trustee Gischia attended at meeting at Negaunee Township in regards to Police Services in our area. Ely, Humboldt, Champion and Michigamme would contract together for Police Services. The Board took no action at this time, pending future discussion at the February 3, 2022 meeting which will be held at Ely Township Hall. Board members did express concern about funding to cover this position.

JEREMY LAAKSO DIORITE RENTAL PROPERTY; LINE MAINTENANCE FEE

Al Harris mentioned that he talked with John Holland about Line Maintenance Fee. He suggested that we never charge this fee.

The Board decided to table this until we see the new report from UPEA, at that time we will evaluate Line Maintenance Fee and Rates.

MISCELLANEOUS DEBRIS ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

The Board decided to table this until next month, so the Board would have time to look at Miscellaneous Debris Ordinances from other Townships and try to come up with some ideas to make our Ordinance better.

MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Trustee Gischia told the Board that Treasurer Schuhknecht found a disc with our 2014 Master Plan on it. He is going to have the Planning Commission look at it and see if it would benefit us to edit it ourselves, instead of paying CUPPAD to do it.

RECREATION PLAN APPROVAL

Motion by Wing, supported by Schuhknecht to adopt the Ely Township Resolution of Adoption. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Laakso, Taseris, Schuhknecht, Wing and Gischia Nays: None. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ted Pepin stated that he would like the Board to announce the amounts of Invoices/Bills as we vote to pay them during the meeting.

Mr. Al Harris stated that he talked with John Holland and he recommended a back-up portable hard drive for Al, that he would keep at the office. Supervisor Laakso to order one through Amazon.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Gischia stated that Erin Stratton has typed the Zoning Ordinance and he feels it needs to be reviewed. He will have the Planning Commission review.

Treasurer Schuhknecht feels that the \$10 processing fee for Direct Haulers is too high.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm by Supervisor Laakso.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly A. Taseris
Clerk