

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 2015 6:30PM
US FOREST SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING
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The regular meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor Rogers. Members present: Mike Rogers, Rich Henriksen, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield. Absent and excused: Bill Neumann.

Others present: Julie Mathiesen, David Sherrill, Dick Caudill

A motion was offered by Rich Henriksen with support from Paul Kempainen to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of November 18, 2015 and special meetings held on November 17 and December 15, 2015. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Dick Caudill informed the board that we received a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant in the amount of \$14,405. Some of the equipment that has been ordered with that grant money include a heavy duty air hammer, vehicle stabilization support system, air lift kit and smaller items that are needed. The Township match for this grant is approximately \$692.00. He also received a DNR grant in the amount of \$2200.00 for a dry hydrant at the Cisco Bridge. One of the criteria for this dry hydrant is that it must be accessible 12 months out of the year. There is an "in-kind" match on this grant and the FD will do the installation which will amount to about \$1200 in "in-kind" labor. It will not be installed until the spring. He will also work on more of these DNR grants for these hydrants. The township's match will be approximately \$625.00. Paul Kempainen thanked Dick for all the hours of hard work that he puts into applying for these grants. Chief Caudill also reported that the 911 Committee is purchasing 75 new pagers for the County over the next 3 years (25 per year). He has been given one to test out and is hoping that these are a much needed improvement over the ones they have had in the past. He also asked the board's permission to go after a grant for our own ambulance and funding for training to staff it. Getting a workforce trained and certified to run has been a huge hurdle and we hope that with the new clinic the tribe is building, maybe we can work together on that. A motion to pursue a grant for the ambulance was offered by Sandy Mansfield with support from Rich Henriksen. Roll Call vote; Ayes: Mike Rogers, Paul Kempainen, Rich Henriksen, Sandy Mansfield. Nays: None. There are 2 new applications for the Fire Department, Jeff and Jeremy Zelinski. They will be given to the board for approval. Sandy Mansfield is to contact Dr. Fiorucci in Land O'Lakes to see if he will still do the physicals for the department.

Julie Mathiesen spoke about the July meeting where document concerns were raised regarding the Township contracting the services of members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board is not entered into a contract with a current member of the PC or ZBA. (the letters from both Julie and Attorney Pope are available for viewing either at the office of on the website). She would like to see the hiring of work to be done and by whom, discussed at the board level. Mike Rogers stated that we have used a PC member to haul gravel before if no one else was available. We also have alternated town companies for repairs and building jobs. She also brought up the Planning Commission's handling of and enforcing of Ordinances. It appears that the PC is trying to weaken ordinances that affect mostly the lake people. A couple of instances were sited where the PC is changing the Ordinance rather than send each individual case to the ZBA for a variance.

David Sherrill brought up the training issue in the Planning Commission By-Laws. There is supposed to be a minimum of 1 hour training for each member per year. The majority of members understood this to mean in a "fiscal" year, not a calendar year. David stated that it was to be done before reinstatement. Two PC members are up for reappointment at this time.

A motion was made by Paul Kemppainen with support by Rich Henriksen to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

New Business: The board made the decision to reappoint the members up for reinstatement on the PC. If the Commission decides to challenge this at their next meeting on the training issue, they have the right to do so. A motion was made by Sandy Mansfield with support from Paul Kemppainen to reappoint Pete Peterson with his term to expire on 12/31/2018. Motion carried. A motion was made by Paul Kemppainen with support from Rich Henriksen to reappoint Giiwegiizhigookay with her term to expire on 12/31/2018. Motion carried. A motion to reappoint Fred Duerkop to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending on 12/31/2017. Motion carried. Lastly, a motion by Paul Kemppainen with support from Rich Henriksen to reappoint Joe Lomastro to the ZBA with a term ending on 12/31/2017. Motion carried.

A motion was offered by Paul Kemppainen to pay the bills presented to the board. This was seconded by Rich Henriksen. Motion carried. GF: checks #35710 thru #35727; WWF: checks #3924 thru 3930; WF: checks #3116 thru #3119.

Supervisor's Report: There was a special meeting with Karin Cooper of UPEA architectural firm regarding some changes of the plans for the New Community Center. Those items are posted in the minutes from that meeting of December 15, 2015 on the website and in the Ottawa Shopper. You may also view these at the Township Office. Mike is going to attend a meeting of the County Board to try to get our share of the PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) the county receives. At one time the school and Township received large amounts of money as we have such a large amount of federal land. The County has since taken it and we no longer get a share. We received a proposal from Pitlik and Wick for resurfacing and striping the old tennis courts at the corner of US 45 and Old US 2 east. It came in at \$40,000.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Kemppainen mentioned the Wellness Program the LVD Tribe is involved with which is an education and recreational fitness program. He said we may be able to receive help from the Tribe in the restoration of the tennis/pickle ball/basketball court. There are a number of items that could be considered such as the once mentioned walking track and tennis courts placed where the old school baseball field once was. The walking trail could possibly be extended to Bass Lake, turn the Old Camp Plagens area into a park, look at more lighting along the new walking trail by the bridge. David Sherrill asked Paul to forward him a summary of what he told us, as the town's Rec Plan works with LVD also.

Clerk's Report: No report other than the correspondence from Conover Ambulance Service severing our contract as of December 1, 2015. There has been a committee formed to discuss a new contract with Conover and we are also exploring other options.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rich Henriksen with support from Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township