

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2017 6:30PM
FOREST SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING
www.watersmeet.us

The regular monthly meeting of the Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor Rogers.

Members present: Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Alan Piel, Bill Neumann, Sandy Mansfield
Citizens present: 8

A motion was offered by Paul Kemppainen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 18, 2017 and special meetings of February 2nd and February 10th. Alan Piel supported the motion.
Motion carried.

Appearances:

Craig Hesse represented the Chamber of Commerce in asking for an increase in the amount that the Town Board already budgets for. This will be discussed at the next budget meeting. He explained that the Chamber attends 2-3 shows a year, distributes brochures and directories throughout Watersmeet, Michigan Welcome Centers in Ironwood, Marquette, Sault Ste. Marie, etc. and some lower Michigan centers and northern Wisconsin localities. Information packets are mailed to individual requests received by the chamber. This amounts to approximately 8,000-10,000 annually. The COC also advertises in UPTRA, on the snowmobile map, on the MSA website and constantly updates the Chamber website.

Dino Giannola spoke to the board regarding the tie vote for new Fire Chief that was cast at the last Fire Department meeting. He asked that he also be considered for the position and presented his list of qualifications to the board and those present.

New Business:

A motion was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel to approve the new Federal Numerical Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Board of Review dates for this march was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried. The dates will be March 14, 2017 from 9 AM to 3 PM and march 16, 2017 from 3 PM to 9 PM.

Supervisor Rogers nominated Mark McGrath to replace Dino Giannola on the Planning Commission for the remainder of the term ending 12/31/2019. A motion to appoint him to the Commission was made by Alan Piel with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried. Dino was replaced due to concern raised at last month's meeting over the fact that he is a fire fighter and therefore an employee of the township so he cannot sit on any Commissions. Jeff Zelinski sent a letter to the township requesting the he become strictly a volunteer fire department member receiving absolutely no pay for any runs that he goes out on. After checking with the attorney, he can remain as an officer of the Planning Commission and receive no compensation for the runs he goes out on.

The Fire Department held a vote to elect a new Fire Chief and it resulted in a tie. Bill Neumann offered a motion to send the vote back to the Fire Department in order to decide the outcome. A second was made by Alan Piel. Motion carried. Once a vote has determined the new Chief, the name will be submitted to the Town Board for approval.

Approval of Bills:

A motions was offered by Paul Kemppainen with support from Bill Neumann to approve payment of the bills as presented. Checks submitted for payment from the general fund are #'s 36769 thru 36789, water fund #s 3191 – 3193 and waste water fund #s 4002. Motion carried.

Reports:

Supervisor: The broadband equipment has been installed on the water tower, but still needs to be hooked up to the Merit Building next door to it. Once it is ready, our website will have the link for interested parties to contact for information on hook up and pricing.

Andy Hacker and Greg Mansfield have the pavilion kitchen about 85% complete. New sinks, lighting and appliances will be installed. The floor has been redone and it will be ready to go by the time the weather is nice late spring.

Treasurer: About 2300 parcels have been collected on for the winter taxes. We are just about at our high for the year as far as the checkbook balance goes. It now begins to go downhill until next tax time. If all goes as planned, the next Town Board meeting will be held at the new community center. It will be on March 29th, 2017.

Bill Neumann: Charter will be at the community center to hook us up on February 16, 2017 and The Computer Doctors will be here February 17th to get things ready for our switch over. He has some questions and concerns regarding some security issues at the new building and will prepare and present the board with a list at the budget meeting Feb. 17th.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township