

# Gourley Township

## Menominee County Michigan

### Minutes of March 11, 2024 Regular Meeting

Supervisor Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 6:30 p.m. and then, asking all to stand, Steve led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Present: Steve Wery, Supervisor  
Stephanie Walechka, Treasurer  
Ivy Netzel, Clerk  
Dan Cordy, Trustee  
Jesse Wery, Trustee

Absent:

Also Attending: Fire Chief Brian Mack, Bonnie and Dennis Hahn

**Agenda:** Steve presented the agenda and after review, Jesse made a motion to accept the agenda with Stephanie supporting the motion; it carried.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Steve made a motion to accept the minutes. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.

#### Treasurer & Clerk Report:

**NOTE:** The clerk checks the tax fund check book monthly.

- The Financial Report for February 2024 was reviewed and there was \$547,556.76 in the General Fund and \$337,805.25 in the Fire Fund. Ivy made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Jesse supported the motion; it carried.
- Budget Amendment needed for current budget (attachments)

Stephanie made a motion to accept the Budget Amendments for 2023-24. Dan supported the motion, and it carried.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, it was discovered that there was a minor error in the overage amount reported for GF for Printing and Publishing. The amount reported on the GF Budget Amendment for FY 2023-24 was misread from the financial report and erroneously reported as \$291.60 when it should have been \$297.60. Also, the payroll amount for BOR was underestimated. An email was sent to the board with a motion to revised the GF Budget Amendment for 2023-24 to correct these errors. The motion was approved via email. The corrected GF Budget Amendment is attached.

#### Fire Chief Report:

- There were 6 fire runs for the month: two calls to the Hannahville Elders Complex, one call to the Hannahville Health Center, a grass fire assist in Hannahville, the Kusig fire, and a Bark River barn fire.

- March 28<sup>th</sup> is the biennial firefighters meeting and it will be hosted by Bark River.
- The results of the election for the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department are as follows: Assistant Fire Chief: Russ Berger Jr.; Vice President: Tim Groleau; Training Officer: Scott Mack.
- Regular Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m. CDT.

**Supervisor's Report:**

- Steve discussed plans for resurfacing County Road 551 from 34.5 Road to the township line. Steve also discussed road repair plans for Polfus Road E-3.
- The Mandatory training for Board of Review members occurred on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Board of Review organizational meeting occurred on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm central.
- Board of Review occurred on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm, and will occur again on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 9 pm at the Gourley Township Hall. There were no petitions at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Review.

A new aspect of the veteran's exemption was explained by Steve. This year will be the last year that veterans will need to apply for the exemption annually. From now on, only one exemption application is needed going forward.

**New Business:**

- Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department banquet. Steve proposed to provide an annual Volunteer Fire Department banquet to show appreciation for our volunteer firefighters. The banquet would be held at the township hall. More research needs to be done on this issue to ensure that such an expenditure is allowable. Steve will investigate whether or not this type of expenditure is a lawful expenditure.
- Hannahville Grant for AV Equipment for the hall and/or a grant request for replacement boilers: After a discussion of the pros and cons of each, the board decided to submit a grant request for the replacement boilers.
- Stephanie made a motion to approve the Gourley Township General Appropriations Act for 2024-2025. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.

**Old Business:**

- none

**Public Comment**

- An email from Joanne Polfus was read to the board. The email is attached.

**Correspondence:**

- none

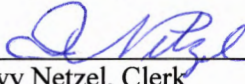
**Pay the Bills:**

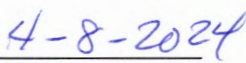
- Stephanie made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by Ivy. The motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

- Jesse moved to adjourn. Ivy supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm CDT. The next meeting will be April 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ivy Netzel, Clerk

  
Date Approved

**GENERAL FUND      REVISED BUDGET AMENDMENTS**  
**FY 2023-24**

FUND		Notes
101-101-852-0 Webpage	\$ (7.40)	Annual subscription increase
101-101-900-0 Printing & Publishing	\$ (297.60)	posting for 2 elections, increase in printing tax bills and posting on Luft's and MCJ
101-215-752-2 Clerk Suppies	(52.77)	12'x8' Heavy duty American Flag purchase
101-223-804-0 Audit	(460.36)	Larger than expected increase
101-262-704-0 Election Workers	(737.50)	training and ojt for new election workers
101-247-704-0 BOR Workers	(84.75)	new BOR member training and OJT
<b>TAKEN FROM</b>		
101-101-955-0 Miscellaneous	820.23	
101-262-752-1 Election Supplies	820.15	
<b>TOTAL (DEFICIT) or SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

**GENERAL FUND**

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS  
FY 2023-24**

FUND		Notes
101-101-852-0 Webpage	\$ (7.40)	Annual subscription increase
101-101-900-0 Printing & Publishing	\$ (291.60)	posting for 2 elections, increase in printing tax bills and posting on Luft's and MCJ
101-215-752-2 Clerk Suppies	(52.77)	12'x8' Heavy duty American Flag purchase
101-223-804-0 Audit	(460.36)	Larger than expected increase
101-262-704-0 Election Workers	(737.50)	training and ojt for new election workers
<b>TAKEN FROM</b>		
101-101-955-0 Miscellaneous	729.48	
101-262-752-1 Election Supplies	820.15	
<b>TOTAL (DEFICIT) or SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

*Superseded*

**FIRE FUND**

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS  
FY 2023-24**

<b>FUND</b>		<b>Notes</b>
206-336-940-0 Rentals	(\$66.08)	Larger than expected increase
<b>TAKEN FROM</b>		
206-336-955-0 Miscellaneous	\$66.08	
<b>TOTAL (DEFICIT) or SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

## **General Appropriations Act**

### **Gourley Township**

A resolution to establish a General Appropriations Act for Gourley Township; to define the powers and duties of the Gourley Township officers in relation to the administration of the budget; and to provide remedies for refusal or neglect to comply with the requirements of this resolution.

The Board of Trustees of Gourley Township ordains:

#### **Section 1: Title**

This resolution shall be known as the Gourley Township General Appropriations Act.

#### **Section 2: Chief Administrative Officer**

The Supervisor shall be the Chief Administrative Officer and shall perform the duties of the Chief Administrative Officer enumerated in this act.

#### **Section 3: Fiscal Officer**

The Clerk shall be the Fiscal Officer and shall perform the duties of the Fiscal Officer enumerated in this act.

#### **Section 4: Public Hearings on the Budget**

For general law townships: Public Hearings on the proposed budget were held on March 11, 2024.

#### **Section 5: Estimated Revenues**

Estimated township general fund revenues for fiscal year 2024-25, including an allocated millage of 1.5 mills; voter-authorized millage of 1.5 mills; and various miscellaneous revenues shall total \$90,526.00.

Estimated township fire fund revenues for fiscal year 2024-25, including an allocated millage of 3.0 mills; voter-authorized millage of 3.0 mills; and various miscellaneous revenues shall total \$46,216.00.

#### **Section 6: Millage Levy**

The Gourley Township Board shall cause to be levied and collected the general property tax on all real and personal property within the township upon the current tax roll an amount equal to 1.2992 mills for General Fund and 2.2992 mills for Fire Fund as set forth by the Tax Allocation Board.

#### **Section 7: Estimated Expenditures**

Estimated township General Fund expenditures for fiscal year 2024-25 for the various township activities shall total \$90,482.93 and \$46,194.10 for the Fire Fund.

**Section 8: Adoption of Budget by Reference**

The General Fund and Fire Fund budget of Gourley Township is hereby adopted by reference, with revenues and activity expenditures as indicated in Sections 5 and 7 of this act.

**Section 9: Adoption of Budget by Cost Centers**

The Board of Trustees of Gourley Township adopts the 2024-25 fiscal year General Fund budget by line item. Township officials responsible for the expenditures authorized in the budget may expend township funds up to, but not to exceed, the total appropriation authorized for each line item. No transfers of line item appropriations shall be made without prior board approval by budget amendment.

**Section 10: Appropriation not a Mandate to Spend**

Appropriations will be deemed maximum authorizations to incur expenditures. The fiscal officer shall exercise supervision and control to ensure that expenditures are within appropriations.

**Section 11: Transfer Authority**

Under no circumstances may the total general fund or fire fund budget be changed without prior board approval.

**Section 12: Periodic Fiscal Reports**

The fiscal officer shall transmit to the board at each board meeting the actual financial condition of the General Fund and Fire Fund, and showing the receipts and expenditures and encumbrances for the current month.

**Section 13: Limit on Obligations and Payments**

No obligation shall be incurred against, and no payment shall be made from any appropriation account unless there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriation and sufficient funds are or will be available to meet the obligation.

**Section 14: Budget Monitoring**

Whenever it appears to the Chief Administrative Officer or the Township Board that the actual and probable revenues in any fund will be less than the estimated revenues upon which appropriations from such fund were based, and when it appears that expenditures shall exceed an appropriation, the Chief Administrative Officer shall present to the township board recommendations to prevent expenditures from exceeding available revenues or appropriations for the current fiscal year. Such recommendations shall include proposals for reducing appropriations, increasing revenues, or both.

**Section 15: Violations of This Act**

Any obligation incurred or payment authorized in violation of this resolution shall be void and shall subject any responsible officials or employees to disciplinary action by the Gourley Township Board.



**Section 16: Board Adoption**

Motion made by Stephanie, seconded by Ivy to adopt the foregoing ordinance.  
Upon roll call vote, the following voted aye: 5. The following voted nay: 0. The supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

  
Gourley Township Clerk



Ivy Netzel &lt;gourleytownship@gmail.com&gt;

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**Statement to be read at the March 11, 2024 Township Board Meeting**

4 messages

Joanne Polfus &lt;joannepolfus@gmail.com&gt;

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 11:41 PM

To: "gourleytownship@gmail.com" &lt;gourleytownship@gmail.com&gt;

Good Morning-I cannot attend the board meeting tonight, thus I would like this email read at the meeting.

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the proposed graveling/road widening project in our township (road below Ervin Polfus family residence), specifically the decision to cut down trees and disrupt the natural landscape in an area that seems to have very little necessity for such development. This road has no permanent residents. One person who owns a hunting camp on this road complained about the road. Now, a tremendous amount of time and money is going into improving this road, including cutting down trees on our property because of the complaints of one taxpayer/landowner.

As a resident and taxpayers within the township, we are troubled by the apparent lack of consideration for the environmental impact of this project. It has come to our attention that the proposed road widening would not only result in the destruction of trees but also the removal of valuable natural habitats, including lady slippers. These are not merely inconsequential elements of our landscape; they contribute to the biodiversity and ecological balance of our community.

Moreover, it is disheartening to learn that the landowners affected by this project were not adequately informed or consulted. It is their property that will bear the brunt of this unnecessary intervention, yet we were NOT allowed to voice our own concerns or explore alternative solutions. This graveling has been talked about for three years and not ONE time have we been informed of it.

We urge you and the township authorities to reconsider the necessity and feasibility of this graveling/road widening project. Is the anticipated benefit worth the irreversible damage to our environment and the disenfranchisement of our fellow landowners? Could alternative routes or solutions be explored that minimize environmental impact and respect the rights of property owners?

Furthermore, we urge the township to adopt more transparent and inclusive practices when it comes to decision-making processes that affect our community and our environment. Residents and stakeholders deserve to be informed and consulted on matters that have significant repercussions for our township's future.

In conclusion, we implore you to halt the current plans for road widening and tree removal until a thorough reassessment can be conducted, taking into account the environmental, social, and economic implications of this project. Let us work together to find solutions that preserve our natural heritage and uphold the rights and well-being of all members of our community.

3/11/24, 12:00 PM

Gmail - Statement to be read at the March 11, 2024 Township Board Meeting

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and action on this issue.

The family of Ervin and Hildegarde Polfus-

Joanne Polfus

Ervin Polfus, Jr.

Carolyn Laurin

Bob Polfus

Patricia Polfus

Paul Polfus

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Ivy Netzel <gourleytownship@gmail.com>  
To: Joanne Polfus <joannepolfus@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 11, 2024 at 11:57 AM

Hi Joanne, thank you for sending this email. I will read it at the board meeting tonight.

Sincerely,  
Ivy Netzel, Clerk  
Gourley Township  
[Quoted text hidden]

