

SPALDING TOWNSHIP  
POWERS, MICHIGAN 49874  
December 20th, 2023 - 6:30 PM

**These minutes are approved**

**CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

The meeting was brought to order by Supervisor Moraska. The following Board members were present: Jim Moraska, Jerry Bartnicki, Cheryl Mencinger, Kevin LaBonte and Chris LeBoeuf. Guests included, Leon Felch, Jim Nowack, Randy Viau, Dan Hammerberg, Larry Johnson, and Gerald Kleiman.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

The motion was made by Kevin to approve the agenda with Chris supporting.

**CLERKS REPORT:**

All bills are up to date. A motion was made to accept the Clerks Report by Jim and was seconded by Chris. Chris and Kevin looked over the expense statements. Minutes of the monthly meetings can be viewed on the Township website located at [www.powers-spalding.org](http://www.powers-spalding.org).

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Jerry gave the financial hand out showing the Township's monthly balances and went over the report. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Kevin and seconded by Cheryl.

**LIQUOR REPORT:**

All is well at both taverns and at the grocery store for December.

**FIRE REPORT/FIRE CHIEF & FIRE DEPT:**

*The Department responded to 6 calls costing 0 dollars in losses and spending a total of 9 hours and 7 minutes. 3 memos were submitted.*

**2022 AFG Grant**

I had submitted the grant on February 10, 2023 for a new engine. Based on preliminary estimates I received from one of the truck dealers I requested \$480,000.00 in the grant application. If awarded our matching share of the grant is \$22,857.14. **We were notified on December 7, 2023 that our application did not score high enough to make it to the panel review and our request was not awarded.**

Subject: **Memo #2 Annual Recognition Dinner**

The members were requesting if the board would host the annual recognition dinner as they had in past years. We are requesting to use Cindy Swille as the caterer and have it at the hall as in the most recent years. We are requesting your permission with the planning of the event. The members selected January 20 as the date for the event depending on Cindy's availability. A motion was made by Jim and supported by Chris to allow the dinner.

Subject: **Memo #3 Millage Request/Engine 1 replacement**

We have been applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for more than 10 years in an attempt to replace Engine 1 with no success. We had an issue with the 1989 FMC truck where we couldn't get brake parts and needed to replace the truck. The truck was replaced with a used 1996 Freightliner Pierce truck purchased used from the Town of Calumet Wisconsin. The used truck from Calumet that replaced the 1989 has more hours and miles on it than the truck it replaced however it is currently working. We would have had a good chance at getting the 1989 replaced under the grant program by now because the age of the vehicles being replaced by the AFG award seems to need to be over 30 years old.

The request to replace Engine 1 has been brought to the board verbally in the past. When it was brought to the board 3 years ago the cost of replacement with a new truck was around \$330,000.00. Last November we met with an apparatus supplier and specified a vehicle to replace Engine 1. The quote was not returned to us until June. The quote we received was \$615,000.00 or nearly double what the quote was three years ago. The supplier further told us that in the coming year there will be an increase in the cost of around \$60,000.00 due to the new emissions standards that were coming into effect. We were also told that the prices quoted will likely go up since the time between ordering the truck and delivery to our station would likely be at least 2 years due to labor and manufacturing delays. Delivery times for the previous vehicles we purchased was 8 to 10 months.

Our fire truck fleet is aging and we need to look toward replacement of the fleet based on the vehicles that see the most use and are most needed. Based on today's date this is the list and ages of the vehicles in our fleet:

- Engine 1                      1996 Freightliner/Pierce      27 years old
- Engine/Tender 2      2005 Kenworth/Pierce      18 years old
- Tender 3                      1991 International/Monroe      32 years old
- Brush Truck 4              1987 GMC                      36 years old
- Rescue 5                      1996 International              27 years old

While the vehicles look great on the outside there is much rust underneath the vehicles and parts to fix the vehicles are getting more difficult to find.

I am asking that the board look toward replacing Engine 1. The reason I am asking to replace this particular vehicle is not only due to its age but also it is the vehicle that is used on each and every call to protect the nearly \$64,000,000.00 of property we have in our township. I am asking the board to consider putting a question on the ballot in August 2024 requesting 1 mill for 10 years to be used for truck and equipment upgrades/replacement. The Board decided to table this until the next Board meeting which is January 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### **CEMETERY/PARK REPORT:**

The Township is no longer burying until next spring. Campground is now closed.

### **ASSESSOR'S REPORT:**

There has been several changes in what the assessors are having to do and it seems more and more work is being dumped on the Assessors.

### **SHERIFF'S REPORT:**

No report was presented.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **PARK VIEWING PLATFORM**

All of the ground work is done for the platform and Jim would like to apply to Hannahville for a 2% Grant to finish the Park platform.

#### **GENERATOR INFORMATION**

We are finalizing all the things that were not finished on the general installation, they didn't fix the road behind the Township and they requested we hire someone local to repair that. We are having Jamie Gagne repair it and deduct his wages from the price. We also had them remove the sales tax because Townships are tax exempt.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **ROAD REPAIR REPORT**

The minutes from Michigan Township Association's dinner meeting had Darrell Cass's explanation about the roads in Menominee County and a lot of good information. The minutes have been put on our website at [www.powers-spalding.org](http://www.powers-spalding.org).

#### **BOILER INFORMATION**

Richer Refrigeration was at our Township looking over all the problems with the boilers. They found several issues that need to be addressed, and it was stated to fix what needs to be fixed. The boilers haven't been right since we got control of the new building.

#### **ANNUAL ROAD COMMISSION MEETING JAN 24<sup>TH</sup> 2024 AT 8:30 AM**

Jim plans on attending this meeting, anyone else that would like to go, get ahold of Jim Moraska.

### **CONFERENCE ROOM TV'S**

We have a grant that would put TV's in the conference room. It was decided to put one more tv in the conference room.

### **GREAT LAKES FISHERIES LETTER**

\_Jim received a letter from Great Lakes Fisheries requesting information as to who owns the dam at the Park. Jim will talk to them, they are more interested with the lamprey

### **MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS (ROLL CALL VOTE)**

Motion was made to pay the bills by Chris and seconded by Jerry, Motion approved.  
Roll Call Vote: Jim, yes, Cheryl, yes, Jerry, yes, Kevin, yes Chris, yes, Motion approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE TOWNSHIP:**

A motion was made to adjourn by Kevin with Jerry seconding. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M. CST

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Mencinger, Township Clerk