

Approved 3/29/2019
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2019
WATERSMEET COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 6:30pm

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting was offered by Alan Piel with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Dave Lamoreaux stated that the agenda for the meeting had not been posted. Sandy Mansfield answered that it was sent to the town's website on Monday, but apparently it was missed and not put up by the webmaster.

A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item #7 SAW Grant Contract to camera the sewer system was offered by Paul Kempainen with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion to approve the March 2019 Board of Review Dates was offered by Bill Neumann and supported by Alan Piel. The dates will be on March 11, 2019 from 2pm to 9pm and on March 12, 2019 from 9am to 3pm. Motion carried. Dave Lamoreaux stated that there may be a need to extend the times a bit and we will post ahead of time if that is the case.
2. A request was received from U.P.S.E.T. (Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team) for fiscal support in any amount that could be given. In the past we have given \$500.00. A motion to send \$500 for fiscal support was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kempainen. Roll Call Vote....Ayes: Mike Rogers, Paul Kempainen, Alan Piel, Bill Neumann, Sandy Mansfield. Motion carried.
3. Bill Neumann, Fire Commissioner, presented an application for a new Fire Department member, Konrad Caudill and made a motion to accept the application. Support was offered by Alan Piel. Motion carried. We are happy to welcome Konrad to the Department.
4. A motion to approve a contract for a communication tower by the Transfer Station was offered by Paul Kempainen with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried. The township will receive \$1100 per month rental plus 1.5% interest per year for a total of 5 years with renewals up to 25 years.
5. Bill Neumann offered a motion to approve the requested appropriation for The Gogebic County Veterans in the amount of \$6384.00. This is a yearly amount that each township/city pays. The motion was supported by Alan Piel. Roll Call Vote.....Ayes: Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Alan Piel, Sandy Mansfield. Motion carried.
6. Several resolutions were presented to satisfy AMAR-2 requirements for assessing.

A resolution to ADOPT ALTERNATE START DATES FOR THE 2019 BOARD OF REVIEW was offered by Paul Kempainen with support from Bill Neumann. Yeas: Unanimous, Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Alan Piel, Sandy Mansfield. Resolution declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

A resolution TO ALLOW LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PROTEST IN WRITING THEIR TAX ASSESSMENTS from the 1st Tuesday in March until it adjourns from the public hearings for which it meets to hear such protests, or as otherwise specified on the Notice of Assessment. Yeas: Unanimous, Paul Kempainen, Bill Neumann, Mike Rogers, Alan Piel, Sandy Mansfield. The resolution was declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

A resolution for PUBLIC INSPECTION AND COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS and a policy for such was offered by Paul Kempainen and supported by Alan Piel. Yeas: Unanimous, Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield. The resolution was declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

A resolution to ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING AND REMOVING REAL PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS was offered by Sandy Mansfield and supported by Paul Kempainen. Yeas: Unanimous, Paul Kempainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Mike Rogers, Sandy Mansfield. The resolution was declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

A resolution to WAIVE PENALTIES FOR THE LATE FILING OF PROPERTY TRANSFER AFFIDAVITS was offered by Alan Piel with support from Bill Neumann. Yeas: Unanimous, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Mike Rogers, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield. The resolution was declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

A resolution for a GUIDELINE FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION was offered by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kempainen. Yes: Unanimous, Mike Rogers, Alan Piel, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield. The resolution was declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

These resolutions were all passed in an effort to maintain a more comprehensive file for the state when the AMAR reviews arrive.

7. Coleman Engineering put out bids to camera our sewer system as is needed for our SAW Grant. The bid came in \$13,000 under what was expected and the bid was accepted in the amount of \$25809.30. The company receiving the bid is Green Bay Pipe & TV, LLC. A motion to accept and sign the contract was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Unanimous, Mike Rogers, Paul Kempainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Sandy Mansfield. Motion carried.

BILLS: A motion to accept and approve the bills as presented was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kempainen. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: As many of the town's people are aware, there was a facebook post regarding a police dispute. The response from the Township was read into the record. It follows after the minutes. Police R. Burke asked to say a few words. He said that he did initiate discussion of the separation and there was a draft agreement but it was never formally agreed upon. We concur. He stated that he was told that the township wouldn't let the tribe work with them unless they paid us \$30,000. The sheriff also stated at one of the meetings that the cross deputation should take place between the township and

the Tribe, not the Sheriff and the Tribe. Chief Burke and Jeffrey McGeshick, also present at tonight's meeting, suggest that we try to have a meeting with the Council again to iron out some of the misunderstandings that have occurred. Sandy Mansfield stated that no one from the board ever said that the Tribal police were not doing a good job. They have been taking care of the township for a good many years. The tribe has honored almost every request made by the FD/EMT for equipment and training, they have given money to the Chamber of Commerce, ISCCW, Snowmobile Club, ATV Club, the school and more. There is absolutely no reason for this to become a wedge in the community. As is stated in the Township's response, we have been and still are open to getting a Cross Deputation Agreement between the Township and the Tribe. We did not initiate or want a separation to occur.

TREASURER: There was an error in the winter taxes due to a misunderstanding of the ambulance millage. There was faulty ballot language and there was no formal announcement made to us about not putting the millage on the winter bills. Paul attended a County Board meeting about this as well as questioning the ambulance funding for the 2019 year. If the millage was not put on the tax bills, where is the money coming from? Beacon was awarded the contract for everyone but Watersmeet in the amount of \$370,000. The funding is not set up yet, but he got no answer as to where it is coming from. He was told by a County Board member that they were tired of hearing about PILT funds and we should take it to the State. We are still processing refund checks for the 1st bills sent out. The error has cost time and money, but is being taken care of. This is the reason that the balance is low at this time. There are deposits that still need to be made. The checkbook is balanced.

Dave Lamoreaux asked to have the school tax increase explained again and Paul did his best to help him understand why it was done. Questions about this should really go to the Superintendent of the school so he can explain the reasoning.

CLERK: We received a letter from the Land O'Lakes Library Board updating us on some of the library projects funded in part by Gogebic County Penal Money. This year funds were used for new computers, replacing folding tables and chairs and support programming and general services for library patrons.

FIRE COMMISSIONER: Welcomed Konrad Caudill to the FD. Reported that there were CPR classes held this week for the members.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Paul Kemppainen with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township