

APPROVED 2/15/2017  
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017 6:30PM  
FOREST SERVICE ADMIN BUILDING  
[www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us)

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

Members present: Mike Rogers, Alan Piel, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield  
Citizens: 11

The minutes from the December 21, 2016 meeting were approved with changes to "Old Business" were as follows: Also added to the new Rental Agreement for the Community Center was a provision for ancillary township equipment rentals, such as a sound system, etc. when available. This motion was offered by Alan Piel with a second by Paul Kempainen. Motion passed. A motion to accept the minutes from special meetings of December 26, 2016 and January 5, 2017 was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried.

Special Appearances:

Kathy Thrall appeared on behalf of the local St. Vincent DePaul food pantry. She wanted to know if they will be able to have use of the current town offices once the offices are moved to the new Community Center. She also explained that approximately 3360 people (960) families use this service. It is funded by private donations a monthly donations from the local Catholic Church. Supervisor Rogers explained that the food pantry will always have space provided for by the Township and that when a decision is made regarding the current building they use, the building on Hwy 45 is an option.

Public Comments:

Julie Mathiesen commented that the minutes from the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were not correct as far as her comments regarding the Planning Commission members. She cited a 2013 court case where the courts ruled that a volunteer fire fighter was an "employee" under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, "employees" can't serve on a local planning commission. Therefore, volunteer fire fighters for Watersmeet Township cannot be members of the township Planning Commission. The sited court case, and our attorney's response letter are available at the township offices Monday-Friday, 7:45am-3:45pm. In order to understand the attorney's response, in 2015 the Legislature determined that communities under 40,000 could be at a disadvantage for Commission members due to population. Our township has under 1500 residents. It was further determined that where the firefighter is supervised by the Town Board and not the Planning Commission, the two positions are not incompatible. This is according to the Incompatible Offices Act of 2015. The Courts interpret the laws, but it is the Legislature that make the laws. David Sherrill spoke about 2 special use permits that were outstanding. One for Northeast Asphalt for a paving plant and a second permit for short term rental on Duck Lake. There are some issues that need to be clarified before the rental permit can be discussed. A letter will be sent to the one residence that is within the 300' of the asphalt plant. If there is opposition and a public hearing needs to be held, it will be posted. David also brought up the fact that the yearly reports have not been completed, nor have the Master and Rec Plans. Supervisor Rogers stated that he would write a letter to the Planning Commission and let them know that they must finish and submit these items to the board.

New Business:

1. A letter of resignation from Bruce Caudill, Fire Chief, was read to the board. It is with regret that it was accepted with a motion from Bill Neumann and support from Alan Piel. Motion carried.
2. Contract for the Whitefish Lake Trail. A resolution was offered by Paul Kemppainen with support from Bill Neumann to hire MSA for a licensed Prime Professional to prepare plans, specifications and bid documents for the project as well as oversee the project construction.  
Aye votes: Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Alan Piel, Bill Neumann, Sandy Mansfield. Nays: None. Resolution declared "passed".
3. A motion was offered by Bill Neumann with a second from Alan Piel to Opt Out of PA152 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. This is to keep the union employees from paying part of their health insurance costs. The township has always picked this up as part of their wages. Motion carried with roll call vote: Yeas: Unanimous, Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel and Sandy Mansfield.
4. A motion to approve Roger Kohlehmainen as the auditor for the 2016-2017 fiscal year was offered by Paul Kemppainen and supported by Alan Piel. Motion carried.
5. Approval of new fire department member. An application for the fire department was submitted by Betty Bolton of Watersmeet. A motion to approve the application was made by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried. We are very happy to receive another member.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel to approve the payment of the bills presented. Motion carried. GF Checks #36698-36716, Water #3185-3187, Waste Water #3999.

Reports:

Supervisor: Semco Energy will be running the gas line to the new Community Center for the future hook up of a generator. Appliances have been purchased for the new Kitchen.

Treasurer: About 1100 of the taxes sent out have been paid. The checkbook is balanced.

Clerk: There have been numerous inquiries about the rental of the hall in the Community Center.

Correspondence:

There was a letter of thanks received from UPSET (Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team) for the \$500 support from the Township.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk  
Watersmeet Township