

APPROVED 8/16/2017
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017
6:30PM
WATERSMEET COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

The regular monthly meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:33 by Supervisor Rogers.

Members present: Mike Rogers, Paul Kempainen, Alan Piel, Sandy Mansfield

Member absent: Bill Neumann

Citizens present: 10

Also present: Bruce Mahler, Police Chief Richie Burke and Township Attorney, Tim Dean

A motion was offered by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kempainen to approve the minutes of the special meeting held July 13, 2017 and the regular June meeting held June 21, 2017. Motion carried.

Appearances:

Bruce Mahler, Marenisco Police Chief was on hand to give us a rundown of how and what some of the items are that we must do in order to develop our own police department. Township Attorney Tim Dean was also present as he will be the one filing paperwork for us. One of the first items would be to establish an ORI number (a department ID number). Because the township at one time had its own department, Supervisor Rogers was able to contact the state and get our existing number. One less hurdle that needs to be overcome. It was explained that there is really no downside to having our own department and the greatest upside is that we would have control. He also went into detail about how important it will be to hire the right person for the job. Someone that will understand that it is a 24/7 job, not 9-5. We will be looking into cross deputizing LVD tribal police also and our officer would be cross deputized with them. Tickets written for driving infractions, etc. would be paid to the township, not the county. One large plus is that while the LVD police department has access to federal grant monies, we would then be eligible for certain other grants and the 2 departments could work together for the betterment of the entire community. Chief Burke also mentioned that there is the possibility that the tribal police could help out with a vehicle and gear. Chief Mahler also stated that we could possibly get our weapons through the Seized Weapons Program. Communications gear would be supplied by the 911 Committee of Gogebic County. There are many programs available for funding and these all need to be explored. David Sherrill raised the question regarding liability insurance for our own officer. Our insurance agent was contacted and gave us a figure estimated at an additional \$1000/person/year.

New Business:

Now that the community center is finished, voting will take place in the hall and not the fire garage. A motion was offered by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kempainen to change the location of polling from the Fire Hall to the community hall located at N4689 First Street, beginning with the next election that is held. Motion carried.

An update was given on the Federal PILT money. A FOIA was filed with Gogebic County asking for breakdowns money Gogebic County received from PILT (payment in lieu of taxes for federal lands from Watersmeet, Marenisco and Wakefield Townships). The report was discussed and we will have to determine where we go from here in order to get our share of what is given to the County.

A resolution was offered by Paul Kemppainen with support from Sandy Mansfield to accept the low bid from Pitlik and Wick for work on the Whitefish Trail Project. Bids were opened on July 20, 2017 at 1:00pm. Pitlik's bid was for \$202,109.00. Resolution Roll Call: Yeas, Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Alan Piel, Sandy Mansfield. Absent, Bill Neumann. Resolution declared passed.

The Supervisor has the right to make a purchase without asking for bids on a project that is less than \$20,000 as long as there is a motion passed at the next township board meeting. Supervisor Rogers accepted the quote from Northwood Paving in Ashland, Wisconsin for the Community Center parking lot and area of "D" Avenue that was dug up during construction. The cost being \$18,420.71. A motion was offered by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kemppainen to accept this bid. Roll Call Vote, AYES: Mike Rogers, Alan Piel, Paul Kemppainen, Sandy Mansfield. ABSENT: Bill Neumann. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

A motion by Paul Kemppainen, with support from Alan Piel to pay bills as presented for payment. Motion carried. Checks from the GF #37177 thru 37183.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: We have received a quote for a 100kw Kohler emergency generator in the amount of \$24,850. This is a larger generator than one that was quoted before at the approximate cost. We need to think further on this before a decision is made.

Treasurer: We are on the downslide as far as income until we get our portion of taxes in December. Checkbook is balanced.

Police Chief: Chief Burke went over some of the items that Chief Mahler spoke about and gave a short report on the month's action.

Fire Chief: There were no fire calls for the month. The fire fighter class testing will be September 30 and we should then have 6 newly certified fire fighters. Chief Hacker wanted to be sure that a thank you was given to Kathy Stupak-Thrall for the use of her boats for a rescue of a 12 year old boy in the Sylvania Wilderness with a leg laceration. He also brought up that Watersmeet is the only "stand alone" department. We do Rescue, Fire and Medical on our own. Supervisor Rogers also added that our fire and rescue personnel all have "day jobs" too. If they are out on calls all night, they still have to get up and go to their regular jobs. They all do a great job for our township.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Alan Piel with support from Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township