

APPROVED 9/19/2018
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018
6:30PM
COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

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

Members Present: Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield. Absent: Alan Piel

Public Comments:

Julie Mathiesen stated that she was glad to see that the Planning Commission is instituting new language to demonstrate the intent to impose and collect fines for Special Use Permits that are not followed properly. This can be a good source of revenue once in place.

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was offered by Paul Kempainen with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried.

New Business:

The township has two accounts in Huntington Bank that were established for use in building the new offices and community center. We are only receiving a very small amount of interest on these accounts and would like to transfer the money to Miners State Bank in Iron River where we have been quoted a much larger interest figure. Paul Kempainen offered a resolution to move the money from Huntington Bank to Miners State Bank in order to collect the larger amount in interest. The resolution was supported by Bill Neumann. Roll Call Vote: Ayes....Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Sandy Mansfield. Absent: Alan Piel. Resolution declared "passed" by Supervisor Rogers.

A motion was offered by Bill Neumann to approve the bills presented for payment. Paul Kempainen supported the motion. Motion carried.

Reports:

Supervisor....We have received the permits from the DEQ for the new lift station with one change. The DEQ wants us to have two 27HP pumps which will cost about \$6,000 per pump and the project will total an estimated \$142,000. The pumps are about 6 weeks out, but there is other work that will begin so everything will be ready when the pumps arrive. Supervisor Rogers stated that this project is not being done by getting a loan for the work, we have the needed funds in the waste water account.

We want everyone to be aware that the County will probably be asking for an additional mil this coming November in the General Election. This would be for ambulance coverage for the county. Please do some research about this cost to Watersmeet Township. That will mean an approximate \$167,000 in taxes from our township to the County. Right now, we split our ambulance cost with the Tribe and we each pay \$21,500 per year. The county has stated that we will have an ambulance based in Watersmeet, but we will have to foot the bill for a barn to house it and we aren't sure how they will handle the coverage of shifts.

Charter Communications is putting up a permanent structure by the water tower to replace the temporary one that now exists. We have been receiving \$100/month, but that amount will now be increased to \$700/month.

Vertical Bridge Development, LLC has inquired about putting up a tower near the Transfer Station. We would receive \$500/month rent. This company would then in return rent out space to companies for cell phones, etc. Nothing has been decided and we will have to decide if we want to negotiate a 10 year contract with a renewal at that time.

Treasurer...We are all balanced at this time and our account balances will go down now until December. September 14th is the last day to pay summer taxes before a penalty is imposed.

Clerk....Primary is over and will wait for the General Election ballots to arrive in September and then we will gear up for November 6, 2018. The auditor will be here beginning Monday, Aug. 20, 2018. There will be a pancake breakfast at the Pavilion on Saturday 8/18/2018 sponsored by the Fireman's Association. It will be from 7am to 11am.

Fire Commissioner.....Jim Loeper director of the 911 program in Gogebic County was at the meeting to do a radio and pager check. Questions were raised about times when the Aspirus ambulance is already in town and a page comes in. When this happens, both the ambulance and our first responders are dispatched at the same time. Need to check to see who actually responds or do both go.

Julie Mathiesen asked Paul to explain a bit more about the Planning Commission meeting that took place August 8th. There was not a quorum at meeting time and they had to wait for more members to arrive. There are some citizens that are concerned that the present members not all are committed to their positions. Paul stated that according to MTA law, in order to resign from the committee, they must submit their intent to resign in writing to the Township Board. It was also asked if the number of seats could be reduced in order to need less attendance to meet a quorum. There will be a special meeting on Monday, August 20th at 6:30 to discuss the new Short Term Rental document that has been proposed. At the August 8th PC meeting there was a motion to have a moratorium on short term rentals, but after checking with legal counsel, it was found out that proper procedure had not been followed.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kempainen. Motion Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township