

APPROVED 11/21/2018
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018
6:30PM
COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

The October meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 6:34 pm. Members present: Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Paul Kemppainen, Sandy Mansfield.

Citizens: 22

A motion was offered by Alan Piel with support from Bill Neumann to accept and approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 19th and the special meeting of September 20th. Motion carried.

There was a special appearance by Kylee Gross of ATT. Ms Gross was present to explain a new system "1st Net" being put into place by AT&T. The system is for enhanced communication for 1st responders, Fire department members, and other emergency departments and personnel. It was conceived after 911 when the largest problem with emergency agencies was the lines of communication. The system could take up to 48 months to be available in our area, and Bill Neumann will follow up with her and her superiors to find out more information on exactly what and when it will be available for our use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Julie Mathiesen had a question about the ordinance changes that were proposed and handed out to the board and public. There was an item added to 6.01B R&F (within the Transition Zone) under 1 Primary uses Without Special Approval. She questioned whether or not it should be moved to 6.02 A Primary uses Without Special Approval (not within the Transition Zone). It was also brought up by Trustee Neumann that "multiple family residential structures" be further defined.

Diana Mehlhop asked for some background on why we are establishing our own police department and Mike Rogers told her we would give her that information once we entered into the Public Hearing.

Dave Neumann stated that as long as we are changing the ordinance for number of residences that can be built on property, we need to look at something in writing as far as rental restrictions also.

A motion was offered by Paul Kemppainen with support from Bill Neumann to enter into the Public Hearing. Motion carried. Hearing entered into at approximately 7:15 pm. Supervisor Rogers gave a rundown on how this decision came about. There was a lengthy discussion that followed. The Township is legally able to levy up to 5.2 mils and we have been at 3.43 mils for a number of years. We are increasing the millage to 4.43 mils to cover the cost of 1 full time and 2 part time officers. We will not have any jurisdiction on Tribal Land, their police department will handle those calls. Chief Burke stated that in an emergency, they would assist us on a call if possible.

A motion to return to the regular meeting was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried. Regular meeting reentered at 7:40pm.

Alan Piel offered a motion with support from Paul Kemppainen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Approval of Ordinance changes

After a discussion of the proposed changes presented to the board, a motion to table the approval until further changes could be made, was offered by Sandy Mansfield with support from Bill Neumann. Motion carried.

Bill Neumann noticed an error in one of the checks presented for approval. The wrong line item number had been placed on a paycheck. Sandy Mansfield said it was her error and she would correct it after the meeting. A motion was then offered by Alan Piel to approve the bills that were presented for payment. Bill Neumann supported the motion. Motion carried. GF checks between meetings #38205 thru 38270, WW Fund #4106 & 4107, W Fund #3300 thru 3303. Bills presented for payment GF #38271 thru 38286, WW Fund #4108 thru 4113, and Water Fund #3304 thru 3306.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: The lift station has been down for quite some time now and our Foreman has been spending many hours keeping it going. The pumps have been on back order for some time now. The by-pass pump should be here tomorrow so we can get up and running and back on track. The tower talked about at August's meeting is still not a sure thing. They had offered \$500/month rent. After some research, our attorney said that downstate they are getting \$1500-2500/month. Mike told them we wanted \$1000/month plus 3% interest per year. They came back with \$1100/month plus 1.5%. We have not heard anything final.

There will be a special meeting on Wednesday, October 24th at 6:00pm at the Community Center regarding the millage proposal for ambulance service in Gogebic County. Please tell friends and neighbors about this. As it stands now, there are no assurances Watersmeet will get an ambulance stationed here or be staffed by the service. It will cost our Township approximately \$167,000/year for whatever service they provide. Right now, the Tribe and Township are splitting the cost of having Aspirus' ambulance service out of Iron River \$21,500 each and the Township pays the wages for the EMTs and First Responders plus the cost of medical supplies and vehicle gas, oil and maintenance. There is no way this comes close to \$167,000. Again, please attend this meeting to get questions answered so you can make an informed decision about this proposal.

Treasurer: The General Fund balance is dropping as this is that time of year with summer tax collecting being finished. The winter taxes will go out the first week in December. All our accounts are balanced at this time.

Clerk: The audit has been finished and handed back to us. We received a passing grade. The election is coming up fast. Make it a point to get out to vote.

Fire Commissioner: Bill will stay in contact with AT&T over this 1st Net that was presented to us tonight. He has rebuilt 1 battery pack for the FD's infrared camera which has saved the township money.

Fire Chief: Quite a few calls keeping the EMS busy

Alan Piel: For those people wanting a sample ballot, you can go online to Michigan.gov/elections. Go to "Information for voters" and then to "things to remember". You can check to verify your registration and look at a sample ballot for our jurisdiction.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township