

**Gourley Township
Menominee County Michigan
Minutes of February 8, 2021 Regular Meeting**

Supervisor, Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 6:05 p.m. and then, asking all to stand, led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Stephen Wery, Supervisor
Stephanie Walechka, Treasurer
Ivy Netzel, Clerk
Dan Cordy, Trustee
Jesse Wery, Trustee

Absent:

Also Attending: Fire Chief Brian Mack, Mark Hannula, Leslie Hannula, Buck Lamarch and Robin Wycoff from Feed America

Agenda: Steve presented the agenda and after review, Jesse made a motion to accept the agenda with Stephanie supporting the motion; it was carried.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Steve made a motion to accept the minutes. Dan supported the motion and it was carried.

Treasurer & Clerk Report:

- NOTE:** The clerk checks the tax fund check book monthly.
- The Financial Report for January 2021 was reviewed and there was \$344,395.79 in the General Fund and \$273,077.41 in the Fire Fund. Steve made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Stephanie supported the motion, and it carried.
 - Fire incentive came close to the \$3,000.00 limit.
 - Budget: will be presented at the March township meeting and passed at the April township meeting. Need to consider new copier, ZOOM subscription, air compressor for fire hall.

Fire Chief Report:

The fire report was presented by the Fire Chief, Brian Mack

- There was 1 run for the month of January.
- By law, the fire department needs to replace all the turnout gear every 10 years. Will ask for a 2% grant to fund it.
- Grass fire gear is on order (DNR 50% grant).

- Pagers and radios need updated.
- Overhead door still needs adjustment.
- Need an electrician to wire up an outlet for the dryer.
- One fire fighter member taking medical first responders training.
- Next meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department for training will be next Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m. CST. Training is the following Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:00 p.m. CST.

Supervisor's Report:

- Board of Review will occur on March 8th (9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.) and 9th (3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.) at the Gourley Township Hall.
- Training for Board of Review is now required. Looking at Feb 26th.
- Working on getting a flag pole and sign for the township.
- Work on the new township hall is almost done.
- Will write a letter to the Menominee County Road Commission to request repair to County Road 557 between Co Rd 374 and Co Rd 380.
- Will submit a new 2% grant for appliances and restroom stalls for the new township hall.

New Business:

- Mark Hannula, Hannula Insurance Agency: Township Hall Rental policy regarding allowance of alcohol.

Renter needs separate high hazard liability insurance (recommended \$1M) if alcohol is being served. Need to consider the liability risk for the township. Hannula Insurance would defend any lawsuit, but sometimes courts can overrule the liability protection and the township could be liable.

No alcohol policy has the least risk associated with hall rental.

Township liability insurance does not go up right away, but underwriters may increase township liability.

Renter needs to have security (off duty sheriff, law enforcement, constable) present during the event if alcohol is being sold.

What happens if the renter cancels the liability insurance prior to the event and not tell the township about it and something happens? It is up to the courts whether the township will be held liable. Hannula will defend the township. Most often the township is not held liable. No protection for the renter by Hannula.

Having someone from township at the event is a good idea.

Renter are responsible to pay for damages to the property.

Liability insurance is a good idea for all renters, even when no alcohol is being served.

- Feed America use of the township hall on March 18th. Planning for 350 families. This would be the first one in rural northern Menominee County and may recur 2-3 times per year. Motion made by Dan to allow Feed America to rent the hall on March 18th to distribute food. Jesse supported the motion. Motion carried.
- Gourley Township Historical Society use of the township hall on February 25th.

Old Business:

- None

Public Comment

- None

Correspondence:

- Menominee County Fair is requesting funding. Township is not allowed to donate funds to other organization. Steve recommended if people want to donate, that they do so privately (not tax payer dollars).

Pay the Bills:

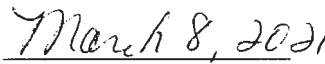
- Stephanie made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by Steve and the motion carried.

Adjourn:

- Steve moved to adjourn. Stephanie supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm CST. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 8, 2021 at 6:00 CST.

Respectfully submitted,


Ivy Netzél, Clerk


Date Approved