

Approved January 15, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2019
6:30PM
COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

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

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

Others present: 11

Public Comments: Tribal Police Chief Burke stated that the minutes from the November meeting misstated his comments about the sentence "The Tribal Police can provide 5 full-time officers for less cost than 1 full-time and 2 part-time officers initially proposed by the Township". His intention was strictly toward the part-time position, that 5 full-time Tribal Police Officers could provide more service for less money than 2 part-time Township Officers. The Town still needs to retain a Chief of Police. He also made a correction in the amount of calls that the Tribal police assisted on since August 1st, 2019 and the locations. That number was 21. Those 21 calls were not on the reservation.

Julie Mathiesen commented on the wonderful response this time to the call put out for Planning Commission members. In the past, we have had to fight to get people to serve and this time there were 5 people that asked to be placed on the list.

A motion was made by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A motion to place Russ Diethert and Bruce Caudill on the Planning Commission as new members and to reappoint John Cestkowski was offered by Paul Kempainen. There was no second to the motion presented in this way. Paul rescinded the motion. A new motion was introduced by Paul Kempainen to appoint Bruce Caudill as a new member to the PC (term ending 12/31/2022) and was supported by Alan Piel. 4 ayes and one nay. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Russ Diethert as a new member (term ending 12/31/2022) to the PC was offered by Paul Kempainen with support from Sandy Mansfield. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion by Paul Kempainen to reappoint John Cestkowski to the Planning Commission (term ending 12/31/2022) and supported by Alan Piel. Motion carried.

Bill Neumann offered a motion to reappoint three members to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Joe LoMastro, Cheryl Pytlarz and John Cestkowski (liaison from the PC) with terms ending 12/31/2022. Support was offered by Alan Piel. Motion carried.

Sandy Mansfield offered comment about Christmas gifts for the 5 township employees in Buildings and Grounds. The current Township Supervisor has been giving out-of-pocket monetary gifts for the past 5 years. Recently other communities have adopted resolution to give holiday gifts and seems like Watersmeet could and should follow suit. A resolution to give the 5 Buildings and Grounds employees \$100 each at the end of the year was offered by Paul Kemppainen along with reimbursing the Supervisor for one of the five years he has given the employees out of his own money. The resolution was supported by Alan Piel. Roll Call vote: Ayes...Paul Kemppainen, Alan Piel, Bill Neumann, Sandy Mansfield. Abstain...Mike Rogers.

Approval of Bills: A motion was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Paul Kemppainen to pay the bills as presented. Check numbers (GF) 39345-39370. (W) 3395, 3397 and (WW) #4202. Motion carried.

Reports:

Supervisor: Supervisor Rogers also corrected the previous minutes regarding the service calls that were assisted by LVD Tribal police. Bob Zelinski had approached Mike Rogers about the old fish hatchery on Old US 2 east stating that it could be a place designated as a historical site or park. Senator McBroom was contacted about having the Road Commission transfer this property to the Township. He stated that a resolution may be needed from the Township and Road Commission in order for that to take place.

Treasurer: Taxes have begun to be collected and the bank balance will begin to show these collections. The County has offered a couple pieces of property to the Township, 1 on Crozer Street and one parcel in the Wakefield addition. These are properties that have not been sold in tax sales and the County does not want them. There is no cost to the Township other than the cleanup in order to possibly resell them.

Clerk: There were numerous "thank yous" to me for the time I have spent in office. Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Jim Pittsley, Judy Hall and so many others. I thank each and every one of you for all the help you have given to me the last seven years and I admire each and every one of you for your dedication to this township. Serving is not an easy job and I have learned that in order to serve you have to develop "thick skin" and turn a deaf ear to insensitive and hurtful comments. Decisions on matters do not come easily and you will always make a choice that will offend someone...it's all part of the job. My hat goes off to Julie Mathiesen for taking on this responsibility and I wish her only the very best. Good Luck Julie, I will be of help if I can.

Census 2020: Martie Wegner spoke about the need for census takers with classes beginning in January. In the last census (2010) only about 50% of the Upper Peninsula was counted and this has impacted the amount of funding we receive for roads, schools, hospitals and the number of seats each state has in the US House of Representatives. Gogebic County is paying \$21.00/hour plus \$.58/mile. For more information please call 1-855-562-2020 or apply on line at 2020census.gov/jobs

Fire Chief: The rescue rig is in need of repairs which will total approximately \$2500 - \$2600. It needs an EGR cooler and valve replacement along with some clearance lights and other minor items. There have been 33 runs this last month...27 medical, 4 fire and 2 snowmobile accidents.

Police chief: April 1 through December 17, 2019 statistics follow: Felony Complaints - 13, Misdemeanor Complaints - 36, Non-Criminal Complaints - 57, Citations issued - 121, Other Agency Assists - 11, Traffic Stops - 183, Arrests - 10, Tribal PD Assists - 4, Calls for service - 93.

A motion to adjourn was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township