

Approved February 19, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2020
9:30 AM
COMMUNITY CENTER
www.watersmeet.us

A special meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 9:30 am.

Members Present: Mike Rogers, Paul Kempainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Julie Mathiesen
Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: None

Agenda changes/approval: A motion to accept the agenda by Alan Piel and supported by Paul Kempainen. Motion carried.

Special Business:

1. Resolution to acquire property – Resolution 2020-01-27-001 was introduced to the Board. The resolution involves acquiring the old fish hatchery property, currently owned by the Gogebic County Road Commission, located on Old US Hwy 2 East. The property consists of approximately 40 acres, spanning both sides of the road. Purchase price is \$1.00 and the property can only be used by the Township as a park. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Paul Kempainen and supported by Bill Neumann. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Full time employee – Supervisor Rogers discussed promoting Kyle Chiochios (currently part-time) to full time status, effective April 1, 2020. Kyle would be given the option of joining the union and would be eligible for benefits. He would remain at his current hourly rate for a 30-day probationary period, then on May 1st his wage would increase to the rate specified by the union contract. A motion to elevate Kyle to full time status was made by Bill Neumann and supported by Alan Piel. Motion carried.
3. Name community center hall – Supervisor Rogers proposed naming the Community Center “Valhalla”, the hall in which heroes slain in battle were received by the Norse god Odin. He suggested this would be a way to recognize the Nordic heritage of many community members. There was some discussion about needing to consider the broader diversity in the community. Motion to approve the name was made by Alan Piel and supported by Paul Kempainen. Motion carried.
4. Dash cams for police cars - Supervisor Rogers discussed the need for better video surveillance systems in the police cars. Current cameras meet liability insurance requirements, but do not necessarily meet law enforcement standards. Chief Runcie has been researching in-car camera systems, focusing on WatchGuard and WolfCom systems. The WatchGuard system would cost

\$5,131 per vehicle, while the WolfCom system would cost \$3,000 per vehicle. The WolfCom system was the preferred choice and Supervisor Rogers asked for a motion to approve purchase. This generated lengthy discussion, including questions about installation costs, detailed specifications for the systems, video quality, and whether there should be more focus on hiring additional officers rather equipment purchases. Paul Kemppainen made a motion to table until the regular February Board meeting, with support from Bill Neumann. Motion to table carried. Bill will do some research on the camera systems prior to the next meeting.

As there was no further business, Bill Neumann motioned to adjourn, supported by Alan Piel. Seconding. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Mathiesen, Clerk
Watersmeet Township