

Approved May 20, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2020
11:00 AM
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A special meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 11:00 AM.

Members Present: Mike Rogers, Paul Kemppainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, and Julie Mathiesen

Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: Ryan Leuzzo, Township Police Chief and Mark Erhart, Township Assessor

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions for the FY 2020- 2021 budget and to discuss a temporary (90-day) cross-deputization agreement with the LVD Police Department. Bill Neumann moved to approve the agenda. Alan Piel seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Rogers distributed his most recent budget numbers and summarized the cost centers that need to be moved and/or balanced. He also highlighted those for which he needed additional information from the clerk's office prior to completion. Julie Mathiesen distributed a proposed Wages and Stipends chart for FY 2020-2021, summarizing the changes that were made from the prior year. Mark Erhart proposed new stipends for Board of Review (BOR) members, which the Board of Trustees agreed should be incorporated into the chart. Other changes made by the Board include: 1) No stipend for summer help, since the addition of new full-time employee should eliminate the need for part-time summer employees; 2) Salary for full-time Police Chief and wages for potential part-time officers were added to the chart; 3) The stipend for First Responders were increased so they would be the same as those for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

Ryan Leuzzo summarized the items he was reviewing with Mike Rogers for the police department budget. Julie Mathiesen then asked Ryan to describe for the Board the encounter he had with Paul Runcie on March 22nd, when Mr. Runcie appeared at the office to collect some personal items. She felt there were statements made that may affect budgeting and suggested the Board might want to go into closed session for the discussion. Mike Rogers stated a closed session discussion was not necessary. Ryan reported the counter as confrontational, with Mr. Runcie stating the Township Police Department and Mr. Leuzzo would both "fail within the year". Mr. Runcie further stated the Township owes him 180 hours of compensatory time and he's hired an attorney to address the matter and he (Mr. Runcie) will be contacting the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to request an audit of the Township Police Department. Following Mr. Runcie's departure from the office, Chief Leuzzo noticed the "personal" items removed apparently included power strips, connective cords and other items necessary for use of the electronic equipment in the room. The Board directed him to replace missing items as needed. The Board also asked Chief Leuzzo to summarize at a future meeting what an MCOLES audit would entail and potential

issues that might arise, noting that an audit would essentially reflect on the work performed by Mr. Runcie as former police chief.

Mike Rogers presented the Board with a draft cross-deputization agreement between the Township and Tribal police departments. The agreement is for 90-days, allowing for review of the working relationship during that time. Bill Neumann provided comments on the agreement, noting he would like to see them addressed before a future, long-term agreement was signed. Mike Rogers indicated the Township Attorney, Tim Dean, had reviewed the agreement and requested the addition of some language in Sections 9D, 9E and 9F. The requested language has been submitted to the LVD Tribal offices for review.

Paul Kemppainen made a motion, seconded by Alan Piel, to approve the cross-deputization agreement provided the changes suggested by Attorney Dean were incorporated. Motion carried, with all in favor.

It was suggested the regular Board Meeting scheduled for March 25th be delayed until March 30th, to allow for time to finish the budget and post the notice for public hearing in the paper. The next budget meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 26th at 10:00 am.

Motion by Bill Neumann to adjourn, seconded by Alan Piel. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mathiesen, Clerk
Watersmeet Township