

Approved May 20, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
April 27, 2020
10:00 AM
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A special meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 10:00 AM.

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

Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: Ryan Leuzzo, Township Police Chief and Dan Kline, Building Inspector.

The purpose of the meeting was to approve the Water Fund and Wastewater Fund budgets for FY 2020- 2021. Supervisor Rogers added an agenda item re: approval of donation to U.P.S.E.T. Julie Mathiesen explained that, while it was discussed at the last meeting, her notes did not reflect a consensus or vote on the exact amount to be donated. Julie also noted the Board needed to discuss the date for opening Township Offices, which had been closed to public access due to the Covid 19 situation. Supervisor Rogers indicated he had removed that item from the agenda, as he had decided to open the offices to the public, with specific restrictions. The restrictions are posted on the interior door to the offices, which will be kept locked, and include the need to wear a face mask when in the building, per the most recent executive order from the Governor. There was some additional discussion about whether the decision to open the offices should have been made by the entire Board and how the restrictions would be applied/enforced. Following the discussion, Alan Piel moved to approve the agenda, as modified. Bill Neumann seconded. Motion carried.

Appearances/Public Comments: None.

New Business:

1. Ratify Water and Wastewater Budgets – the FY2020-2021 budgets were distributed by Supervisor Rogers. Alan Piel moved to approve the budgets, as presented. Paul Kempainen seconded. Roll call vote: Bill Neumann – yes, Paul Kempainen – yes, Alan Piel – yes, Mike Rogers – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes. Motion carried.
2. Donation to U.P.S.E.T. – Discussion of the proposed donation resumed. Chief Leuzzo commented if the Township made a donation to U.P.S.E.T., a donation to the Gogebic Iron Area Narcotics Team (G.I.A.N.T.) should also be considered, as their efforts were focused on Gogebic County (and Iron County in Wisconsin), whereas U.P.S.E.T. covered the entire Upper Peninsula. Julie Mathiesen suggested splitting the proposed donation between the two organizations. Bill Neumann moved to donate \$500 to each, seconded by Alan Piel. Roll call vote: Paul Kempainen – yes, Alan Piel – yes, Mike Rogers – yes, Bill Neumann – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes. Motion carried.

3. Guidelines for use of Free Dump days - Supervisor Rogers indicated several residents had requested clarification on the procedure for obtaining the one Free Dump permit/per property, and guidelines for its use. In the past, the Township had provided verbal instructions, but nothing was formally documented. Julie Mathiesen commented the requirement to use the permit on the same day it is issued was too restrictive. After some discussion, the following guidelines were offered:

- Permits will only be issued to Township property owners that have a dwelling or active business structure on their property; 1 permit per property. Permits will not be issued for vacant parcels.
- Permits will allow for up to 1 pick-up truck bed and 1 trailer load of items to be disposed.
- Permits will be valid for two weeks from the date of issuance and can be used any day the Transfer Station is open. If someone needs help unloading their truck/trailer, they will need to make prior arrangements with the Township.
- Permits can be picked-up for neighboring property owners, for the duration of the Covid 19 situation. Thereafter, permits must be obtained by the property owner.
- Lost permits will not be re-issued.
- This year, the Free Dump days will end on September 30th.

Alan Piel moved to adopt the above guidelines, Bill Neumann seconded. Motion carried will all in favor.

This being a Special Meeting, there were no formal reports from Board members. However, Bill Neumann introduced a topic that he thought should have been an agenda item. He would like First Responders and EMTs that responded to calls during the month of April to receive a stipend of \$300, in recognition of the additional risks posed by the Covid 19 situation. There were 6 FRs/EMTs that went on calls in April, plus Chief Leuzzo, the stipends would total \$2100. He would like to revisit in May and June, and possibly monthly for the duration of the Covid 19 situation, as the budget allows. There was discussion about eligibility for reimbursement by the State and the need to add "hazard duty pay" clauses to contracts, which Supervisor Rogers indicated he would investigate further. Motion by Bill Neumann to issue the stipends as discussed, seconded by Alan Piel. Roll call vote: Paul Kemppainen – yes, Alan Piel – yes, Mike Rogers – yes, Bill Neumann – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes. Motion carried.

Chief Leuzzo requested copies of ordinances related to marijuana and open burning. He further indicated there was a need for a noise ordinance. Clerk Mathiesen indicated she would provide him with copies of the requested ordinances and review archives to see what others may have been drafted in the past. There was some discussion about whether the Planning Commission should draft a noise ordinance. It was decided that would be the responsibility of the Board because it was not connected to land use and zoning. Chief Leuzzo also noted the need for a fine/penalty matrix for violations of said ordinances.

There being no further business, Bill Neumann made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alan Piel. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mathiesen, Clerk
Watersmeet Township