

Approved July 15, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 2020
6:30 PM
www.watersmeet.us

Before calling the meeting to order, Supervisor Rogers requested two additions to the agenda under “New Business” to be addressed as follows: Item 7. Fee to Trust request by the Tribe and Item 8. An updated First Responder/EMT training agreement. Both were added as new items.

The regular meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 6:33 p.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: Charlene Kempainen, Nick Christ, Dan Kline, Dave Lamoreaux, Steve Roth

With a motion to accept as presented from Paul Kempainen, and a second by Bill Neumann, the minutes of the Regular meeting of May 20, 2020 were approved.

There were no appearances before the board

Public Comments:

Pat Walsh inquired about the monthly cost of street lighting. Clerk Mathiesen indicated utility bills for street lighting typically run between \$1600 and \$1700 per month. Mr. Walsh then inquired whether there has been any research on how to reduce the cost to the Township, such as using LED bulbs. Bill Neumann and Supervisor Rogers explained the costs of modifying the current equipment to accommodate the use of LED bulbs would be prohibitive. Applying for grants to help defray the cost was also discussed.

Alan Piel made a motion to accept the agenda, with the changes requested, with support from Paul Kempainen. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Re-opening Community Center and Parks - Re-opening plans were discussed in accordance with the latest orders from Governor Whitmer. A motion by Alan, with support by Paul, to allow up to 50 people indoors, up to 500 outdoors and to maintain social distancing. The community center will be available for rent with these guidelines. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Approval for the BOR date of July 20th, starting at 9:00 AM. Motion by Bill, with a second by Alan to accept the time and date. Motion carried.

2. Approve Police Cross-Deputization Agreement: There was some discussion about the composition of the Oversight Committee provided for by the agreement, which would consist of the chiefs from the Township and Tribal police departments along with 2 non-police members. Bill suggested the agreement include a stipulation that the Oversight Committee report regularly to the Board on the status of operations. With the inclusion of this stipulation, Paul made the motion, with a second by Alan to approve the contract. Motion carried.

3. A motion by Paul, and a second by Alan was made to accept the contract with the County Road Commission for \$16,700, with the township portion of \$10,000. Motion carried.

4. Supervisor Rogers discussed the possibility of providing a cell phone stipend for Chief Leuzzo, as he is using his personal cell phone for police communications. Julie noted a cell stipend had been provided to the former police chief and was currently being provided to several other employees. The board agreed to pay \$45 monthly stipend for Chief Leuzzo's cell costs. Roll call: Paul Kempainen, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Mike Rogers, Julie Mathiesen voted yea. Motion carried..

5. Post Audit Policy for Bill Payment: Discussion was held regarding past audit policy. It was agreed that a written policy is needed by the Township. Julie offered to take the lead in researching this and has been in contact with the Township attorney as to the wording of this policy. With the agreement that more discussion is needed, a motion to table this until more information is available was made by Paul, with support from Alan. Motion carried.

6. MTA Online Training – Clerk Mathiesen explained MTA is offering an annual pass to all of its online training to member townships, for a specified fee. Training would be made available to anyone performing a function on behalf of the Township. Since the training can be taken any time throughout the year, it is convenient for trainees and will save on travel expenses normally associated with training. The board agreed to try it for a year and include payment with the yearly membership fees. Julie motioned, with support by Paul, to purchase the premium pass at a cost of \$1900. A roll call vote was held. Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Mike Rogers, Alan Piel, Julie Mathiesen all voted yes. Motion carried.

7. Supervisor Rogers presented a letter to the Board from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding a request from LVD that several properties in Watersmeet Township be removed from the tax rolls and put into Trust Lands. Discussion followed regarding the loss of tax revenue, water and sewer considerations, and the losses to the school. Following said discussion, there a motion by Paul Kempainen to approve the placement of one property, the Longyear property, into Trust, but not the others requested for consideration. Motion seconded by Julie. Motion carried with all in favor.

8. First Responder/EMT Training Agreement: Clerk Mathiesen explained she had met with Jim Pittsley and Laurie Kopsi several months earlier to work on modifying the training reimbursement agreement for First Responders and EMTs. The current agreement requires First Responders/EMTs serve on the Fire Department for a specified time following training and certification. However, there is no requirement that they actually respond to calls, which has led to lack of response to call outs in a number of instances. The modified agreements address both initial training and recertification and requires response to a minimum number of call outs, in addition to a specified time of service with the Fire Department. Repayment to the Township for the cost of training is required if the specified requirements are not met. Motion by Bill to approve the modified agreements with support by Alan. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Bills:

A motion by Bill, with a second by Alan to approve the payment of bills as presented was approved. Motion carried. General Fund Check Nos. 39840 – 39851, Water Fund Check Nos. 3425 & 3426, and Wastewater Fund Check Nos. 4241 & 4242.

Treasures Report: Paul reported that all accounts are balanced. He also commented on the effect the Corona virus has had on the state and the township. We have all felt the effect.

Clerk's Report: Julie indicated she had received a letter indicating the Ottawa Shopper will no longer be published as the owner has decided to retire. Attempts will be made to find a buyer, but the paper will not be available for publishing the Township board minutes. Some suggestions were made to find another paper. However, options are limited, outside of the Daily Globe, which is not widely read in the Township.

Concerns were brought forward regarding the low numbers that have replied to the Census. Paul will contact the printers for the summer tax bills to include a reminder to be included in this summer's bills. Julie also reported that the clerk's office is receiving a record number of absentee ballot requests for the upcoming election.

Other matters: Bill informed the board that the Veterans Administration will be again open this coming week.

LVD will be offering Covid testing this week, with no charge.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:25 pm by Bill with a second by Alan. Motion carried
Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Mansfield,

Deputy Clerk