

Approved October 21, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

August 19, 2020

6:30PM

Watersmeet Township Pavilion

www.watersmeet.us

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

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Nick Christ, Yvonne Clark, Dave Lamoreaux, Sandy Mansfield, and Pat Walsh.

A motion to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2020 regular meeting was made by Paul Kemppainen, with support from Alan Piel. Motion carried with all in favor.

Appearances: Supervisor Rogers informed the board that Jim Lorensen would not be able to attend this evenings meeting as planned due to unforeseen circumstances.

Public Comments: Pat Walsh stated that he had some questions regarding some of the bills that would be presented for payment later in the meeting and was assured the questions would be answered at the time they were presented for payment.

Julie Mathiesen requested a second item be added under “New Business” to discuss advertising for a part-time police officer. A motion to accept the agenda as modified was made by Bill Neumann, with support from Alan Piel was made. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Resolution to suspend tax on Special Assessment District for year 2021 – Supervisor Rogers explained the Cisco Chain of Lakes Special Assessment District, established to combat aquatic invasive species, has a surplus of funds following completion of its 2020 activities. A resolution was drafted to suspend collection of the special assessment for 2020, which would normally be collected with Winter 2020 taxes. Collection of the special assessment would resume with Winter 2021 taxes. Paul Kemppainen proposed some modifications to wording in the resolution to make this clarification. Bill Neumann moved to adopt the resolution as modified, seconded by Alan Piel. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Alan Piel, Julie Mathiesen, Paul Kemppainen – yes. Nays, none. Motion carried.
2. Part-Time Police Officer – Chief Ryan Leuzzo indicated he would like to advertise for a part-time officer. Julie Mathiesen drafted a job posting that could be placed on the MCOLES website, in the Daily Globe and possibly in the Border Bulletin. It was requested the Board review the draft posting and the pay scale proposed by Chief Leuzzo. Bill Neumann motioned to approve the hourly rate with a second by Paul Kemppainen. Roll Call vote: Mike Rogers – yes, Bill Neumann – yes, Paul Kemppainen – yes, Alan Piel – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes.

Approval of Bills:

After answering the questions posed by Pat Walsh regarding several of the bills, Paul Kemppainen, motioned with a second by Alan Piel, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried with all in favor. General Fund Check Nos. 39961 to 39983, Water Fund Check Nos. 3435 to 3437, and Waste Water Fund Check Nos. 4254 to 4257.

Reports:

Supervisor - Supervisor Rogers indicated he received a call from the president of the Cisco Chain Riparian Owners Association (CCROA) regarding the status of actions to establish a No Wake ordinance in portions of the Cisco Chain, and suggested the Board hold a public hearing in September. Clerk Mathiesen noted this issue was last discussed in October 2019 and suggested contacting the DNR to determine whether the process for establishing local watercraft controls had changed due to the Covid 19 situation, particularly with regard to required public hearings. There was some additional discussion regarding whether the Township has sufficient resources to enforce the ordinance and whether more consistent enforcement of current ordinances would alleviate some of the concerns. Supervisor Rogers indicated he would contact DNR to follow-up.

Treasurer: Paul Kemppainen gave a brief report on the tax collection status, indicating approximately 30% of the summer taxes had been collected, and the overall township finances. He assured the board the township is in good standing.

Clerk: Julie Mathiesen gave a report on the election costs yet to be incurred by the township, indicating they would likely exceed the amount budgeted. She also informed the board of having applied for two Covid-related grants: 1) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) through the Michigan State Police, which applies to law enforcement personnel; and 2) First Responders Hazard Pay Premiums Program (FRHPPP), which is part of the CARES Act and managed through the Michigan Department of Treasury. The FRHPPP applies to law enforcement personnel, firefighters, EMTs and other first responders. Julie indicated the grant monies should be available in September.

Julie also reported that she had received several calls from Suzanne Ventura, who is associated with a proposed short-term rental property, during which concerns were cited regarding both the Township's FOIA procedures and the process for addressing Special Use Permit (SUP) applications. The call was related to a current SUP issue. Julie requested the Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector provide the Board with regular reports, similar to those provided by the Fire and Police Chiefs, in order to be kept abreast of ongoing issues.

Bill Neumann gave his monthly report for cemetery activities and summarized recent variance requests heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Alan Piel presented some proposed graphics for updating the "Welcome to Watersmeet" sign.

Officer Leuzzo gave the board his report for the month of July (attached).

A motion by Paul Kemppainen, with a second by Alan Piel to adjourn at 7:07p.m. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mathiesen, Clerk