

Approved October 21, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
September 11, 2020
10:00 AM
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A special meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was requested by Treasurer Paul Kemppainen, Trustee Bill Neumann, and Clerk Julie Mathiesen after receiving a report that one of the Township First Responders tested positive for Covid 19.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 10:05 a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others in attendance: Jim Pittsley, Watersmeet Fire Chief

Appearances/Public Comments: None.

Agenda Changes/Approval: With the full Board present, Supervisor Rogers suggested the agenda be modified to conduct regular business at this meeting and then cancel the regular meeting scheduled for September 16, 2020. Added agenda items were discussion of repairs for Engine 11 and purchase of a new police vehicle. Bill Neumann moved to approve the agenda as modified, seconded by Alan Piel. Motion carried with all in favor.

Special Business to Consider:

First Responder/Covid 19 – Chief Pittsley summarized the situation as follows: There's been a significant number of fire and/or medical calls in recent weeks. One call last week required transport to the hospital in Eagle River. A Watersmeet First Responder was asked to drive the ambulance while the Aspirus paramedics worked on the patient. One of the Aspirus paramedics was later diagnosed with Covid 19. The First Responder was notified on September 9th and scheduled a Covid rapid test for that same day. The test was positive.

In response to the positive test, Chief Pittsley and other department personnel reviewed the call sheets to determine who had been on calls together. It was determined 6 other members of the fire department may have been exposed. Chief Pittsley contacted Central Dispatch to explain the situation and remove Watersmeet First Responders from the call list. He also contacted the LVD Clinic to arrange for Covid rapid tests. At the time of the meeting, all but 2 of the test results had been returned and those were negative. Chief Pittsley contacted Central Dispatch to place Watersmeet First Responders back on the call list.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the accuracy of rapid tests, the need for formal response and action plans, workplace procedures for Covid prevention, and the need to adhere to health department and State requirements (e.g. face masks, social distancing). Chief Pittsley noted there was concern about lost wages while quarantining and waiting for test results, which led to additional discussion about possible insurance coverage. He further indicated there were two items he'd like to see addressed: 1) Coordination with the LVD Clinic for more efficient testing, should this situation occur again; and 2) The possibility of having an ambulance stationed in Watersmeet while First Responders/EMTs are waiting for test results and/or quarantining, should this situation occur in the future.

It was decided Mike Rogers would approach Jim Lorenson about stationing an ambulance temporarily in Watersmeet, Paul Kemppainen would discuss testing procedures and requirements with the LVD Clinic and Julie Mathiesen would look into insurance possibilities, including workman's compensation for employees exposed to Covid 19.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Engine 11, Repair or Replace – Chief Pittsley explained North Star Emergency Vehicle Service was onsite to service the fire trucks and conduct pump tests. As a result of their inspection, North Star indicated Engine 11 needed to be removed from service. It would require about \$13K in repairs to just ready it for pump tests, parts to do so are not available and if repaired, and there is no guarantee it would pass the pump test. Chief Pittsley indicated we could find a used truck similar to Engine 11 for \$50K - \$70K, but it is not really suited to our needs. He suggested a tanker/pumper truck would better serve the Township. The Board agreed Engine 11 should be replaced rather than repaired and requested Chief Pittsley research prices for trucks.
2. Monitor for Engine 3 Water Cannon – Chief Pittsley indicated the monitor on Engine 3 needed to be replaced. A new monitor would cost about \$2500. A used one might be available. Bill Neumann asked whether Engine 3 was otherwise in good shape. Chief Pittsley indicated it is. The Board as a group felt it would be better to purchase new.

Bill Neuman moved to purchase a new monitor, seconded by Alan Piel. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers – yes, Paul Kemppainen – yes, Bill Neumann – yes, Alan Piel – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes. Motion carried.

3. New Police Vehicle – The patrol cars currently in use are not suitable for traveling many of the roads in the Township, particularly in adverse weather conditions. Chief Leuzzo had previously reported on his search for a new vehicle, receiving a quote on one for approximately \$32K with another \$6K required to properly equip it. That vehicle is no longer available. Paul Kemppainen made a motion that Chief Leuzzo continue to pursue purchase of a new vehicle, bringing a final price to the Board for approval if one is located. Second by Bill Neumann. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Bills: A motion was offered by Paul Kemppainen with support by Alan Piel to accept the bills as presented for payment. General Fund checks 40017 through 40031, Wastewater Fund checks 4260 & 4261, and Water Fund check 3442.

No reports from the Treasurer and Clerk due to the short notice that regular business would be conducted at this meeting. There was discussion of campaign signs being placed on Township property. Paul Kemppainen and Julie Mathiesen summarized requirements of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act regarding use of government funds and property to support campaigns and Michigan DOT requirements regarding sign placement. No formal action taken by the Board.

Bill Neumann indicated we were fast approaching the time of year for removing decorations from the cemetery.

There being no further business, motion was made by Paul Kemppainen to adjourn, seconded by Alan Piel. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Mathiesen, Clerk