

Approved November 18, 2020

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

October 21, 2020

6:30 PM

COMMUNITY CENTER

www.watersmeet.us

The October virtual 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, and Bill Neumann.

Members Absent: Alan Piel

Others Present: James Pittsley, Ryan Leuzzo, and Zoe Coleman

Bill Neumann motioned with a second by Paul Kemppainen to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers – yes Julie Mathiesen – yes Paul Kemppainen – yes Bill Neumann – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Kemppainen with a second by Bill Neumann to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2020 and the September 29, 2020 Special meetings. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers – yes Julie Mathiesen – yes Paul Kemppainen – yes Bill Neumann – yes. Motion carried.

Appearances: None

Public Comments: None

Bill Neumann motioned with a second by Paul Kemppainen to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers – yes, Bill Neumann – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes, Paul Kemppainen – yes. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Proposal to Survey Old Fish Hatchery - Supervisor Rogers indicated he had requested Coleman Engineering develop a proposal for surveying the former fish hatchery property. The proposed amount is \$3,500. Discussion ensued regarding the pending land transfer to the Township. Supervisor Rogers explained that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicated that agency needed to be involved in the transfer. The Gogebic County Road Commission will need to convey the property to the State of Michigan, which in turn will convey the property to Watersmeet Township. It was questioned whether approval of a survey should wait until the property transfer was finalized. Supervisor Rogers said he was assured the transfer will take place, it just requires a few extra steps.

Following discussion, Bill Neumann made a motion to proceed with the survey, with a second by Paul Kemppainen. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers – yes, Bill Neumann- yes, Julie Mathiesen- yes, Paul Kemppainen- yes. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Paul motioned, with a second by Bill to approve the bills as presented. General Fund check nos. 40122-40138, Waste Water check nos. 4268 – 4270, and Water Fund check nos. 3447 - 3449.

Roll call vote: Mike Rogers-yes, Bill Neumann – yes, Paul Kemppainen – yes, Julie Mathiesen – yes.
Motion carried.

Reports:

Supervisor: Mike shared that he has received a packet dated March 2020 from LVD with notification they were proposing that the Crane Lake property be put into trust. However, no formal notification has been received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, so at this point, the Board should just be aware of the request.

Treasurer: Paul informed the board that the summer tax collection was a success with more than 90% collected this tax season. He doesn't anticipate any large changes in the upcoming year.

Clerk: Julie gave an update on the status of the election thus far. She has mailed 440 absentee voter (AV) ballots with more requests daily. She is anticipating hiring more election workers to assist with the election due to the expected higher-than-usual voter participation and to run the AV counting board suggested by County Clerk Gerry Pelissero. Clerk Mathiesen also informed the board she has verified that members of the volunteer fire department are entitled to Workman's Compensation Insurance, if they are off of work due to a Covid19 exposure and/or illness.

Police: A monthly report was given by Captain Leuzzo (attached). He also stated a potential candidate for the part-time officer position was hired by another department, and that he has spoken with Bill Witt regarding the position.

Fire: Jim Pittsley's monthly report (attached) informed the board that the runs were down somewhat this last month. He also updated the board on his research for a replacement fire truck for the township and will continue to search for the best option. The correct procedure for EMT procedure for Covid testing was also discussed.

Changes to the WE Energies Christmas lighting program were discussed by the board. Costs will be somewhat higher than in previous years, but the time allotted for holiday lighting will be longer.

At 7:02pm a motion was made by Bill Neumann, with support from Paul Kemppainen to adjourn. Roll call vote: Mike Rogers-yes, Bill Neumann – Yes, Paul Kemppainen – yes, Julie Mathiesen – Yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Mansfield, Deputy Clerk