

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Drews, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: William Drews, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; Misty VanGessel, Treasurer; Tyler Nadeau, Trustee; Randy Robson, Trustee

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Drews, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk

ELECTED OFFICIAL PRESENT: Patrick Q. Carr, Montcalm County Commissioner

AGENDA APPROVAL

Drews requested the addition of painting quotes and Farnsworth Park well. Robson requested the addition of Township Hall sign. Nadeau requested the addition of Planning Commission update.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 minute per person maximum)

Dawn Sweet, Pine Township, played an audio recording of noise from a solar farm and thanked the Planning Commission for thinking to place in the ordinance restrictions on sound and researching thoroughly as they work on this ordinance.

Judy Graham, Pine Township, thanked Planning Commission members for listening to residents and for researching and discussing what should and should not be included in the solar ordinance, for compromising and seeking advice on legal issues. She urged the Board to pass the draft as written when it is presented to them, since the PC has worked/researched so much. Urged attendance at public hearing when it is held.

Linda Reynolds, Douglass Twp, ¼ mile from Pine border, praised Planning Commission members for being knowledgeable, communicating, being well-prepared, all participating, their conduct is very impressive.

Leslie Rydahl, Pine Township – praised the Planning Commission, believes they are protecting agricultural land and Township residents, appreciates that they discuss thoroughly before decisions are made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Robson moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the January 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER/FINANCIAL REPORTS (on file)

VanGessel presented the financial report.

Robson questioned why Rainbow Lake Drain didn't appear on resident's tax bills. VanGessel responded that the error was handled at the Drain Commission and County Treasurer offices.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the November, 2022, the revised December, 2022, and the January, 2023 Treasurer reports. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Buchholz was absent, no report.

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ROAD REPORT

Drews reported having met with Road Commission representatives regarding paving of the Farnsworth Park drive and lot and some of the Pine Township roads that were damaged during the Langston bridge detour with unused funds from the M-91 bridge project.

2023 road construction estimates will be coming and shared during the March meeting.

Robson moved, supported by Sprague to approve the road report.

Motion carried.

FIRE DISTRICT MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORTS (on file)

Pat Carr reported that the two chassis have been purchased and the truck builder bid will be selected soon, with completed delivery expected near the end of 2023.

Drews reported that an air compressor to fill air packs was purchased in Clare at a substantial savings.

The department had 12 calls in January, 2 in Pine Township (a vehicle accident, and a power line down).

Training was regarding MIOSHA requirements and blood borne pathogens.

Sprague reported that the check has been written and will be mailed tomorrow for the fire district levy for the first half of 2023.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report.

Motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT

Sprague reported Vicki Shindorf sold 1 lot in Riverside Cemetery. There were no lots sold in West Pine Cemetery, and no burials.

Robson moves, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report.

Motion carried.

LIBRARY REPORT

Jamie Gorby reported that there will be no February meeting. There was a bid regarding bats in the ceiling.

Memorial bricks around flagpole heaved and have been turned into wooden bookends and installed.

A fence twill be installed around the air conditioning units and condensers. A bid from Pride Homes for a pavilion was accepted. There will be a program on March 14, 2023 about UFO's in Michigan.

VanGessel moved supported by Robson, to accept the report.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA PROJECT EXPENDITURES UPDATE

Sprague presented the Board with a QuickBooks printout of expenditures and \$215,305.72 remaining. Pavilion costs will come from that balance. Robson requested that planned projects be added to future printouts.

Drews suggested the purchase of a new mop, pads, and bucket for use on the new Hall flooring.

Nadeau moved, supported by Drews to authorize the purchase of a 21" wide Rubbermaid mop, pad, handle, frame, pad replacements, and bucket, with the total cost not to exceed \$225.00.

Robson – Yes; VanGessel – Yes; Nadeau – Yes; Drews – Yes; Sprague – Yes.

Motion carried.

Sprague will place the order.

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Drews presented three bids for Hall interior painting (main room, hallway, supervisor's office, bathroom, kitchen). He also presented three bids for Hall exterior painting. After discussion, Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to table these items until March, 2023. Motion carried.

Robson reported three new sign bids. After discussion, Sprague moved, supported by Drews, to authorize Robson to obtain a detailed estimate from Midwest Sign in Wayland. Motion carried.

Robson presented information on exercise equipment for the area around Hall. Drews moved, supported by VanGessel, to table until March, 2023. Motion carried.

Drews reported bids from Thompson Well Drilling and Trayer Water Wells for updating the well in Farnsworth Park. Sprague moved, supported by Nadeau to accept the contract with Trayer, which includes a new handpump and all new fittings, and warranty that the well will comply with county and state regulations.

Roll Call:

VanGessel – Yes; Robson – Yes; Nadeau – Yes; Drews - Yes; Sprague – Yes. Motion carried.

Nadeau suggested that the Board consider potentially matching contribution to Road improvements with Federal funds left over from other planned projects.

Drews presented two bids and offered to obtain a third bid for the trimming of the oak tree and the beech tree in Farnsworth Park. Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to accept the Woodland Tree bid in the amount of \$1,695.00, to be paid from the general fund.

Roll call:

VanGessel – Yes; Robson – Yes; Sprague – Yes; Nadeau – Yes. Drews abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Drews reported that Republic Services does not have a voucher program. Pitsch Sanitary Landfill appears to be the only alternative having a voucher system.

Nadeau moved, supported by Sprague, to schedule a clean-up day on May 6, 2023 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Farnsworth Park, as there is not yet a voucher system in place.

Drews recognized Jen Osborn for having attended Board of Review training.

Drews received an email regarding the posting of board minutes in the local newspaper Drews investigated and learned that publishing is required in townships with property values in excess of \$104,000,000. Pine Township property taxable value is \$77,000,000 and approved Minutes are on Township website.

Drews reported that the \$750.00 approved in 2021 for benches on the Riverside trail was not spent, and authorization needs to be reapproved. Sprague moved, supported by Robson, to authorize the expenditure of \$750 toward building benches for Riverside trail.

Roll call:

VanGessel – Yes; Robson – Yes; Drews – Yes; Sprague – Yes; Nadeau – Yes. Motion carried.

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Drews asked the Board to look at a proposed letter to the Spring Lake Birch Landing property owners, for future consideration to conclude the disposition of Lot 1 and Lot 35.

Drews reported that the Montcalm County Equalization Department made copies of his needed maps at no cost to the Township.

Robson moved, supported by Nadeau, to approve the report. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

Sprague noted that her report will be under Special Election, millage for 911.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Nadeau reported that a meeting to finalize the solar ordinance will be held at 5:00 PM on February 23, 2023, after which a date will be set for public hearing.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Sprague reported having been informed that there will be a special election on May 2, 2023 for the consideration of the renewal of the 911 millage. She reported that per new state law passed in November, 2022, every absent ballot application and every ballot envelope must contain a postage prepaid return envelope at the cost of the township. She reported that a new computer for use as the electronic pollbook must be purchased and must meet specific software criteria. Purchase of the computer was tabled until March to give Sprague time to obtain estimates.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to authorize Sprague to purchase the postage necessary to comply with election requirements.

Roll call:

Nadeau – Yes; VanGessel – Yes; Drews – Yes; Sprague – Yes; Robson – Yes. Motion carried.

Nadeau asked what the reimbursement on the Check Detail was related to. Sprague explained that the payment from Lakeview Community Schools was for the collection of their summer tax.

HUNTER LAKE TAX OMISSION

Sprague reported that the \$180.00 annual fee was not included with the 2022 winter tax bill. To solve the issue, the Hunter Lake Association proposed that Pine Township waive the \$1,000.00 administration fee for 2023 and not collect the \$180.00 annual fee until the winter 2023 tax bill is mailed.

Sprague moved, supported by Robson, to not charge the \$1000.00 admin fee for 2023 and to reinstate the \$180.00 fee on the 2023 Hunter Lake winter tax bills. Motion carried.

MONTHLY BILLS

Drews inquired why a check was written to Kristen Diehl. Sprague explained it was to replace a lost check. Drews noted an error in the Foster Swift bill, which was detailed as adjustment of the wind ordinance. Drews contacted Leslie Abdoo, who informed him that this was an error, the adjustment was to the solar ordinance. Sprague will make the correction in QuickBooks.

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Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to pay checks 3031-3071 for monthly bills in the amount of thirteen thousand, twenty-five and 81/100 dollars (\$13,025.81) and fire district check 1016 in the amount of thirty-one thousand, seven hundred fourteen and 50/100 dollars (\$31,714.50). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to 3 minutes per person)

Laurie Johnson – asked whether it is common for townships to take on special assessments?

Leslie Rydahl, Pine Township – asked whether, if there will be a dilemma with the Pine Township industrial district being too small, can the industrial area be expanded? She is concerned about protecting farmland

Dave Bean, Pine Township, volunteered for cleanup day if a loader is needed

Adam Hoffman, Pine Township – will the Township sign be bright LED?

Pam Hemmes, Montcalm Township – impressed with Planning Commission, read what her township has planned in their ordinance.

Lindsey Simon, Pine Township - suggested business reply mail. Thanked Planning Commission for protecting farmland/natural resources

Shelly Grube, Pine Township – quoted Sara Mills’ solar presentation

Linda Reynolds, Douglass Twp. - appreciated the information on minutes publishing requirements

Gordon Gorby, Pine Township, believes the sign cost is way too much, asked that the money be used toward parking lot

Richard Ostrander, Pine Township, commended the Planning Commission for the work they have put in on the solar ordinance

ADJOURNMENT

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Marla Sprague

Marla Sprague, Clerk