

**APPROVED MINUTES  
PINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM 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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk; Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Drews requested to add open library board position to the agenda under Library Report.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the amended agenda. MOTION CARRIED

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Dawn Sweet, Pine Township – requests verbage be added to Pine Township ordinances to make them enforceable by law enforcement officers.

Rodney Palmer, 249 Riverview Dr., Hunter Lake – brought a barking dog complaint to the Board

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2023 MINUTES**

Nadeau requested the following corrections: Page 1 – December 15 date needs correcting to November 15. Correct check numbers and dollar amount under “Payment of Monthly Bills”to checks 3416-3453, \$29,511.59.

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the Minutes with corrections.

MOTION CARRIED

**REPORTS**

- **Treasurer/Financial Reports/Bank Update (on file)**

VanGessel presented the treasurer report to the Board. Sprague pointed out the amount of CD interest earned due to higher interest rates.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **Zoning Administrator Report**

Buchholz reported one zoning permit, one land division applications and two land combination requests for the month of December.

He has heard nothing from the Sheriff's Department regarding the Phillips blight complaint on Rainbow Lake.

Buchholz will send a letter to the dog owner (Palmer barking dog complaint).

Drews stated that the Board and Planning Commission are working on updating township ordinances. Buchholz noted that the Township attorney acts as prosecuting attorney in regard to Township ordinance enforcement (at a cost to the Township).

Sprague moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Road Report**

Drews reported that he and Robson met at the Road Commission to seek estimates for 2024 road work in the township. Estimates will come later. \$115,000.00 is in the budget for road work.

Robson noted that there will be less ARPA funds to add to the budget in 2024. Mark Christensen of the Road Commission encourages townships to maintain roads that have been repaired.

Nadeau moved, supported by Sprague, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Fire District Report**

Drews reported that there was one auto-related fire call in Pine Township in December.

The fire department is still waiting on delivery of the tankers. Training was in medical triage.

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

- **Cemetery Report**

Sprague reported one cremains and one lot sold in Riverside Cemetery in December. Vicki Shindorf reports there are 69 lots in Riverside Cemetery and 27 in West Pine remaining for sale.

Sprague asked the Board consider whether to seek more cemetery property in the future.

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Library Board Report (Jamie Gorby/1 seat vacant)**

There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on January 18, 2024.

Drews received an email application from Jeremy Korpala for the open library board position. Drews moved, supported by Nadeau, to appoint Korpala to the position. MOTION CARRIED

- **Supervisor Report**

Covered under other topics

- **Clerk Report**

Sprague reported scheduling election workers for the upcoming Presidential Primary and the nine days of early voting.

Forever stamp postage will increase from 66 cents to 68 cents and from 90 to 92 cents at the end of January. Sprague sought authorization to purchase stamps for future use before the increase.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to authorize up to \$1,000.00 for the purchase of 700 90-cent stamps and 500 66-cent stamps.

Roll call vote: Drews – Yes; Sprague – Yes; VanGessel – Yes; Robson – Yes; Nadeau – Yes

MOTION CARRIED

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Birch Landing Lots 1 & 35 – Latest Information**

Drews reported updated information on resolving ownership of this property.

Drews moved, supported by VanGessel, to table this issue until the Board hears back from property owners regarding the latest information.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Entry Door Replacement**

Drews reported prices and bids for a door and labor to replace the Hall entry door.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to table action until the February 12, 2024 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Emergency Siren**

Drews presented information he had learned so far about obtaining an emergency siren for Pine Township.

Drews moved, supported by Robson, to table action until the February 12, 2024 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update (Nadeau, Board Liaison)**

Nadeau presented a sample Special Land Use Permit form for the Board to consider.

He sought information from the Board regarding enforcement of Page 5 of the current noise ordinance.

Nadeau noted that an editable document will be needed to make change to the noise ordinance.

PLB Planning Group, LLC has the township ordinance records. Paul LeBlanc, the contact person, has evidently retired. Nadeau will reach out to Douglass Township, who reportedly also has ordinances recorded with this company, for current contact information.

He sought input as to whether a signed complaint is required for enforcement action to begin on township ordinances. Buchholz, Zoning Administrator, expressed that a signed complaint

requirement in each ordinance is desirable.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- **MTA Seminar**

Drews reported there will be a webinar on 1/10/24 from 12:30 – 1:45 PM, and a seminar at the Lansing MTA office on 1/23/24 regarding the Michigan Public Service Commission taking control of local ordinances and sought Board approval to attend the seminar if the webinar did not give complete information.

Sprague moved, supported by Nadeau, to authorize Drews to attend the seminar if needed.

Roll call vote: VanGessel – Yes; Robson – Yes; Sprague – Yes; Nadeau – Yes; Drews – Abstained

MOTION CARRIED

### **PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to pay checks 3454 – 3481 for monthly bills in the amount of \$7,327.63.

MOTION CARRIED

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rodney Palmer, Pine Township stressed the severity of the barking dog complaint

Dawn Sweet, Pine Township reported having seen the District Fire Department fighting a fire and complimented their efficiency. She also noted that most citizens are not aware that a bill will be sent to them after service by the fire department.

Laurie Johnson, Pine Township, asked about cremains space in the cemeteries compared to burial space.

### **BOARD FINAL COMMENT**

Drews asked whether there was a policy on obtaining ballot proposal signatures in the Township Hall. (There is not).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

*Marla Sprague*

Marla Sprague

Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala