

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2022 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; Kristen Diehl, Treasurer; Tyler Nadeau, Trustee; Randy Robson, Trustee

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Robson requested the addition of Website Update under "other."

Nadeau requested the addition of Planning Commission Update under "other."

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

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

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nadeau moved, Robson supported, to approve the September 12, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER/FINANCIAL REPORTS (on file)

Diehl reported what appears to be Credit Union errors on a recent deposit, causing the Township tax account to be near overdraft. She transferred general funds to cover and will look into the situation with Credit Union employees tomorrow.

Diehl reported on the status of tax collection.

Drews questioned the check written for gravel on Willard Road. Sprague will check to insure there was not a double payment.

Robson requested that the Board look at Workman's Comp insurance before renewal next year.

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

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Drews reported that Paul Fitzner passed away yesterday.

Buchholz reported one land division and no zoning permit applications in the month of September.

He discovered that the Imhoff Tree service letter was not sent as reported last month. He found the letter on his desk and has mailed it out.

The Rainbow Lake resident was in compliance within 7 days of the court order regarding blight. Buchholz will continue to monitor for compliance.

Steffenson Trucking – waiting to hear from the Township attorney.

Buchholz reported that he has not yet purchased the camera that was approved by the Board. Due to time restrictions, he will likely make an online purchase.

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

ROAD REPORT

Rainbow Lake drain work had Briggs Road closed. Signs were not up to warn traffic coming off Gravel Ridge Road, causing an accident hazard.

Drews was told by Mark Christensen that Pine Township may receive extra money for road repair, however, Drews reports that the Township road millage funds are still very much needed.

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Sprague noted that the Budget vs Actual QuickBooks report shows that in the roads account there is \$15,000 remaining for the fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2023. Robson asked how many contracts are still outstanding. Sprague would have to check records. Money will have to be transferred from other accounts for any Spring, 2023 work.

Drews reported that Mark Christensen put him in connection with the right people to have the invasive species on Johnson Road sprayed at no cost to the Township.

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

FIRE DISTRICT MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORTS

Drews reported having attended the meeting last Thursday. There was a water heater fire in Pine Township in September. The fire district audit has been completed and was a clean audit.

Pat Carr reported that Montcalm County firemen are certified nationwide and are extremely dedicated. There have been many accidents and fires this year.

The Board asked Pat Carr how the dollar amount to bill each township is computed. Carr reported that each member township levys a fire millage, so each Township pays what the tax levy (millage) brings in. There is no longer billing. Sprague noted that Todd Lincoln, Fire Treasurer, sent a letter with a specific amount, so this is what the Township paid. Carr believes one payment could be done per year.

Sprague moved, supported by Diehl, to approve the report. Motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT

Sprague reported 1 burial. The cemetery building will be used to store Hall chairs and tables when the Hall flooring is being replaced.

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

LIBRARY BOARD REPORT

Jamie Gorby and Mike Rotter are both on the building and ground committee.

Memorial bricks are heaving and are being replaced with wooden book spines.

Encouraged everyone to get a library card and to use the library.

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

OLD BUSINESS

SPRING LAKE – BIRCH LANDING UPDATE

After discussion, Diehl moved, supported by Nadeau, to authorize Drews to talk with the Township attorney regarding quit-claim deeding, with payment of in-kind expenses, Lot 1 and Lot 35 to owners of Lots 2-20 to divest Pine Township from ownership of said lots.

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

RAINBOW LAKE DRAIN UPDATE

Drews reported that the Rainbow Lake drain is nearing completion.

FOUR SEASONS EXTERMINATING CONTRACT EXTENSION

The contract has been extended.

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ARPA FUNDS – TABLE AND CHAIR DECISIONS

The chairs for the Township Hall have been ordered at \$1,600 under budget.

Nadeau moved, supported by Sprague to authorize Diehl to purchase twelve 6-foot and three 8-foot Lifetime brand tables for the Township Hall at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00

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

Selling current tables and chairs was discussed. Sprague moved, supported by Nadeau, to place a public notice in the Daily News. Motion carried.

PAVILLION BIDS/SIGN

Drews presented five bids for construction and two electricity for a new pavilion on Hall grounds. The Board is waiting for the arrival of two additional electricity bids.

Nadeau moved, supported by Diehl to accept the Eric Willard/Pride Homes bid for pavilion construction, not to exceed \$33,000, to be reevaluated at the time of construction in the event lumber prices change, and if earnest money is required, to review that at the November, 2022 meeting.

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

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY TREE/SHRUB TRIM/REMOVAL

Drews presented three quotes for trim and removal of shrubs and trees in Riverside Cemetery, stating that any contract will be based on whether the business has an insurance certificate.

Sprague moved, supported by Nadeau, to accept the bid from Bunker Tree Service totaling \$2,600, which includes all stump removal.

Sprague – Yes; Nadeau – Yes; Diehl – Yes; Diehl – Yes; Drews - Yes Motion carried.

LANDFILL VOUCHERS IN LIEU OF SPRING CLEANUP

Drews reported that Pitch Sanitary Landfill in Belding has a voucher system set up with other townships. Tabled until Spring for more information to be sought.

NEW BUSINESS

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Drews reported having attended webinar training on blight issues and what was learned.

He will be taking water samples at Farnsworth Park.

The grant money from Montcalm County has been picked up.

Two painting quotes have been obtained for the exterior of the Township Hall.

Attempted to obtain another parking lot resurfacing quote, but the lot is so small that contractors from a distance do not want a job this small.

Met with a Consumers Power representative regarding supplying electricity to the potential new road sign. Not having to put a transformer on a pole will save the Township \$5,000.00. From the current pole to the sign site will likely cost \$300.00.

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Drews and Robson met with the property owners regarding the Fourth Street right of way issue. The problem now appears to be resolved.

Diehl moved, supported by Sprague to approve the report.

Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

Sprague reported having a busy month with absentee election ballots.

She met with the new clerk and supervisor of Montcalm Township to help them.

Met with the clerk from Reynolds Township to deliver ballots that had been mistakenly sent to Pine Township.

Nadeau moved, supported by Diehl, to accept the Clerk report.

Motion carried.

MONTCALM CHAPTER MTA MEETING

October 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Crystal Township. Board will make reservations soon.

TOWNSHIP AUDIT

Wednesday, October 26, 2022. Sprague and Diehl will be present for any needs the auditor may have.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Robson reported that the road millage information has been posted to the website.

A citizen reported to Robson that census information on the website was incorrect. Robson went to various governmental and informational sites and obtained correct information.

Citizens reported issues with viewing posted documents on mobile devices. Sprague will provide PDF documents in the future.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Nadeau, Board Planning Commission liaison, reported on tonight's Planning Commission meeting.

Work sessions updating the solar ordinance will be held on November 2 and November 9, 2022 at 5:00 PM at Pine Township Hall. Robson will post those dates on the Township website.

Planning Commission officer elections were held. Scott Millard continues as Chair, Gary Christensen continues as Vice-Chair, and Jamie Gorby continues as Secretary.

The Planning Commission requests Board approval for an attorney to advise as the Commission goes through the solar ordinance updating process. Robson suggested the Commission complete the process and then have the attorney review the results.

Due to a work commitment, Nadeau will be absent from the November 14, 2022 Board meeting.

HALL DROP BOX

Diehl requested a drop box in the Hall foyer for tax payments. Drews will look into getting a drop box.

SNOW PLOWING/MOWING CONTRACT

Drews is seeking bids, but is having difficulty locating a company willing to mow cemeteries.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Drews is seeking a person to serve on the Planning Commission. Bob Behrenwald will be retiring.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson to reappoint Gary Christensen for another two years.

Motion carried.

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MONTHLY BILLS

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to pay checks 2869 - 2897 for monthly bills in the amount of eighty-eight thousand four hundred sixty-four and 06/100 (\$88,464.06), contingent that the payment for gravel on Willard Road is not an overpayment. Sprague verified that the payment is not a duplicate. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Carr introduced himself and his candidacy for County Commissioner for the new District covering Pine Township, informing citizens that redistricting occurs every 10 years.

Dawn Sweet commended the Planning Commission to the Board as treating citizens who have blight issues as people and not as violators.

ADJOURNMENT

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Marla Sprague

Marla Sprague, Clerk