

August 8, 2023

**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Also present were members Neiswonger, and Deegan. Absent: Price and Casey Noonan. Motion-Deegan; support-Carl Noonan to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 regular meeting and the July 14, 2023 special meeting as written. All ayes.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in July: 1) Three new dwellings on: 1. Gilbert Rd. 2. Hermie's Pass and 3. Drew Rd. 2) Garage-Leelanau Hwy.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Race Day Events President, Ryan Griessmeyer, and Vice-President, Abbey VanValkenburg, were present to request that Empire Township review an updated Special Event application for the 10-07-23 Full and Half Sleeping Bear Marathon (SBM) races. They asked the Board to give them another chance to focus on keeping residents happy while providing a safe and fun course for participants. Their application outlined three options as such: 1. Allow the race to occur on LaCore Road with the 4 foot coned area, citing that with the 5K not using LaCore Rd. the impact along LaCore would greatly be reduced.; 2. Allow the race to start at the Heritage Trailhead at N. Bar Lake Road and allow runners to return to the village beach park using LaCore within a 4' coned area; and 3. Allow the race to start at the Heritage trail head at N. Bar Lake Road and return to the village beach park using Voice Road and M-22. After much discussion and negotiation of specific conditions, a motion was made by Carl Noonan; support-Neiswonger to approve the 08-02-2023 Special Event application for the Sleeping Bear Marathon Full and Half races contingent upon the following conditions: I.) Races Starting Site: Participants will be shuttled to the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trailhead on N. Bar Lake Road. II.) Participants will be allowed to return to the races ending site, the Empire Village Beach Park, using LaCore Road with the following conditions: 1. Participants must remain in a four foot (4') coned area that SBM will provide on the west side of LaCore from Voice Road to Salisbury Street. 2. SBM will station six (6) volunteers along the full length of the LaCore Road route with one volunteer specifically at cross streets Lake Michigan Drive, Florence Street, Fisher Street and Salisbury Street to ensure compliance with the coned area. 3. In addition to the six volunteers, SBM will have two (2) staffers, with radios, continually patrolling the full LaCore Road route, from the races start and finish, on bicycles. 4. No parking will be allowed on the south side of Voice Road. SBM will place "No Parking" signs in this area. In addition, no parking is allowed on LaCore Road. 5. Empire Township and SBM will have post event communications regarding any concerns, issues that arose throughout the event and 6. Approval is contingent on a favorable review and receiving the report from the Leelanau County's Emergency Management Director in a timely manner before the race. All ayes. Trustee Deegan noted that he gave his approval based upon that all conditions are fully met, residents are treated with respect throughout the race and anything to the contrary this year will result in his serious consideration of any approval next year. It was further decided that once the Clerk has transcribed the conditions, she will email the conditions to Ryan Griessmeyer for his signature that he has received and acknowledged that the race will abide by all the conditions. The Clerk will also submit the County Road Commission's permit application for the LaCore Road and the 5K's Wilco Road usage. 2.) The Board reviewed the Empire Business Association Special Event application for the 9/15/23 & 9/16/23 Empire Hill Climb submitted by Paul Skinner. Motion was made by Deegan; support-Carl Noonan that the Empire Township Board approves the 2023 Empire Business Association's Empire Hill Climb Special Event application, contingent on a favorable review and approval and receiving the report from the Leelanau County's Emergency Management Director in a timely manner before the race. All ayes.

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**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting Cont'd.**

Clerk Report: 1.) Motion-Deegan; support-Carl Noonan to pay August 2023 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Township residents present thanked the Board for their thorough review and approval of the SBM's Special Event application. 2.) Fire Chief Bryan Ferguson reported that he received notification that the new engine's construction was starting. He also noted that he was working on next year's budget and was looking at a possible 3.5% increase over this year's budget. 3.) Resident Roy Pentilla asked on the Road Commission's status on improving Inspiration Pointe's overlook and was told the Commission has placed the project on their work schedule.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:35 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk