

July 11, 2023

**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. at the Township Hall. Also present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, and Deegan. Late: Price. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Cemetery Report: Board reviewed the manager's request to purchase markers for unmarked graves at Maple Grove Cemetery. Manager Claude Fields explained that he contacted Memories to Stones that produce markers at the price of \$38.36 per stone. This cost reflects a 20% discount if the township orders at least 20 markers at a time. Claude further explained that the Lions Club has offered to install the markers for free with the township providing other needed materials. Motion-Carl Noonan; support-Deegan to purchase up to 100 markers, with a first order of 20 to receive the discounted price of \$38.36/marker, from Memories to Stone with the Lions Club installing the markers. All ayes.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in June: 1) Three new dwellings on: 1. Deborah Ann Tr.; 2. Glenmere Rd. and 3. Jonathon Ct. 2) Storage building-Benzonia Tr. 3) Deck-Glenmere Rd. and 4) Accessory building-Day Forest Rd. 2.) Trustee Micah Deegan explained that the Planning Commission would be holding another public hearing in September on the draft Master Plan and everyone has been notified that lawfully needs to be informed of the draft. 3.) With regrets, the Board accepted longtime Planning Commissioner and Chairperson, Richard Figura's resignation from the Planning Commission due to his moving out of the township. Motion-Carl Noonan; support-Neiswonger to appoint Thomas Petersen to Richard Figura's term that expires in 02/2026. All ayes.

Supervisor Report: Treasurer Price joined the meeting at this time. 1.) Board reviewed an updated Special Event application submitted by the Sleeping Bear Marathon. After review of the application, the Board discussed the race's noncompliance of the one condition required last year for runners to remain in a coned area for the full and ½ marathon races on LaCore Road. The Board further deliberated that the new application did not specify adequate guarantees and measures to meet this condition again. Motion was made by Neiswonger; support-Carl Noonan to give the Sleeping Bear Marathon a second chance at compliance and allow the full and ½ marathon races on LaCore Road. 1 aye-Neiswonger; 4 nays. Motion failed. 2.) Supervisor informed the Board that he discussed road improvements to Agnew, Liberty, and Olive Streets with the Road Commission. The Commission was willing to discuss the paving due to the fact that there is a public access to Glen Lake from one of the streets. The Commission gave an approximate cost of \$400,000 to for the project. Supervisor requested the Board's permission to see if he can negotiate with the Commission to cover 50% of the cost and the township and property owners involved each contributing 25% of the project costs. Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to allow Supervisor Noonan to try to negotiate the costs of improving Agnew, Liberty, and Olive Streets between the Road Commission (50% of the cost), Empire Township (\$100,000) and adjoining property owners (\$100,000). All ayes. 3.) Board discussed how overgrown the overlook has become on Inspiration Pointe Road off of Burdickville hill. Supervisor requested the Board's permission to see if he can negotiate with the Road Commission to clear out some of the shrubbery blocking the overlook, if the township would even contribute \$2,000 to the project. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to allow Supervisor Noonan to try to negotiate with the Road Commission, with the Township contributing a onetime payment of up to \$2,000, to remove excess vegetation that would help with the visibility of the Inspiration Pointe Rd. overlook. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 06-30-2023. Report received as read.

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

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

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief Ferguson reported on fire department operations during the last month.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:49 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk

July 14, 2023

**Empire Township Board
Special Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Office. Also present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, Price, and Deegan. Purpose of the meeting was to review the Sleeping Bear Marathon Special Event application regarding the 5K race.

The Board reviewed the Sleeping Bear Marathon Special Event application that requested approval of the 5K race that would only use Empire Village streets and the portion of Wilco Road within the village. It was noted that the township must still submit an application to the Road Commission for possible closure of Wilco Road for the morning race. Since no residences were located on Wilco Road, a motion was made by Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to approve the Sleeping Bear Marathon 10-07-23 morning's 5K race on the village streets as long as the race received National Park Service's approval for closure of Wilco Road within the village. All ayes.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 10:15 a.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk