

November 14, 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 Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, Price and Deegan. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 regular meeting and the November 6, 2023 special meeting as written. All ayes.

Cemetery Report: Cemetery Manager, Claude Fields, was present to answer any questions on his annual cemetery report and the Grand Traverse Band (GTB) 2% grant he would like to apply for on the Grave Markers Project. Regarding the 2% grant application, the large amount of volunteer work the Empire Lions Club have already donated towards the first 62 installed markers was noted. The application requests \$4,500 from the GTB to match the Township's materials cost for the first 100 markers. Approximately 254 graves have been identified as unmarked. The Lions Club has offered to pay for the remaining 54 markers if the GTB grant was approved. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the submission of the GTB 2% application as presented, with the Supervisor signing the application. All ayes. After review of the manager's annual report, motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to amend Section 9.3.) (2) Grave Resale Regulations to state that grave owners selling back grave(s) to the cemetery will receive the original price paid for a grave(s). All ayes. Claude was thanked for attending the meeting and for the excellent job he does at the cemetery.

At this time the Clerk requested that the Board consider a bonus for the Cemetery Manager due to the excellent work and careful attention he gives to his job duties. It was noted that the Board gave the manager a \$2000 bonus last year in recognition of the job Claude does. Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to give Manager, Claude Fields, a \$2,000.00 bonus in recognition of the excellent job he does at Maple Grove Cemetery. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 10-31-2023. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in October: Airport hangar-Benzonia Tr. and two Land Divisions-one on Beeman Rd. and one on Fredrickson Rd. 2.) Micah Deegan noted that the Master Plan was ready for Township Board review at the Board's December meeting.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Fire Chief, Bryan Ferguson, explained that he received a bid of \$14,650 from Grand Traverse Construction for Station 2's three new outer entry doors. In addition, he received a bid of \$12,000, plus related installation costs, from D&W for the exhaust ventilation system needed for inside the garage at Station 2. There was much discussion on the cost of the three doors and Bryan explained that it was a complete bid on everything needed for the metal doors, such as painting, combo locks etc. As Empire Township owns Station 2 and is responsible for these type of capital improvements, a motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to accept the bid of \$14,650 from Grand Traverse Construction for three new metal entry doors and the \$12,000 bid from D&W for the exhaust ventilation with a cap placed that both projects together were not to exceed \$30,000. All ayes. 2.) The Fire Chief also reported on fire department operations during the last month.

Clerk Report: 1.) Letter and recommendations from MUMS Risk Control on such topics such as roof inspections and HR issues. 2.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay November 2023 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:10 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk