

April 12, 2022

**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Present were members Deegan, Carl Noonan, Casey Noonan, Price, and Neiswonger. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022 regular meeting and the March 26, 2022 annual, budget, and special meetings as written. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 03-31-2022. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in March: 1) Accessory building-Benzonia Tr. 2) Change of use-Bow Rd. 3) Land division-Fredrickson Rd. and 4) Eight commercial storage buildings-Benzonia Tr. 2.) Trustee Deegan reported that a Glen Lake Watershed Task Force will be making a final presentation of the watershed overlay district document. In addition, Planning conducted a site plan review of property off of Plowman Road and are continuing their Master Plan review.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Board reviewed appointments to various township boards. Motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to appoint Dale DeJager to Erik Foged's Zoning Board of Appeals seat that expires in February 2024; appoint Roy Pentilla as alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term that expires in February 2024; and appoint Zachary Stanz to the Airport Authority Board for a term that expires in December 2023. All ayes. 2.) Board decided to table the Sleeping Bear Marathon Special Event request until further information is received from the group. Trustee Deegan brought up concerns regarding traffic flow along LaCore Road with the event using the full roadway on the daylong event. The Clerk will relay these concerns to the group. 3.) Supervisor Noonan and Trustee Deegan are planning on attending the South Bar Lake Drainage District informational meeting to be held at the County Courthouse on April 14, 2022. 4.) Regarding the safety signs at the M72/Benzonia Trail intersection, the Supervisor was informed that the Road Commission is waiting for the State to install needed equipment. 5.) Board reviewed a proposal from Ron Brown & Sons to pave the campground entrance roadway. The proposal was divided into two areas of work. Area (1) comprises repaving of the entrance area to the campground gate at the cost of \$7,383.00 and Area (2) includes the remainder of the pavement from the entrance gate to the second interior gate, including the turnaround area, at the cost of \$26,125.00. The job would be scheduled for the upcoming fall once the park is closed. After discussion of available funds, a motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to accept the Ron Brown proposal for Area (1) at the cost of \$7,383.00 and if sufficient funds are available after this summer's season to also include Area (2) at that time. All ayes.

Clerk Report: 1.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay the April 2022 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: Fire Chief Ferguson reported that the first union negotiation meeting will be held soon.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:05 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk

April 16, 2022

**Empire Township Board
Special Meeting**

Supervisor Noonan called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Township Office. Also present were members Neiswonger, Deegan, and Price. Absent: Casey Noonan. Purpose of the meeting was to review the discussion from the 4-14-2022 Leelanau County Drain Commission scope meeting regarding the South Bar Drainage District.

Four possible engineering plans were presented on replacing the culvert under the private Lake MI Drive within Empire Village. It was noted that although the Road Commission, MDOT, Empire Township and Empire Village would be responsible for 35-40% of the cost of the project, the remainder was to be paid through a special assessment to property owners within the not yet established district area.

After discussion, the Board decided to send a letter to the Drain Commission as public comment with the following motion on the proposed project: Motion was made by Deegan; support-Price that the Empire Township Board requests that the Leelanau County Drainage Commission choose the most cost effective, long-term, and reliable engineering plan that will remedy the perpetuating and existing problem, with minimal future costs and maintenance, for the culvert area along Lake Michigan Drive in Empire, Michigan. In addition, the Board requests that the Commission reduce the total size of the drainage district. All ayes.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 4:00 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk