

January 11, 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 December 14, 2021 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 12-31-2021. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in December: 1) Porch-Bow Rd. 2) Solar array-McClary Rd. 2.) Supervisor Noonan noted that due to Planning Commissioner Erik Foged's recent passing, he would try to have a replacement for possible appointment at the next meeting.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Regarding the proposed Glen Lake Watershed Overlay District, Supervisor Noonan requested the Board's guidance on how they would like to proceed as he plans to meet with Planning Chair, Richard Figura and Board liaison Micah Deegan. Board members relayed concerns that Glen Arbor Township decided to not pursue the regulations due to some of the same issues Empire members had noted at their October 2021 meeting. One issue cited was that the regulations had been promoted as rules that should be adopted by all three townships surrounding the Glen Lakes in order to consistently and fully protect the watershed. As of now Glen Arbor and Kasson Townships have opted out of adopting the rules. Members also agreed that some of the provisions were somewhat redundant as they were already covered by State, County or current zoning regulations. In addition, members were concerned that the lakefront area was mostly developed and due to the extensive area involved in the proposed district, the majority of property affected would be inward and further away from the lakes. Members voiced opinions that certain requirements, such as the steep slope rules, were excessive and would burden property owners with unnecessary conditions. Also of major concern was the discretionary enforcement of certain regulations that would place pressure on the zoning administrator and feasibly place the township at risk with court challenges on subjective administration. Although the Glen Lake Association noted that they hoped the requirements would come across as more educational to the public, final consensus of the Board was that they had no interest in adopting the Glen Lake Watershed Overlay District and at this time the Board felt that educating the public on best watershed practices should be done by possibly promoting a township-wide factual and educational guide rather than adoption of broad and somewhat unclear and subjective zoning requirements.

Clerk Report: 1.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay the January 2022 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes. 2.) After review of the financial statement the following amendments were made: Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to transfer \$2,515 from Campground Fund Contingencies to: Manager Wages-\$1700 and \$815 to Credit Card Fees; Transfer \$9810 from Cemetery Fund Prior Surplus to: Sexton Wages-\$9,000, PR Taxes-\$610 and Maintenance Supplies-\$200. All ayes.

Final Business: Fire Chief Ferguson noted that the Grand Traverse Fire Department had expressed interest in purchasing the rescue truck for \$150,000.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:20 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk