

June 13, 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-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Campground Report: Treasurer Price joined the meeting at this time. Board discussed the recent Consumers Energy installation of the new transformer on the airport property and the breakage of the water line that runs water to the airport from the campground during the installation. Based upon concerns of backflow contamination etc. to the campground's water supply if such an instance occurred, it was decided Supervisor Noonan will speak with airport manager Lance Roman about the airport getting its' own well and disconnecting from the campground's water source.

Cemetery Report: 1.) Board reviewed the following rule regarding winter burials at township cemeteries prepared by attorney Tim Figura. "Section 4. Interment Regulations 9.) Empire Township Cemetery does not conduct burials during winter months and does not offer facilities for temporary storage. When weather conditions prevent interment, a written authorization for delayed interment shall be prepared by the chosen temporary storage facility and signed by the next of kin or authorized agent. Copies of such written authorizations for delayed interment should be forwarded from the place of temporary storage facility to the Township Cemetery Manager." After discussion, motion was made by Carl Noonan; support-Casey Noonan to strike the last sentence of the rules regulations "Copies of such written authorizations for delayed interment should be forwarded from the place of temporary storage facility to the Township Cemetery Manager" as unneeded at this time, and implement the remaining language as Section 4. #9.) in the Cemetery Regulations. 4 ayes. 1 nay-Price (Treasurer Price noted that he did not disagree with deleting the sentence, but since the attorney wrote it, he felt it should be included). Motion passed. 2.) Board discussed resident Dick Becker's mowing of township's closed Bland Cemetery property throughout the years. Motion Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to give Dick Becker \$500.00 in appreciation for the many previous years of his mowing and upkeep at Bland Cemetery. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 05-31-2023. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in May: 1) New dwellings on: 1. Bridle Tr.; 2. Kitlinger Rd. 3. McClary Rd. 4. Fleetwood Ct; and 5. Plowman Rd. 2) Three storage buildings-Benzonia Tr. and 3) Land Divisions on MacFarlane Rd and Kitlinger Rd. 2.) Trustee Micah Deegan explained that the Planning Commission would hopefully be able to hold another public hearing in September on the draft Master Plan.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Although not fully official yet, Supervisor Noonan noted that after speaking with Drain Commissioner, Steve Christensen, the South Bar Lake drainage district assessment would be levied on township residents that are included in the district on the 2023 winter tax bills. 2.) Due to multiple changes etc. submitted by the Sleeping Bear Marathon on the Special Event application, the Board decided that the Clerk would inform the event organizers that they are to submit a new application with attachments that are clear on what they are requesting for approval on the event for the July meeting.

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

Final Business: 1.) Resident Tom Petersen agreed with the Board's concerns that connection of the airport water line with the campground well exposed the water line to backflow contamination. 2.) Fire Chief Ferguson reported on fire department operations during the last month.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:43 p.m.