

November 9, 2021

**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, and Neiswonger. Absent: Price. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Cemetery Report: Board reviewed an end-of-year report from Manager Claude Fields. Claude's report noted that 130 graves are available for sale and 16 graves were sold this year. Board discussed replacing the Historic Site sign at the cemetery. Clerk contacted D&D Signs, who made the airport sign, for an estimate. A sandblasted sign and pole matching the airport sign would cost approximately \$700. The Clerk will email the Board for their input once D&D's computer renderings of the sign are received.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits in October: 1) New Dwelling-Leelanau Hwy 2) New dwelling-Kitlinger Rd 3) Accessory building-Empire Hwy 4) Land division-Benzonia Trail. 2.) Trustee Deegan reported that planning is continuing the Master Plan review and would await more definite direction from the Township Board on how to proceed with the proposed Glen Lake Watershed District. Supervisor noted that Cleveland Township's regulations for the overlay district might be more in line for what Empire needs and encouraged Planning to review their adopted amendments.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price submitted a written report on CDs and bank accounts as of 10-31-2021. Report received as read.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Due to inquiries and complaints received regarding hunting on township property and the related liability of allowing it, a motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan that no hunting is allowed on any Empire Township properties. All ayes. Joe Harriger will be asked to place 'No Hunting' signage at the entrances of the campground, cemetery, airport, and dump property. 2.) Board reviewed the Empire Chamber of Commerce's Special Event application for the 2022 Roy Taghon Memorial Snowmobile race at the Empire Airport. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the Special Event application for the 2022 Roy Taghon Memorial Snowmobile race at the Empire Airport, contingent upon the Township Board receiving insurance coverage, the correct dates for the event and as soon as possible before the event, that the Board receive the County Emergency Manager's final approvals for review. All ayes. Supervisor Noonan will contact Matt Ansorge to request the final review.

Clerk Report: 1.) Email received from longtime camper Laurie Blacker complimenting the campground condition and the employees. Laurie requested that larger fire pits be placed on the group sites, which the Clerk relayed to the manager. 2.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay the November 2021 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief Ferguson reported that the department is handling 10 to 20 calls a month and noted that the ISO inspection should be completed this week.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:22 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk