

September 14, 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, Neiswonger, and Price. Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Campground Report: Clerk reported that the campground had another very successful season. Motion-Neiswonger; support-Casey Noonan to approve a \$2100.00 bonus for Manager Yolanda Bertaud, a \$1000.00 bonus for Maintenance Manager Joe Harriger, and a \$300.00 bonus for Assistant Maintenance worker Georgios Manesiotis in recognition of jobs well done. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 08-31-2021. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits in August: 1) (4) Commercial storage buildings-Benzonia Trail 2) Deck/stairway-Kitlinger Rd.

Supervisor Report: 1.) The Board received resident letters regarding safety concerns at the M72/Benzonia Trail intersection. After communication with the County Road Commission, the Board was informed that lighted signs would be placed on M72 warning traffic of upcoming cross traffic at the intersection and solar-lighted Stop Signs would be placed on both sides of Benzonia Trail. It was also noted that the Road Commission would review the speed limit on the short S. Dorsey Road off M22. 2.) Fire Chief Ferguson and Empire's ESAC representatives attended the meeting to discuss Empire's \$164,450 refund payment from the last fiscal year and whether the Board should give the refund to the department's Capital Savings Fund to increase monies for future purchases or place the refund in Empire's bank account until it was actually needed for a purchase. After discussion, a motion was made by Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to receive the Fire Department refund of \$164,450 from last fiscal year and place the monies in Empire's bank account until it was needed for future purchases. All ayes.

Clerk Report: 1.) Clerk informed the Board that Empire Township's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) application was approved in the amount of \$84,677 for the township. 2.) Board reviewed Form L-4029, the 2021 Tax Rate Request from County Equalization. The form allowed 0.4356 to be levied for general operating costs and allowed up to 6.9321 to be levied for fire department operations. After discussion and review of money that would be needed to fund next year's Fire Department contract costs, a motion was made by Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to levy 0.4356 for general operations and levy 5.400 for fire department operations. All ayes. 3.) After review of the financial statement the following amendments were made: Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to transfer \$700 from General Fund Contingencies to: Planning & Zoning Supplies-\$200 and Printing-\$300 and \$200 to the Glen Lake Association Contribution account; Transfer \$2100 from Campground Fund Contingencies to: Manager Wages-\$2100; Transfer \$5000 from Cemetery Fund Prior Surplus to: Maintenance Supplies-\$1000 and Maintenance & Repair-\$4000; Transfer \$1200 from Airport Fund Contingencies to: Supplies-\$1200. All ayes. 4.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay the September 2021 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief Ferguson reported that he believed the department had approximately 600 calls this year with the majority of them being medical related. All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:36 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk