

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP
3546 S STRAITS HWY, INDIAN RIVER, MI 49749
MAY 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Supervisor Ridley at 7:02 pm

ITEM 2: The supervisor led the board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL

Present – Supervisor Ridley, Clerk Reidsma, Trustee Vance, Treasurer Balazovic

Absent - Trustee Kramer

Staff Present: G Temple, J Dillaha, D Schofield

Quorum present

ITEM 4: BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

No board conflicts were reported.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Move to pull the Treasurer’s Report and Minutes as well as Planning Commission and Parks Commission reports moved from the consent agenda.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Vance

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Reported by Treasurer Balazovic that there are invoices (15) that were not included in the report that were paid. Confirmed by Clerk Reidsma that the Payables report may be incomplete.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The floor was open for public comment at 7:05

- J Schams – South Ave (Old Business) abandonment. In favor of not abandoning the road.

Public comment was closed at 7:08 pm

ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items include – Bills Report, Library, Sewer, Airport, Police, Assessor, DDA and FOIA.

MOTION: Move to approve consent agenda items.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Reidsma

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote

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ITEM 8: OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 8a: SOUTH AVE ABANDONMENT

Supervisor Ridley reported on discussion with township Counsel, Matt Cross on this issue. Mr. Cross requested that the issue be tabled to give sufficient time for title search and a legal opinion on this issue.

ITEM 8b:SEWER RATES

Supervisor Ridley asked for information on the rates. Trustee Vance located a table based on CPIU or 6%, but is uncertain about whether this is the appropriate information. The sewer O&M is currently running at a deficit. Treasurer Balazovic reported that the file with the controlling document has disappeared and that the rate increase is 6% or CPIU, whichever is greater. Rates cannot be raised retroactively and must be raised for this next quarter. There is approximately \$25,000 that is available to transfer. There is a letter from Blake Smith that supports the transfer of these funds. The State Park raise is limited to CPIU.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 9a: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MI APPROPRIATION BILL FOR CORNWALL FLOODINGS:

Supervisor Ridley read the resolution to support a bill introduced by State Representative Cavitt to allocate funds to save the dam. Supervisor Ridley read the resolution into the record in full.

MOTION: Move to support the resolution as read by Supervisor Ridley

Moved by Ridley, seconded by Vance

Roll call vote: In Favor – Ridley, Balazovic, Vance, Reidsma

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

ITEM 9b: SALARY RESOLUTION FY 2023-24:

Supervisor Ridley reported that a salary resolution must be voted on 30 days before the annual meeting.

ITEM 9c: BUDGET WORKSHOP/PUBLIC HEARING DATE

Supervisor Ridley reported that the preliminary budgets have been prepared. The Parks budget has been included prematurely as the Parks Commission has scheduled a workshop. Road special assessments and sewer are not yet complete.

MOTION: Move to schedule the public hearing for the budget at the June 6 meeting at 6:30pm.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Reidsma

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent

Discussion:

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Other meetings may be scheduled to obtain input from the public prior to adoption of the budget in June.

ITEM 9d(1): PARKS COMMISSION REPORT – BOAT LAUNCH FEE WAIVER

Supervisor Ridley reported that there is a request to waive boat launch fees for a fishing tournament.

MOTION: Move to deny request for waiver of boat launch fees for fishing tournament.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Vance

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Discussion:

Objective to avoid a backlog of traffic at boat launch due to filling out boat launch pass and submitting payment.

Creation of a precedent

Deemed donation by the township

Collection issues last year subsequent to the event.

Prior year pre-printed passes were generated and distributed and then paid for after the event.

Boat traffic for this event created issues for homeowners on Nabinois.

Contract with the DNR may prohibit discounts or waiver of fees.

ITEM 9d(2): PARKS COMMISSION REPORT – SUMMERFEST USE OF MARINA PARK

Supervisor Ridley reported the request to use Marina Park for Summerfest by the Indian River Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION: Move to allow the use of Marina Park for Summerfest.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Reidsma

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent.

ITEM 9e: PLANNING COMMISSION

Supervisor Ridley reported on the submission of a Planning Commission ordinance for legal review.

MOTION: Move to postpone for further review before it is forwarded to the attorney.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Reidsma

MOTION Failed

Discussion:

MTA template was used to write the ordinance.

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MOTION: Move to submit the draft ordinance to township counsel for legal review as requested by the Planning Commission.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Ridley

MOTION Failed

ITEM 9f: TREASURER REPORT

Treasurer Balazovic reported the following issues:

The Pool account is out of balance and not in compliance and that the Clerk is not cooperating in resolving the issue.

Sewer and Special Assessment account – a transfer of \$41,551.87 was made from these accounts to the pool account. No supporting documents for this transfer were provided and the source of the transfer is unknown by the Treasurer. The Treasurer reported that the transfer was made by the Clerk without the support or cooperation of the Treasurer.

Treasurer reports that payments being received by non-bonded volunteers including cash payments.

Treasurer reports that a payment that was received at the front desk was not forwarded to the Treasurer for processing.

ITEM 9g: MINUTES

Treasurer Balazovic inquired about Mr Melner's public comment – his name was misspelled in the minutes. April 4th meeting change Melner to Milner. He also commented on the level of detail recorded in public comments. The April 26th Special Meeting should be edited to include his public comment on correct spelling for his name.

MOTION: Move to approve minutes as edited.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Reidsma

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent.

ITEM 10: PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment began at 7:35 pm.

P McGinnis – Indian River Flows – Veterans can identify themselves in the video for the May 23rd event.

J Amato – Jake break prohibition signage request.

S Snyder – Treasurer's report.

L Hull – Appreciation of citizens who have served the community particularly Treasurer Balazovic and Supervisor Ridley. Cooperation of community to work for progress.

R Grandy – Public discourse. Township governance and progress of the community.

H Herpel – Public discourse. Grants for sewers and blight. Community progress. Appreciation for community service.

J Milner – Resignations. Plan for transition. OMA violations.

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Public comment ended at 7:57 pm.

ITEM 11: BOARD COMMENT

Four members commented

ITEM 12: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Reidsma, Tuscarora Township Clerk