

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 11, 2022 7:30 PM EST

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP FALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD

GLADSTONE MI 49837 906-786-6200

Supervisor Rymkos called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm then led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wycoff recited an opening prayer.

Roll Call: Present are Supervisor Tom Rymkos, Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wycoff, Clerk Theresa Chenier, Trustee Al Gareau, Trustee Norman Fleury. All members present.

Trustee Gareau made motion to accept the Agenda with additions. Clerk Chenier second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff made motion to accept June 13, 2022 minutes as presented. Trustee Gareau second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Financial report was reviewed by members. Clerk Chenier added there was a need to purchase a printer/scanner and label maker for election use. That expense will be reimbursed by grant monies. **Motion to accept the financial statement made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Supervisor Rymkos presented flyers that are available from Enbridge Energies for pipeline safety.

Fire Chief Matt Rian gave monthly report. They had 2 fire calls, 1 mutual aid with Brampton Township and 1 smoke smell call that was cancelled. The department will be using a "Code Red" text alert system. Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer all responded that they would like to be added to the "Code Red" messaging. Chief Rian requested Board permission to bring the ladder truck to the Hannahville Indian Community. The pricing on AED's range from \$2000-\$3500. One is needed for the Escanaba Township Hall. Clerk Chenier informed this purchase qualifies for ARPA funds to cover the cost. Clerk Chenier made a motion to purchase 1 G5 AED for \$2000. Trustee Gareau second. All in favor. Motion passed. Chief Rian will order the AED. Truck #1 has primer issues. Cost is approximately \$400 to repair to work properly again. Truck #6 is inoperable due to a seal leaking water. He presented an estimate for repairs to the Board for \$6934.00. Trustee Gareau made motion to deliver Truck #6 to Grayling area for repairs. Trustee Fleury second. All in favor. Motion passed. MAVIS agreement was presented to Board. The next step is an Attorney review then discussion by the Board to consider joining. A joint effort for fire response is considered an assist to the township. City of Escanaba, Baldwin, Brampton, Ensign, Ford River, Garden townships have already signed on. Matt will contact Masonville and Nahma Townships with information to join also. **Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff made motion to approve MAVIS agreement pending attorney approval. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed. Clerk Chenier made motion to approve the ladder truck to attend Hannahville Indian Community display August 4, 2022. Trustee Gareau second. All in favor. Motion passed.**

s/b MABAS

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tri Media Cemetery mapping met with Clerk Chenier and Maintenance Dan Marenger. They are highly recommended by CUPPAD and other townships that use their service. Benefits would be accuracy, easy to access information on-line, information documenting would be simplified. Pricing would be discounted by using the help of their summer intern. **Clerk Chenier made motion to accept a contract with Tri-Media using ARPA grant funds. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The State audit report should be completed shortly. Bids are being accepted for removal of the cedar shrubs around the Township Hall that are causing rain waters to seep into the basement. Bids are being accepted for the basement water issue, such as a sump pump and pipe repairs. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff will look at the ball park bleachers to be able to recommend a repair plan. The ARPA Grant Fund is in the amount of \$355,000. Clerk Chenier would like the board to suggest items and ideas for the funds that need to be completed by 2026. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff suggested fire truck and/or township hall building renovations. Trustee Fleury suggested, if there is going to be joint townships combining, a new hall may serve better in a centralized location. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff will contact Bittner Engineering to look at township hall structure to determine if renovations would be possible and cost effective. Supervisor Rymkos suggested electronic setup so our residents would be able to join our meeting via Zoom. Land Division process will be sent to attorney for review. A printer for election use was purchased for \$250. **Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff made a motion to purchase a BizHub printer from Cooper Office Equipment for \$ 1771.83 Trustee Fleury second. All in favor. Motion passed.** Supervisor Rymkos voiced concerns and shared an article about spreading chemical waste from paper mills on farm fields as fertilizer. He would like to see this process analyzed and also have listing of who holds permits to

+ Add Approval for one time payment to Mi-Plan

spread the sludge product along with a copy of the agreement between the paper mill and land owners. Well contamination is a major concern in the township. Trustee Fleury suggested well sampling. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff suggested an option of a cease and desist order until verification that the product is tested and proven to be safe. Clerk Chenier will research into the Right To Farm Act for more information. Supervisor Rymkos will contact attorney on the subject.

NEW BUSINESS: Christine Williams addressed the Board. She is a candidate for Delta County Commissioner on the August 2, 2022 ballot.

Clerk Chenier inquired if the Board wants to adopt a bidding policy. Supervisor Rymkos requested additional time to review.

Motion Slips were handed out to Board Members to use and complete for purpose of making motions clear and correct.

9:13 pm Trustee Fleury left table to go to the parking lot. All discussion ceased during his absence. He returned in 45 seconds. Forum present. Meeting continued at 9:13 pm.

Janitor report: The pavilion kitchen electric stove was repaired.

Motion was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff to allow cash handling by the Clerk and Zoning Administrator and adding \$150 as imprest cash and delete petty cash. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.

Supervisor Rymkos made a motion to approve Mr. Paul Neumeier as ZBA member. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff second. All in favor. Motion passed. Mr. Neumeier will be sworn in by Supervisor Rymkos.

Trustee Gareau made motion to accept seal coating and line painting bid from Arnt Seal Coating for \$2495 to be performed at the Besse Hall. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed. Supervisor Rymkos mentioned that there will also be a need for gutters on the Besse Hall and parts of the Township Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Karen Whitney thanked Supervisor Rymkos for his concerns of the Verso Grow contamination.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Supervisor Rymkos will continue to follow up EGLE on Verso Grow concerns. New garbage cans were placed at the pavilion. Labor cost for 12X28 carpet installation at the township hall along with removal of old carpet will be \$400-\$600 from the Carpet Shop. Clerk Chenier and Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff continue to proceed with process to settle discrepancies with the SAMs # and FEIN #. Clerk Chenier announced there will be an election on August 2, 2022. The election work staff needs to be approved by Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor.

No Delta County Commissioner Report. Commissioner Barron was not present.

Board-Planning Commission Liaison report given by Clerk Chenier. The Planning Commission is still searching for 2 additional members. July 26, 2022 at 7pm is the date set and approved for a special meeting to continue with Draft Solar Ordinance and Solar Overlay. CUPPAD is assisting with the mapping.

At 9:36 pm the Board proceeded to pay bills. **Motion to pay bills made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Trustee Fleury. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff. All in favor. Motion passed at 9:59 pm.

The next meeting scheduled for the Township Board is August 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary