

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10 2022 7:30 pm**

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Supervisor Tom Rymkos followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Treasurer Kim Knauf-Wycoff presented a prayer of guidance and thanks

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

Motion to approve the agenda with addition was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to approve previous months minutes of September 12, 2022 and October 3, 2022 Special Meeting as presented was made by Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.

Review of the Financial Report. **Clerk Chenier made motion to transfer \$105 from contingency to Town Hall repairs to cover the additional cost of the carpet installation. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff second. All in favor. Motion passed. A motion to approve the Financial Report made by Clerk Chenier. Second by Trustee Gareau. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Supervisor Rymkos announced he received a letter from the Boy Scouts and also a letter from FEMA concerning flood insurance. He would like clarification of their statements so the attorney will be contacted for advise on the role the township plays in this.

Communications: Gary Way –HighLine concerns. Bob Barron suggested DEQ may be able to answer questions on FEMA letter.

Matt Rian, Fire Chief not present. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff gave a brief department update. Truck #5 is in Menominee for mutual aid assistance for the large fire at a paper mill. 2 call outs this past month consisted of a washing machine fire and the Menominee mutual aid response which has been declared a State of Emergency so we will be reimbursed expenses.

Clerk Chenier updated that the audit results hopefully will be completed for next month. The carpet at township hall is installed. The Board is still accepting bids for removal of shrubs around the building. Discussion continued for a solution to the bleachers condition as to replace with aluminum bleachers or repair the existing ones. This was tabled until next month. Clerk Chenier reminded all that the ARPA funding requires ideas and plans to be submitted. Some items already purchased have been a lawn mower, AED for town hall, cemetery mapping and a copier for the office. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff suggested committees could be formed especially in the areas of town hall upgrades, fire truck purchases, solar street lights and website changes. Supervisor Rymkos said he is waiting for a call back to continue looking into the Verso Grow concerns in the area.

Clerk Chenier made the motion to pass the Escanaba Township Bidding policy that 2 quotes instead of 3 can be received and allow to move forward. Second by Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff. All in favor. Motion passed.

Independent Roofing was at the township hall this past week measuring the roof for an estimate of repairs at the Township Hall. Clerk Chenier mentioned Highline Internet had sent them the wrong permit. She will follow up with grant questions and Mr. Way's concerns.

The Blight issue that has been ongoing for a few years on the LaBumbard property was discussed. It was decided that current photos be taken and continue discussion with the attorney. Trustee Fleury's concern on the issue is contamination from appliances and TVs.

New Business: Brian Pahnke of Thrivent Financial spoke on the business of investments in a money market fund. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff asked questions on transferring funds, obligations and interest amounts. The Board chose to table this until next month. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff will retrieve additional information on current fund investments. Purchase of a camera was tabled.

Trustee Gareau made a motion to have garbage pickup service from Delta Disposal for the Besse Hall at \$11 a month. Trustee Fleury second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Appointment of new planning commission member was tabled. The candidate was unable to attend this meeting.

Clerk Chenier made a motion to charge \$200 rental fee with a \$50 deposit for township hall rental for 1 day only with no use of the beer taps. Treasurer Knauf-Wycoff second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Discussion on the township website to consider keeping service already using or finding a new company. It was felt that if we could make additions and updates ourselves that it would work much better and be more efficient. The Board members will research. Trustee Fleury suggested this issue to be tabled until next month.

Supervisor Rymkos is reaching out to the county road commissioner, Jody Norman, on process for weed control of invasive species along the roadsides of the township roadways.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: **Isa Minor** explained her position as Editor of The Daily Press newspaper and also moving forward with a lawsuit against the township, does not allow her to report on the township news such as the solar ordinance. **Tom Piche** feels \$500 for a camera is an un-needed expense. **Fred Minor** wished wife Happy Anniversary. Pam **Leisner** thanked the Planning Commission for the hard work putting together the Solar Ordinance proposal and going forward and being put into action. **Karen Whitney** shared an article published in our local newspaper describing the contamination to wildlife and livestock from eating crops grown in fields that were fertilized with mill sludge and PFAS.

Member Comments: Clerk Chenier, in regards to risk management schedule the ball field and pavilion areas to improve on would be bleachers, privacy screen for bathrooms, clearing of wasp nests and parking lot stop posts. The pavilion was closed on October 1, 2022. She also gave the Planning Commission report from September 14, 2022 meeting. A resolution to amend and approve a Solar Ordinance along with repealing section 108 was approved along with a Solar Overlay map. On October 3, 2022 there was a Special Meeting for a Large Gathering 3 year permit that was approved and granted for Middle school and High School Cross Country running meets on the Farm House property. The Planning Commission decided they will form two groups of two members each. One will do research on a proposed fence ordinance and the other will do research on making the needed corrections to the Escanaba Township zoning map per ZBA findings.. There is a court date of November 16, 2022 for an appeals hearing.

Bob Barron gave the Delta County Commissioner's report. October and April are months that hold 2 meetings a month. October 28, 2022 at 9 o'clock there will be a meeting of the whole concerning removal of zoning from the county level and passing on zoning decisions to the townships. Dickinson County has a high rate of suicide deaths related to fentanyl. Delta County is also experiencing the same.

Approval of Bills to Pay form was presented to Board members for review and approval.

Motion to adjourn at 9:14 pm was made by Trustee Gareau. Second by Clerk Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Board will be November 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone, MI 49837.

