

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

William Seppanen, Supervisor
Neil Hanson, Clerk
Elizabeth LoCicero, Treasurer

PO Box 220
Michigamme, MI 49861
Phone: 906-323-6608
Fax: 906-323-6344

Robert DellAngelo, Trustee
George Kendall, Trustee

admin@michigammetownship.com

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 10, 2020—7:00 PM – VIA ZOOM – Meeting ID 571 416 4947

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: On site: William Seppanen, George Kendall

Remote via Zoom: Elizabeth LoCicero, Robert DellAngelo, Neil Hanson

Guests: via Zoom Debbie Kinnunen, David Puskala, UPPCO, Rose McBride, Scott Gravedoni, Rhonda Gravedoni, Nancy Ferro, Beth Howe-Koenig

- I. CALL TO ORDER –Seppanen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL - Hanson called the roll for attendance. All Board members are present.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – all recited.
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA: Seppanen moved with DellAngelo seconding to accept the consent agenda. 5 Ayes. 0 Nayas. Motion carried.
 - 1. AGENDA - Seppanen added #6.a. Budget Amendment to the agenda under New Business. DellAngelo requested to add #7. Zoning Enforcement of Political Signs under New Business.
 - 2. JULY 13, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES – LoCicero requested a correction to the minutes, “1872 survey” should be stated “1872 plot map”. Correction accepted and will be made.
 - 3. JULY 22, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Seppanen moved to postpone this meeting’s minutes until the next meeting as all Board members have not read the Closed Session meeting minutes yet. Roll Call: Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nayas. Motion carried.
 - 4. TREASURERS REPORT
 - a. PETTY CASH – JULY 2020
 - 5. BILLS TO BE PAID
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Scott Gravedoni spoke about the DDA achievements to date: Don Leake donated his time as a certified electrician to rewire the Park pavilion, Julie Leake secured a grant for the Library door, the plaque for John Olson is ordered, securing a Blue Spruce for Township grounds is proceeding, a section of the rain garden improvement was completed, the Park stair project was initiated by the DDA with the Township taking over the bid process, rack cards were completed advertising businesses in the Township area and distributed, they are currently working on signage for directing traffic into town with potential improvements to the gateway sign.
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Seppanen stated the library doors and the side glass window ordered are commercial grade which should withstand winter weather. Hanson spoke about the August 4th election, commending the election workers on the fine job they did especially Michelle Suring as chairperson. Hanson stated that he has been asked by some residents if he is running for re-election as clerk in November and the answer is yes. He asked for the resident’s support.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - 1. COMMUNITY BUILDING ROOF REPAIR BID ESTIMATE – Hanson did not reach the Insurance person. He will follow-up.
 - 2. LIBRARY DOOR GRANT – Seppanen stated that this topic was already discussed during Board and Public Comment.
 - 3. PARK STAIRS REPLACEMENT DECISION – BILL SEPPANEN – Seppanen stated that after confirming that the specifications were at least equal from both bidders he became excited and enthusiastically told Fabricating Machining and Repair, LLC that their bid was accepted. He realized that he was supposed to bring the information

back to the Board for their vote. So, he polled the Board with the new information on the specifications and all agreed that Fabricating Machining and Repair, LLC should be awarded the bid. Fabricating Machining and Repair, LLC was notified of the acceptance of their bid and work is expected to begin August 17th with DPW employees starting the preparations. Dellangelo suggested that the Township needs to acknowledge the bids of the other companies and thank them for their time and efforts. The Township could create a form letter to use in the future for all bidders. The Board unanimously agreed. LoCicero suggested that Michelle type the letter signed by Township Board.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. RECYCLING – Seppanen shared the MCSWMA letter with the Board regarding temporary recycling suspension. A storage facility is available at KI Sawyer for use in the meantime. The Board decided to suspend recycling during this time frame rather than haul recycling to KI Sayer and post signs and notices regarding the suspension. LoCicero moved to suspend recycling during this time frame and move the recycling trailers from their spot so they are not available for use. Seppanen seconded the motion. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
2. SEWER LATERALS - Seppanen asked the Board to consider whether the Township will allow the property owner to suspend their sewer service user fee by just taking the toilet out rather than disconnecting the sewer at the outside lateral as stated in the Sewer Ordinance. DellAngelo stated that the Township has allowed this with a few customers in the recent past with the Sewer Operator inspecting the house to confirm that toilets were disconnected, and he agrees that this was a mistake. The Township would not have any way of knowing if the property owner reconnects their toilets in the future. The Township needs to have the property owner dig up and cap the connection to the sewer lateral to be relieved of the user fee. A few sewer customers will need to be notified of this change in process by letter to become compliant. DellAngelo moved to require the property owner to disconnect the sewer at the outside house lateral connection with Seppanen supporting. Roll Call: LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
3. FORCEMAIN CHANGE ORDERS
 - a. VALVE – an additional cost of \$1,600 for changing the valve by the Park is requested. This valve will be exercised regularly (a minimum of twice a year) to maintain its integrity. LoCicero moved to allow the additional expense of replacing the valve and for Seppanen to negotiate a lower rate for engineering with UPEA. DellAngelo supported the motion. Roll Call: Seppanen, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Hanson, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 - b. ENGINEERING AGREEMENT – Seppanen stated that the additional amount charged is due to the Township not having a licensed sewer operator available to monitor the project which originally lowered the cost.
4. UPPCO FRANCHISE ORDINANCE – Puskala stated this is a 30-year franchise which allows UPPCO to conduct business in the Township. The agreement has a 60-day notice for both parties to cancel. He added that currently they have very little customers in the Township. UPPCO pays for the ordinance ad to be published in the paper. The Township can request the bill be sent directly to UPPCO. DellAngelo moved to accept the UPPCO Franchise Agreement ordinance with LoCicero supporting. Roll Call: Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Seppanen declared the motion passed.
5. SICK LEAVE FOR WORKERS – Seppanen suggested that the Township add the benefit of sick leave for workers, adding that it could aid in employee retention. It is budget neutral and the employees could accrue it based on hours worked. The Board requested that more research be completed on the topic. Seppanen will contact other Townships to see what they offer. Seppanen moved to postpone the topic until additional research is obtained, with LoCicero supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
6. BUDGET RESOLUTIONS – Seppanen stated the budget resolutions proposed for the Sanitation, Road, Sewer and General Funds. DellAngelo moved to accept the budget resolutions and the Sewer Fund budget amendment as presented with Seppanen supporting. Roll Call: DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 - a. Amendment – Add \$20,000 to Contracted Services in the Sewer Fund. LoCicero stated that \$10,000 is from RRI and \$10,000 from Sewer Savings.

7. ZONING ENFORCEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS – DellAngelo stated that the current political signs are not in compliance with the Township sign ordinance. Some are too large, and they are in the public right of way. He stated the details of the ordinance and added the State of Michigan has statutes regarding the composition and placement of political signs. The Board agreed that enforcing the Township ordinances are a must. LoCicero moved to enforce the Township Zoning Section 507 Sign ordinance and send letters to the non-compliant persons with Seppanen supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. DellAngelo will compose the letters.

- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Beth Howe-Koenig – handicap availability to the Second Chance Sale and the Park chain gate discussed at the DDA meeting; Rhonda Gravedoni – zoning.

- X. BOARD COMMENT – DellAngelo will call Rhonda Gravedoni regarding the zoning question. DellAngelo thanked Donald Leake for his work rewiring the Park Pavilion which saved the Township a considerable sum and suggested that the Township send him a thank you letter. Seppanen stated that the new lights Donald Leake installed at the Pavilion are LEDs and are an efficient and cost saving feature also. Seppanen will compose the letter for the Board signatures.

- XI. CORRESPONDENCE – none

- XII. ADJOURNMENT – Hanson moved to adjourn with LoCicero supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.