

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

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TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020—7:00 PM – VIA ZOOM – Meeting ID 571 416 4947

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: On site: William Seppanen, George Kendall, Neil Hanson
Remote via Zoom: Elizabeth LoCicero, Robert DellAngelo
Guests: via Zoom Michelle Suring, Debbie Kinnunen, Rose McBride, Scott Gravedoni, Rhonda Gravedoni, Irene Deroche, Beth Koenig, Rhonda Boshears.

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Seppanen called 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: DellAngelo moved with Seppanen seconding to accept the consent agenda. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 1. AGENDA
 2. JULY 22, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – not presented in packet
 3. JULY 22, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – not completed
 4. AUGUST 10, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES - approved
 5. AUGUST 19, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – not completed
 6. TREASURERS REPORT
 7. BILLS TO BE PAID – LoCicero questioned the MCRC bill, not received yet. DellAngelo questioned the Foster Swift bill and requests it not be paid until they provide a status report. The Board agreed that they need to prepare a reasonable settlement. The Foster Swift bill is not approved for payment.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes)- Beth Koenig: need agenda and minutes on website; Scott Gravedoni: Artisan Market was a success with many vendors, Christmas tree will be delivered tomorrow, DDA currently working on signage project for township; Rhonda Boshears: stated her preference on signage.
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Seppanen stated the stairs for the park are scheduled to arrive on Sept. 22 at noon.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 1. COMMUNITY BUILDING ROOF REPAIR BID ESTIMATE – Hanson spoke with parties and work should be completed before winter.
 2. SICK LEAVE FOR WORKERS-OPTIONS – Postponed till comparison completed.
 3. UPLC – The Board discussed the ongoing lawsuit with UPLC. The board is suggesting that our lawyers pursue a settlement that will include recouping the attorney fees already spent.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS:
 1. SEWER OPERATOR CONTRACT - Removed from agenda.
 2. GARBAGE AT CAMPGROUND – Board discussed how to determine who is dropping off garbage in the cans at the campground. LoCicero moved to purchase a security camera to be placed at the site with Seppanen seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 3. BEACH & CAMPGROUND RULES SIGNS – Board discussed obtaining signs with rules and expectations for the beach and campground to be posted at the sites. DellAngelo stated that this subject had been discussed in the past with a list of rules to be followed prepared. Signs need to be purchased. The Board agreed to move forward with obtaining signage.

4. PAYROLL TAX HIATUS – Seppanen stated that participating in the proposed payroll tax hiatus would be an accounting nightmare for the Township since payroll tax relief will need to be paid back later. The Township has payroll for the Fire and EMS and Committees that are not consistent employees. The board agreed and decided to not participate.
5. COMMUNITY BUILDING FITNESS ROOM OPENING – Seppanen stated that Jan Anderson has requested that the Township now open the fitness room since the Executive order has been rescinded for gyms. She will volunteer to open and sanitize the area. She asks that the fitness area be limited to two persons at a time on Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm. The Board agreed with the suggestion and times and rules will be posted.
6. STREET SIGNS – Seppanen stated that the Township’s current street signs are wearing out and need to be replace. The Board discussed and agreed to delay their replacement until spring and add this item to the Township’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
7. DOGS IN THE PARK – Seppanen stated that currently dogs are not allowed in the park and is suggesting that the Township allow dogs on a leash to be walked in the park. He added that the DDA has been discussing this and will order the stands with trash bags that can be placed in the park for use in cleaning up after dogs. The Board agreed with the exception that no dogs would be allowed during Township events taking place in the park.
8. GATING THE PARK ENTRANCE – The Board discussed the pros and cons to gating the park entrance. It was suggested that the park have summer hours posted. Seppanen will price a gate that will not be a cable since that is too dangerous. The Board suggested this item be a CIP to be added to the budget in the spring.
9. TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING – Seppanen moved to hold a public hearing for truth in taxation at 6:30 pm on October 12th with LoCicero seconding the motion. Roll Call: LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nayses. Motion carried. Hanson will advertise in the newspaper 6 days prior to the hearing date.
10. WINTER OFFICE HOURS STARTING IN OCTOBER – Seppanen moved to begin winter office hours from 10 am to 1 pm Monday through Thursday on October 1, 2020 with LoCicero seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nayses. Motion carried.
11. MTA ONLINE LEARNING PACKAGES – Seppanen gave all the Board members the information on the packages available for learning opportunities with MTA. He stated that he believes Option 1 would not be beneficial, but Option 2 plus plan may be advantageous to a new board since it is \$1,000 for a team. DellAngelo moved that the Township buy Option 2 for the MTA Learning package with Seppanen seconding the motion. Roll Call: Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nayses. Motion carried.
12. BID FOR OFFICE A/C DUAL UNITS – Seppanen stated that he received one bid for the A/C Dual Unit from Bianchi. DellAngelo suggested putting the purchase of this item off and adding it to the CIP process. The Board agreed with no further discussion.
13. BS&A MAPS – Seppanen spoke with Township Assessor, Solomon, regarding the need to obtain updated software. DellAngelo stated that he needs current information for zoning and the expense could be taken out of the zoning budget. DellAngelo moved to purchase the software needed with Seppanen seconding the motion. Roll Call: Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nayses. Motion carried.
14. SEWER RATES – LoCicero stated that the Township has received a 39-page analysis from John Holland of the Michigan Rural Water Association. His recommendation is that the Township maintain a \$60,000 contingency fund for repairs and maintenance. The consensus was the Township needs to increase its user fees by \$9.50 per user with the bond fee remaining the same. LoCicero added that Brenda Johnson from the USDA also advocated a rate increase. This brings the total sewer user fee to \$30 which is a total of \$52.50 for one sewer user household. The Township will send a letter (sample reviewed in packet) explaining the increase along with the new payment slips for the October through September sewer year currently being prepared. The Township will also hold an informational meeting with John Holland present to answer any questions the residents may have. DellAngelo stated that he hoped that once a contingency fund reached an adequate amount the user fee could be lowered in the future. He added that rate status be reviewed annually. Seppanen stated that the Township did not have the funds to make repairs in the past and it was important to maintain the sewer system to reduce costly repairs.

LoCicero moved to increase the sewer user fee by \$9.50 per user with DellAngelo seconding the motion. Roll Call: DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

15. MUSEUM SIDING INSTALLATION – Seppanen stated that Astro UP in Rock, Michigan quoted the Museum \$1018 for siding. He asked the Board if they would approve the DPW employees install the siding when they have time. LoCicero questioned whether the Township still needs the two additional summer help with fall coming. Seppanen stated that he would like them to continue until the end of September which frees the DPW employees to work on other projects like the dock repair, winterization, stair installation, etc. The Board agreed. DellAngelo stated that the Township looks very good and the workers are doing a great job with the mowing. DellAngelo move to support using the DPW employees to install the siding with Seppanen seconding the motion. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 16. BROOK STREET PROPERTY – Seppanen called Ann Giroux at the Marquette County Land Bank and proposed an agreement with them. The Land Bank agreed to donate the land to the Township in exchange for not being charged the sewer bond fees. They further agreed to allow the DDA to use that property for overflow of space for the Artisan’s Market. DellAngelo stated that the Township needs to have available land for development in the RRC program. The Township mowed the grass on the lot to reduce the blight. LoCicero stated a restriction on what the land could be used for should be imposed. DellAngelo moved with LoCicero seconding the motion to accept the land proposal. Roll Call: Kendall, Aye, LoCicero, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 17. DPW WORK WEEK – The Board discussed the work hours of the DPW employees. It was suggested the workers start at 6 am on Monday and 7 am Tuesday through Friday in the winter and 7:30 am in the summer. LoCicero suggested that the workers stagger their beginning time by one hour and they alternate by months or weeks. They further suggested that they alternate garbage duties weekly when John gets his CDL. LoCicero moved to change the DPW work week hours with DellAngelo seconding the motion. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 18. CEMETERY SOFTWARE PROGRAM – Hanson stated that he is supporting obtaining the Cemetery Software program and finishing this project. The Board discussed the fact that Spurr has still not given the Township an answer on their participation in this project. LoCicero asked how long it would take to complete the software program. The Board decided it needed to follow-up with Spurr before moving forward.
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Irene Deroche: agrees cable gate not a good idea and handicap people cannot use the stairs.
 - X. BOARD COMMENT – DellAngelo thanked Beth Koenig for her suggestion to cut the grass on the Brook Street property to make it look better in the Township.
 - XI. CORRESPONDENCE – none. The Board has decided to discontinue this agenda item in the future.
 - XII. ADJOURNMENT – Seppanen moved to adjourn with Hanson seconding the motion. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.