

# MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

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*William Seppanen, Supervisor*

*Neil Hanson, Clerk*

*Nicole Haskett, Treasurer*

*Julia Anderson-Leake, Trustee*

*Donald DeRoche, Trustee*

## TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY BUILDING MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021—7:00 PM ZOOM MTG #: 571-416-4947

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: On site: William Seppanen, Donald DeRoche, Julia Anderson-Leake, Nicole Haskett, Neil Hanson  
Guests in person: Ruth Starr, Kathy Hanson, Paula Roncaglione, Tristan Hurkmans, Nancy Ferro, Beth and Gary Koenig, Jean Howe, Larry Frisk, Roberta Frisk, Whitney Saunders, Terry McBride, Rhonda Boshears, Charlie Anderson  
Guests via Zoom: Debbie Kinnunen, Cindy Coleman, James Sanders, Katie @ Mining Journal, Irene DeRoche

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Seppanen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. ROLL CALL – Clerk Hanson called the roll. Supervisor Seppanen, Clerk Hanson, Trustee DeRoche, Trustee Anderson-Leake, Treasurer Haskett, are present. There is a quorum.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Recited.
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA: Haskett moved to approve the consent agenda with Anderson-Leake supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
  1. JUNE 14, 2021, BOARD MEETING MINUTES
  2. TREASURERS REPORT
  3. BILLS TO BE PAID – Hanson asked about freight on hydraulic cylinder – John Deere repair, Anderson-Leake asked Mullins – auto repair, MI Rural Water Association - sewer membership fee
- I. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Whitney Saunders – draft meeting minutes available; Larry Frisk – draft meeting minutes available, shutting people out, town divided; Paula Roncaglioni – Marquette Road Commission letter to Irene DeRoche that was read at the last meeting mentioned her name many times, move the gazebo was decided on day one, Gravedoni's attacked her, phone forced out of hand, she gave to woman who read the number at 4 in AM; Roberta Frisk – need additional microphones, back in 30s and 40s there was no information shared and you did as you were told; Cindy Coleman – library reopening this Tuesday; Gary Koenig – had many different jobs throughout the years, make meetings comfortable, try to get along with people you serve rather than upsetting everyone.
- II. BOARD COMMENT – Julia Anderson-Leake stated minutes can be changed by the Board not the public, the Marquette County Road Commission letter was sent on February 18, 2021 to the Planning Commission as a courtesy copy, the Township has authority over the Planning Commission so it was shared with the Township Board, Bill Seppanen, Jan Anderson and she attended an information meeting regarding the new underground 5-G fiber-optic internet rural access that is part of the Biden administration rural area plan and will be coming to the UP starting in Escanaba and moving toward Michigamme, still waiting for one more cabinet to finish the library; Nicole Haskett stated that in order to compile financials she needs the end of the month statements so it is not possible to have the report completed any earlier than eight business days prior, it was stated by a resident that she has 30 days (all month) to complete the report; Neil Hanson stated that he is the sergeant at arms at meetings and the Township won't tolerate the disgusting behavior that happened at the last meeting, he added that the Township is not required to pass out minutes or any other information at the meeting for the public, he added that the attendees will be asked to be quiet once and if you won't comply that person will be escorted out, the Sheriff has been called to be available, he also stated that maintenance on sewer needs to begin on a regular basis; DeRoche stated they need to get along better, suggests a

town hall meeting, people should be able to sit together without screaming and yelling; Seppanen stated that because he is in charge of the employees and is the contact with MI Waters the sewer maintenance is his responsibility to oversee and will remain so, he added that Neil has many responsibilities already on his plate that have not been completed including the cemetery upkeep of records, annual resolutions, voter records and election upkeep, minutes and board packets, and daily tasks; Seppanen added that the current website has limited space, when something is added, something has to be deleted, when we move to the new website design it will have a different platform that will accommodate more documents.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT – Seppanen read the Fire Department Report that listed the monthly meetings held and the monthly fire runs in 2020. The Board accepted the report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. GARBAGE TRUCK BID OPENING – Seppanen opened and read the two bids received for the 2016 Lodal garbage truck. Great American Disposal's bid was \$21,500. Waste System Inc's bid (a company in Colorado) was \$35,250. Hanson moved to reject the bids and advertise it for another 30 days with Haskett seconding. The original cost of the truck was \$188,707, purchased in August of 2016, it has 1483 hours and 17,912 miles on it currently. The Board discussed the value of the truck and publishing an ad on different national trade sites that may generate more interest. Anderson-Leake stated she is against using ebay to sell it. Roll call: Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
2. PEWS FROM LIBRARY BID OPENING – Seppanen opened the one bid that the Township received and read it. \$266.50 bid from Corbin Lutz for both pews. Seppanen moved to accept the bid for the two church pews from the library with Hanson supporting. Anderson-Leake stated that it's nice that the pews will stay in the community at the new location in the old chapel on Main Street. Roll call: Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
3. SET DATE FOR SPURR/MICHIGAMME BOARD MEETINGS – Seppanen stated that Spurr changed their meeting from the second Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. He suggested that the two boards meet at Spurr at either 5:00 or 6:00 pm before the Spurr Township meeting on July 21. At that meeting, the rest of the quarterly dates can be set. Spurr Township will create the agenda for that meeting and most likely will discuss the shared governance of the cemetery, the agreement signed, and the need for the ordinance to be updated. Seppanen will bring copies of the current cemetery ordinance to the meeting. The Board agreed with that date and Seppanen will confirm the time with Spurr Township and call the Board with that information.
4. 906 TECHNOLOGIES SERVICE CONTRACT QUOTE – Seppanen stated that the service contract was cancelled by the former Treasurer without Board knowledge, thus it recently cost \$1,050 in labor to fix the server and retrieve the information. Anderson-Leake asked if the Township ever contracted with any other service provider, Seppanen stated that Compudyne was the former provider. Joe Menze, CIO and Co-owner of 906 Technologies sent a quote and explanation of why we need to have a service contract. The monthly amount is \$330 with a one-time set-up fee of \$220. Had the service contract been in place, the G-Drive failure could have been avoided and the subsequent cost to service the server and the loss of availability of the internet and essential programs located on the server that employees use to complete their daily tasks would have been avoided. The Board discussed whether there are other reputable companies available. Haskett stated that she has always had good service with 906 Technologies, it is a local company, and compared to hiring an IT person the contract would be more cost effective. Anderson-Leake stated the company that her husband works for uses this company. Seppanen moved to accept the service contract with 906 Technologies with Haskett supporting. Roll call: DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
5. NORTHERN MICHIGAN EAN INTERNET SERVICES – Seppanen explained that currently we use Pasty.net and when the power goes out in town (basically at the school) the internet that the Township uses goes down. The Township is researching the availability of using NMU EAN Internet to serve the Township. This will require two accounts to be purchased (one for the Township offices and one for the Firehall) at a cost of \$35 per month each and an annual fee for each antenna of approximately \$63. The township requested information regarding the availability of a generator backup on the tower that NMU EAN uses. The township could also request that Pasty.net install a

generator backup on the school. Seppanen moved to postpone the decision to gather further information supported by Anderson-Leake. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

6. TOWNSHIP SUMMER DEFERMENT NOTICE AD DECISION – Haskett stated the County Clerk’s office is offering to include the Township in a County-wide advertisement for the summer deferment notice ad. The cost last year was \$23 and is not expected to be more than that. Haskett moved to include the Township in the County-wide ad with Seppanen supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Haskett will take care of notifying the County Clerk.
7. SECOND CHANCE SALE EXTENSION – Seppanen stated that Nancy Ferro has asked that the sale be extended till August 1<sup>st</sup> rather than ending on July 18<sup>th</sup> because she has received many more significant items to sell in the past week including items from the library. This is a fund-raiser for the museum and monies from items from the library will be given back to the library to buy books. Nobody is scheduled to rent the building at this time. Seppanen moved to extend the sale until August 1 with Anderson-Leake supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Whitney Saunders – server question, disappointed in town, draft meeting minutes; Jean Howe –the Fire Department and Garbage collection were priorities in the Planning Commission survey results, lower millage for garbage pickup, four people trained for garbage collection, Board is working for us and we can find someone else to take your place, your time is coming and it might be short; Larry Frisk – cost of moving gazebo and four Township workers were standing around doing nothing, Board members hate the gazebo; Paula Roncagolini – Neil wants to do the sewer again, he should get his job back, rumors around town that you don’t need to pay for six months you’re not Olson, start looking at the bills; Roberta Frisk – married 70 years , spent over 60 years in this town, have been involved, being called trouble makers, should work to promote Michigamme, some of the Board members think the residents are unimportant and don’t want to hear what the residents have to say; Beth Koenig – sergeant in arms is threatening them and Board is hiding stuff, they found things that are going to be acted on and things are going to change in the future; Kathy Hanson- last month’s meeting the attendees attacked the Board and tonight the attendees think the Board is attacking them, need to work together, nobody is hiding anything, nobody calls her husband to ask for explanations, the Board cares, give credit to the Board, need open communication, these are hard-working people on the Board; Gary Koenig – comments were made about their friends that were attacked verbally by someone in the community telling them to go back to their country because she is not a citizen, people lose jobs because they can’t get along with others, time for change; Irene DeRoche – issue with Lake and Max street has been going on for two years, took away the Gazebo, one person’s interest taken over all people’s interest with land in town.

VI. BOARD COMMENT – Hanson passed out old pictures of the sewer crock at Mt. Shasta, he stated that there are three pumps located there and two failed last week; Seppanen stated that he has contacted Scott Holman about the sewer system and their lack of having an adequate grease trap or cleaning it not often enough, the sewer system maintenance will be addressed with the appropriate employees; Anderson-Leake thanked Charlie Gardner and DeRoche for taking on the fire sign issue at Arfelin Lake, the township is not hiding things from the public, not one Township Board member has ever said that they hate the Gazebo, the Township needs volunteers for the gardens and other activities that are happening in the Township; Haskett thanked everyone for their patience with her child, she has heard the word attack a lot tonight and she wants to assure the public that she is listening to everyone and comments being made are hurtful when she is trying to do a good job; DeRoche mentioned that they installed 50 fire signs and continue to work on getting the addresses set up into the 911 system, he thanked Charlie Gardner for his assistance walking him through the process for the setting the system up, maps are still outstanding; Seppanen stated that this weather station located next to the Museum is the only one in the UP but they have additional work to do to complete it, the Township expects the public attending meetings to be respectful, not use foul language and not shout out comments while the Board is conducting its business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Seppanen moved to adjourn the meeting with Hanson supporting. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.