

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Corrected and Approved 10-12-2020

AUGUST 19, 2020—4:00 PM

MICHIGAMME COMMUNITY BUILDING

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: On site: William Seppanen, Robert DellAngelo, George Kendall
Remote via Zoom: Elizabeth LoCicero, Neil Hanson
Guests: via Zoom Debbie Kinnunen, John Holland, MRWA, Irene DeRoche

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Seppanen called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. ROLL CALL – Hanson called the roll – all present there is a quorum for the meeting.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - recited
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – DellAngelo moved with LoCicero seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- IV. GUEST SPEAKER – JOHN HOLLAND, MRWA – Mr. Holland stated that the Township needs to keep some spare pumps and valves on hand for timely replacement. He suggests budgeting the cost of adding a pump and valve each year to future capital improvements. Seppanen stated that the Township currently has 9 valves that need to be replaced and the Township has 2 spare pumps on hand. Holland stated the valves need to be exercised every six months to maintain their integrity. LoCicero prepared a summary of her earlier discussion with Mr. Holland for the Board. He recommends having \$60,000 in a contingency fund and raising the rates by 2-3% each year. The Township needs to consider the income level of the sewer users in the Township when looking for any grant funds or other funding options. Holland suggests that we contact Brenda Stevenson with USDA in Gladstone. She may be able to provide insight on how to address using the lower income level of the Village that has the sewer system rather than the overall Township income level normally used in calculations for funding options. Seppanen spoke with Randy Conroy yesterday. Conroy stated that he would approve a person with a higher license to work with the DPW employees for training and monitoring. Conroy could allow the person training and monitoring to enter data into MiWaters for the Township. LoCicero recommends that the Township budgets \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year for contingency expenses. Holland recommends that the Township add \$6,000 for temporary operator expenses this year. Holland stated that MRWA does offer free training to municipalities with sewer systems. He stated he would have a formal recommendation prepared for the Township by the next Board meeting on September 14, 2020. He added that MRWA also has succession planning training available if the Township is interested. He will contact the Township to set that up later.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) - None
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Kendall stated that he would like to discontinue doing the Goose Patrol duties on the 24th of September. The Board agrees. Seppanen stated he will contact Conroy tomorrow and inform the Board of his discussion and options available. LoCicero stated that Betty Premo needs to be contacted to obtain contact suggestions for a person who could take the required samples. Seppanen will contact Premo at Whitewater Associates. Hanson will also contact Conroy to ask him how often the samples need to be taken and entered in the system.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. NEW HIRE – Hanson and Seppanen conducted eleven interviews and would like to recommend the Township hire John Howe for the DPW position currently open. DellAngelo moved to hire John Howe at \$18 per hour and increase Jan Rosewall pay rate to \$18 per hour. Seppanen supported the motion. Roll Call: LoCicero, Nay, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DellAngelo, Aye, Kendall, Abstain. 3 Ayes. 1 Nay. 1 Abstain. Motion carried.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) - None

IX. BOARD COMMENT - None

X. CORRESPONDENCE - None

- XI. ADJOURNMENT – Seppanen moved to adjourn with DellAngelo supporting. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.