

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

William Seppanen, Supervisor
Neil Hanson, Clerk
Nicole Haskett, Treasurer

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Julia Anderson-Leake, Trustee
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TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021—7:00 PM MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: William Seppanen, Nicole Haskett, Neil Hanson, Julia Anderson-Leake, Donald DeRoche
Guests: Deborah Kinnunen, Kathy Hanson, Rose and Terry McBride, David Niemi, Nancy Ferro, Ruth Starr, Rhonda Boshears, Beth and Gary Koenig, Susan Alexander, Tristan Hurkman

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Supervisor Seppanen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL – Clerk Hanson called the roll. Trustee Anderson-Leake, Treasurer Haskett, Supervisor Seppanen, Trustee DeRoche, Clerk Hanson are present. There is a quorum.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – recited.
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA: Seppanen moved to approve the consent agenda with Hanson seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 1. AGENDA
 2. OCTOBER 11, 2021, MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES – correction under VI. Board Comment Julia comment: the word should be “placed” not place and add “state side of the grant” in place of the word “outcome”. Hanson inquired if he could listen to the recording of the last meeting because he thinks there are several discrepancies. The Board said it is available for him, he could have listened to it at any time before tonight’s meeting.
 3. TREASURERS REPORT
 4. BILLS TO BE PAID - Anderson-Leake asked about the fire prevention program and inquired if Republic-Michigamme School is included. She added she was glad to see that the credit card reconciliations were included in the packet this time along with last month’s credit card reconciliations that were missing.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) - None
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake thanked all volunteers for the market held Saturday. Haskett stated she did not intend to single anyone out at the last board meeting, emotions were high, and she wanted to assure that everything is running smoothly. Hanson introduced his new deputy clerk, Susan Alexander, who he trained on compiling the Board packets for tonight’s meeting. Seppanen stated that the Standard Life Insurance premium for the next year remains the same as the current year’s premium. Seppanen gave a report on Marquette County Sheriff’s Department meeting with the Townships. The sheriff demonstrated a drone that is available for township use if needed. The sheriff reported that search and rescue is fully staffed; the minimum-security farm is in the process of reopening; and people that get DUI’s get released quickly because they do not have room to house them in the jail.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 1. STREET SIGNS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – Seppanen thanked Trustee DeRoche for getting the number of street signs needed for each name. Seppanen typed a list of streets to aid in the collection of the number needed per name. DeRoche and he reviewed the list today, there are 72 street signs needed along with the number of poles to be replaced. The DDA is contacting three companies for bids for the location signs they are developing for the town. The Township can use the same vendors they have researched to send request for proposals. The old signs may be auctioned during the sesquicentennial to offset the cost. Hanson will initiate the bid process with the bid opening deadline being the December 13th meeting. The Township wishes to have all the street signs in place by the sesquicentennial celebration in July 2022.

2. SALE OF GARBAGE TRUCK – No sale to date. Seppanen asked if the Township should reduce the sale price by \$5,000. Haskett stated that currently it is listed at \$80,000. Anderson-Leake stated that she was told of a recycling business that may have been interested but hasn't heard anything more. Hanson moved that the price be dropped to \$75,000 with Seppanen seconding. Roll Call: Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Haskett will adjust the price on the marketplace ad.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. THE RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP GRANT – Seppanen announced that the Township will be awarded \$8,800 to use for implementing curbside recycling. Anderson-Leake explained that the state gives out funds only, the Recycling Partnership provides education, advertising, and carts. Seppanen explained that the carts belong to Michigamme Township and must stay at the assigned house, they cannot be taken by the homeowner if they move.
2. UPLC LAND TO DNR – Haskett explained the options that the UPLC have proposed to dispose of their land. The UPLC wants to deed the land to the County, so they don't have to pay any more property taxes. The size of the land is around 1200 acres; all but 166 acres have a conservation easement that cannot be changed. The DNR wants the land but doesn't want to accept the offer if the Township doesn't want this to happen. The DNR wants the land to remain open to the public. Haskett stated that it is going to be removed from the tax rolls if the County gets the land and the Township will get nothing in taxes if that happens. If the DNR takes it over, the Township would receive approximately \$5,000 swamp tax shared 50% with the County. The UPLC states they are following the US Forest Service wetland trail guide which requires the trail be one foot wide. Seppanen stated the Republic Michigamme Public School system will lose their tax revenue. Haskett said it's a shame the school will lose the funds, but they will lose it anyway if it gets deeded to the County. She feels in several years the DNR will be able to expand this land; add better access and promote its use with the public. Haskett moved to support the gifting of the UPLC land to the DNR with Hanson seconding. Roll Call: Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Seppanen will let the DNR know the decision.
3. FIREBOARD NOMINATION – Seppanen stated that there were two applicants, George Kendall and Rhonda Boshears. Both have been firefighters and have around the same experience. He nominated George Kendall to be appointed to the fireboard. He feels that Mr. Kendall is a better fit for the position. Anderson-Leake stated that he has recent Township Board experience and supports the Township's direction with the Fire Department. Hanson moved to appoint George Kendall to the open fireboard position with Haskett seconding the motion. 4 Ayes. 1 Nay. Motion carried. Seppanen will inform Mr. Kendall of the decision.
4. LIBRARY CLOSING FOR WINTER – Seppanen stated that the librarian, Cindy Coleman, reports there have not been very many visitors now that the seasonal residents have gone. The Board wanted to keep the library open at least one day a week, Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm because people like to read in the winter months. The Board decided to implement this schedule beginning this week until the end of April. Seppanen will inform Cindy Coleman of this change and notices will be posted.
5. SUPERIORLAND ELECTRONICS PROPOSAL – MICS AND MIXER – Seppanen checked with Micky at Superiorland Electronics to get additional microphones for the Board meetings. The proposal includes three gooseneck mics and a stand for the mic that we already have for the podium. Haskett made a motion to accept the proposal from Superiorland Electronics with Hanson seconding. Roll Call: Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Abstain, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain. Motion carried.
6. GLASS RECYCLING TO ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP – Seppanen stated that Ishpeming Township will allow the residents of Michigamme to bring their glass to their trailer behind the hall on the first Wednesday of the month from 1 to 6 pm. Residents can also choose to bring glass to the Marquette County landfill in Sands Township off County Road 480. Anderson-Leake stated that if the Township receives the recycling grant from the state the Township will be able to buy a trailer and have its own glass collection site.
7. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR EMPLOYEES (CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY) – The office will be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Monday, December 27th and Monday, January 3rd, 2022, to celebrate the holidays. The office staff will also have Thursdays, December 23rd and December 30th off because the regular holiday lands on a Friday which they do not normally work. The office will be attended by Bill Seppanen on those two days during its winter hours from 10 am to 1 pm in case any residents need assistance.

8. HIRE ENGINEERING FIRM FOR TENNIS/BASKETBALL COURT GRANT – Seppanen stated that points were lost in the DNR Recreation and Trust Fund grant applications submitted because the Township didn't have the engineering plan already in place. The Board discussed the advantages for hiring a firm now before winter sets in. Anderson-Leake stated that the Township could use the same engineering plan for each grant request in the future. The Township can reapply for the grants by April 1, 2022. Seppanen moved to hire an engineering firm to develop the engineering plan for the tennis courts and basketball courts with Hanson seconding. Roll Call: DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Seppanen will reach out to Integrated Designs, Inc., who have been providing help to the Township grant writers, Bob Dellangelo and Janice Anderson.
 9. DONATION TO ISHPEMING TOWNSHIP FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM – Seppanen stated that we received this letter after the fact of the program held at Aspen Ridge school. The Township donated \$375 in 2017 at the request of the Michigamme-Spurr Fire Department as our share in the program with the other fire departments in the area and requested that the Township support this program annually. That was the amount of the last donation made, with Spurr Township paying half. Anderson-Leake moved to donate \$375 to this fire prevention program with Haskett seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. (Update – Joe Perry, Michigamme-Spurr Townships' Fire Chief, stated that the Republic Fire Department would be responsible for implementing the fire prevention program at the Republic Michigamme School.)
 10. KURT SCHULTZ POSSIBLE TEMPORARY HIRE – Seppanen stated that Jan Rosewall injured himself at work on November 1st and currently is under work restrictions. It is unknown at this time when he will be able to be back to work. Seppanen stated that John Howe has indicated that if snow begins to fall soon, he won't be able to handle all the work by himself. Seppanen moved that the Township offer Kurt Schultz the job as a temporary DPW employee at \$15 per hour with Hanson seconding. Roll Call: Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
 11. MUSEUM ENGINE HOUSE ELECTRICAL BID OPENING – Seppanen stated that only one bid was received on time. One of the bidders wasn't able to send his company's bid because he was unable to work due to having Covid-19. Seppanen asked if the Township should open this bid now or wait and extend the deadline until the 15th to get additional bids to be opened at the December 13th meeting. The Board discussed the fact that it would be appropriate to have more than one bid. The board decided to extend the deadline to November 15th and open the bids at the December 13th meeting.
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Rose McBride asked that the tennis court grant include pickleball; it does. Rhonda Boshears thanked the Board for the agenda and minutes being on the website and asked that the treasurer's report be added; she stated everyone that applies for a board position has an agenda. Beth Koenig asked if the other Board members saw the applications and stated people aren't volunteering to help with committees. Gary Koenig stated he didn't like the comments that were made by board members about Neil, he wants a FOIA on the applications.
- X. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake stated that the Board had good discussions tonight and things went well, she added that the Board is supposed to conduct its business as if the public is not in attendance, even though they are. Haskett thanked Anderson-Leake for all her work with the recycling grants, the gardens, and the market events. Seppanen stated that it is his statutory duty to nominate all appointments to board openings and it is the Board's responsibility to accept or reject the nomination. As required, all applications go to him as the Supervisor to review and make the nomination.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT – Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting with DeRoche seconding. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.