

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

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

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

Julia Anderson-Leake, Trustee
Donald DeRoche, Trustee
admin@michigammetownship.com

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022—7:00 PM MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: William Seppanen, Neil Hanson, Julia Anderson-Leake, Donald DeRoche
Absent: Nicole Haskett

Guests: Deborah Kinnunen, Kathy Hanson, Ruth Starr, Beth Koenig, Rhonda Boshears, Dan Grochowski, Billy Gierut, Irene DeRoche, Gina Niemi, David Niemi, Truman Gregg, Richard Wedin, Mrs. Wedin

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Seppanen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- II. ROLL CALL – Hanson called the roll – Trustee Anderson-Leake, Supervisor Seppanen, Trustee DeRoche, Clerk Hanson are present. Treasurer Haskett is absent. There is a quorum.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Recited.
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA: Seppanen moved to approve the consent agenda with Hanson seconding. Three additions to the agenda 10. Ice Rink Quote 11. Employee Public Relations and 12. Treasurer’s Report.
 1. AGENDA
 2. DECEMBER 13, 2021, MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 3. TREASURERS REPORT
 4. BILLS TO BE PAID
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) Rhonda Boshears commented, Truman Gregg commented, Billy Gierut commented.
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake reported the Sesquicentennial meeting is set for January 19 at 6:00 pm, FOIA is the clerk’s duty, she will honor the Treasurer’s request. Hanson states he is in charge of the records of the Township and FOIA and he is going to check on the appropriateness of the Treasurer’s report being handed out.
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 1. STREET SIGNS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – Hanson has not completed this task.
 2. SALE OF GARBAGE TRUCK – Seppanen received a call from Chassell Township and the City of Kingsford stated an interest in it. He reported that Haskett completed the ad on Auto Trader which will run for 6 months.
 3. PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR USDA GRANT – Anderson-Leake stated that the Township has the funds to purchase a fire truck so the Township would not be able to receive a grant for that. She is now researching a grant for improvements to the Park Pavilion, bathrooms, electrical, etc. She is also researching the availability of grants for public works vehicles. The grant advisor recommends that the Township apply for a grant which is 75% funded and 25% Township matched. DeRoche moved to support Anderson-Leake to pursue the grant for public works vehicles with Hanson seconding. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
 4. NEW POLICE CONTRACT – Seppanen stated that Haskett and he attended the informational presentation by Captain Kangas from Marquette County Sheriff Department. They received several options to contract with the department for sheriff patrol hours. Haskett and Seppanen would prefer the first option that shares the costs with the other four townships. It would provide 13.5 hours per week for Michigamme Township. One representative from the four townships will meet to discuss this subject on February 3, 2022, 1:00 pm at Ely Township. Negaunee and Marquette Townships are agreeing on their own contracts with the department individually. Anderson-Leake stated currently the sheriff’s department can’t enforce the Township ordinances because there is no contract with them. The Board agreed to continue to pursue the sheriff contract especially with the other townships.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. BUDGET RESOLUTIONS – Seppanen presented the budget resolutions for December 2021 for the General, Fire, Park, and Road Funds. Anderson-Leake moved to accept the budget resolutions as presented with DeRoche seconding. Roll Call: DeRoche, Aye, Hanson, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
2. HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 – The Board discussed whether to fund the Health Savings Accounts (HSA) in the next fiscal year for the two employees that are on the BCN insurance. The insurance policy is increasing 10.92% in 2022. The Board asked if the employees are happy with their insurance. Seppanen stated he believes that they are. DeRoche moved to fully fund the HSA accounts for the employees with Anderson-Leake seconding the motion. DeRoche, Aye, Hanson, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
3. JAN ROSEWALL INSURANCE – Seppanen explained that while Jan Rosewall is on workers compensation he is not being paid by the Township, therefore his 20% of the premium is not being withheld from his paycheck as normally occurs. Anderson-Leake moved to bill Jan for the 20% portion balance of the premium and send the bill certified mail. The Board discussed the fact that he passed the sewer operator test. Any raise will be discussed when he returns to work.
4. BCN INSURANCE FOR FEBRUARY 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 2023 – The Board approved to continue the current insurance policy which automatically renewed and is effective February 1, 2022.
5. COMMUNITY BUILDING GYMNASIUM SPECIFICATIONS-PLACED ON BUILDERS EXCHANGE – Seppanen stated that a bid specification is being put together and he is recommending that it be placed on the Marquette County Builders Exchange with the scope of work to include a new railing, a drop ceiling, LED lighting, and a central fan that will keep the temperature even from the ceiling to floor. The Board must decide prior to the bidding whether we will accept one bid if only one is received. The Township cannot delay the opening to accommodate a late bidder. Seppanen moved to place the bid specifications on the Marquette County Builders' Exchange with DeRoche seconding. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
6. SECURITY CAMERAS FOR TOWNSHIP – Seppanen stated that there was a window broken at the Township Park building. In order to decrease vandalism at the Park, a bid for five security cameras has been requested to cover the Park area. The Michigamme beach area (proposal location #4) doesn't have a sufficient power source currently so cameras cannot be obtained at this time for that area. DeRoche asked if these cameras pick up night actions. Anderson-Leake wondered if the liability insurance company would give the Township a discount because it has installed these security products. Seppanen will call Mr. Salmi to ask if these detect motion. These have a 5-year warranty. The Township can purchase some now, see how they work and purchase the rest later. Anderson-Leake stated that she is including security cameras in the grant application for the tennis court renovation at the Park. Seppanen moved to purchase the security cameras for the Township outside areas location number 1. Park and number 2. Outside Fire Department Building in the proposal. Roll Call: Anderson-Leake, Aye, Hanson, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
7. BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES – Seppanen stated that it is time to choose some dates for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget workshops. Seppanen stated that it is his statutory duty to prepare the budget. He does the preparation; it has been his experience that it works very well if the board does it together. The budget needs to be completed by March 31, 2022. The workshops can start in February on Wednesdays and Thursdays. February 9th and 23rd from 9:00 am to noon. March 2nd and 16th from 9:00 am to noon with March 23rd as a possible additional date. Budget Hearing and approval meeting could be held on March 28th at 7:00 pm. Seppanen will let the departments know that their budget requests need to be turned in for budget preparation.
8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS FROM TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS – DUE DATE – The township will notify the departments of capital improvement requests. The capital improvements must be reviewed and scored in February. The due date to get them to the Township Board will be by 5:00 pm February 16th with the scoring completed on February 21st at 9:00 am.
9. TOWNSHIP FUNDING FOR SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – Seppanen stated the Township is allowed to fund for specific events that benefit the public such as on Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Fourth of July. Anderson-Leake stated that the DDA can fund items for the sesquicentennial celebrations. The Board decided to wait to find out where the greatest need is before the events and after communication by letter with prospective donors are completed. Anderson-Leake moved to fund some part of the sesquicentennial events with the amount to be determined later with DeRoche seconding. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
10. ICE RINK QUOTE – Seppanen stated that Joe Perry suggested that the Township consider installing a prefabricated ice rink like Humboldt Township currently has. It would save the fire department hours of work in maintaining it. The liner is supposed to last five years. The Board would like to consider getting the mega rink after measuring the area to see if it will fit. DeRoche moved to purchase and install the mega rink if it fits with Seppanen seconding. Seppanen will let the Fire Department know the decision and check which size would be ideal. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.

11. EMPLOYEE PUBLIC RELATIONS – DeRoche read a letter that he wrote to the Board after being told a complaint regarding a certain employee’s behavior and he wishes to know what action to take. Anderson-Leake stated that the policy manual addresses employee behavioral concerns. She suggested that the person with the concern needs to directly address the person with which they have an issue rather than going around to others. She suggested that Mr. DeRoche could accompany the complainer when they address the employee and that all our employees are adults. Seppanen agrees that the complainer begin with addressing the person to try to resolve the issue, the entire Board does not need to be involved. DeRoche states that he will talk to the concerned person.
 12. TREASURER REPORT – DeRoche stated he doesn’t agree and doesn’t understand the Treasurer’s rational for not giving the report out to the public at the meeting. Seppanen stated that he checked with MTA and some information should not be released as it may be inappropriate. The Board discussed the fact the Treasurer is not in attendance tonight to explain her reasoning regarding not releasing the specific report. DeRoche moved to give residents an agenda prior to the meeting, a copy of the treasurer’s report if specifically requested by a person (not left on the outside table), and the approved minutes of the meeting when requested with Hanson seconding. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Rhonda Boshears commented. Beth Koenig commented. Truman Gregg commented.
 - X. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake stated that Seppanen and she have investigated the legality of the sign that has profanity in town and per our Zoning Administrator there is nothing that the Township can do about it since it comes under the right to freedom of speech. Seppanen stated he would be willing to write Mr. Nelson a letter to request he remove the offensive sign from his yard if the Township Board wishes him to do so.
 - XI. ADJOURNMENT – Seppanen moved to adjourn the meeting with Hanson seconding. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.