

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

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

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MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022—7:00 PM

MINUTES

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

Absent: Neil Hanson

Guests: Deborah Kinnunen, Ruth Starr, Ginny Graybill, Billy Gierut, Paul Olson, Rhonda Boshears, Raymond Butler, Caron Christopherson, Paul Peterson, David Niemi, Gina Niemi, Tristan Hurkmans, Marc Nelson, Dennis Benti, Rhonda Gravedoni, Scott Gravedoni, James Schulz, Irene DeRoche

Not signing attendance sheet but was in attendance: Richard Wedin, Michelle Wedin, Michael Rajewski, Joanna Mitchell, League of Women Voters, Larry Warner, Ruth Warner, Beth Koenig, Brian Adams, Nicole Adams, Laura Mattson, Don Peterson

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Seppanen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- II. ROLL CALL – Seppanen called the roll – Trustee Anderson-Leake, Treasurer Haskett, Supervisor Seppanen, Trustee DeRoche are present. Clerk Hanson is absent. There is a quorum.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Recited.
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA: Seppanen moved to approve the agenda seconded by Haskett. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
 1. AGENDA
 2. JANUARY 10, 2022, MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Seppanen stated there is one correction to the minutes, Treasurer Haskett is not listed in the Board member attendance as absent. One addition to the agenda #13. Poverty Guidelines for Board of Review.
 3. TREASURERS REPORT
 4. BILLS TO BE PAID – Lake Superior Partnership is dues. Tokio Marine is the insurance company that is paying for the Community Building Awning snow damage repair.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes): Beth Koenig; Ginny Graybill; Joanna Mitchell; Dennis Benti; Caron Christopherson; David Niemi; Larry Warner; James Schulz all commented. Cindy Coleman commented via email.
- VI. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake reminded attendees the Sesquicentennial meeting will be held next week on February 16th. She added that curbside recycling carts are being delivered beginning May 16th. The recycling cart will be blue with gray tops with a moose and Michigamme Township on both sides and recycling will be picked up every other week. She combined two grants for recycling that the Township was awarded, one from the State recycle program and one from the recycling partnership in Virginia. The township is getting a trailer fabricated for glass recycling that will be ready later in the spring. 80% of the \$46,000 total cost for the recycling program will be funded by the grants awarded by the State resulting in a total cost to the Township of \$2,500. Her husband's family have been living here for over 100 years, the persons that live here year-round seem to be the persons that are the pot stirrers, potential business owners have been encouraged to move by residents in town and told to not start their business in Michigamme. She appreciates those that stated that they are not completely educated on the current issues in the Township because they have not put in the effort. She has encouraged the news stations to advertise the positive things happening in the Township, like holding the Artisan's Market, renovations to the library, etc. Haskett stated concerning the Treasurer's report, that her background of 15 years is finance, and her responsibility is to protect the Township's records and the finances. She wants to not give out information that may come back to hurt us as she states there is risk to putting the information out to the public. The audit is online that states the complete financial state of the Township. She is available to discuss the finances of the Township with anyone, just ask her. DeRoche had no comment. Seppanen stated that after the forum one resident stated that it was her fault that she was unaware of what is going on in the Township. He added that the cemetery ordinance is currently being reworked with Spurr Township for selling cemetery plots that you will own which is a legal requirement in Michigan.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. STREET SIGNS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – Hanson gave a copy of the letter sent to three sign suppliers for the request for bid for the street signs giving them the deadline of February 28, 2022, to be received in the office. He added that the street signs will be blue with white reflective lettering.
2. SALE OF GARBAGE TRUCK – Haskett stated that a fund manager has reached out to offer funds for anyone that wants to buy the garbage truck.
3. NEW POLICE CONTRACT – The other Townships are not willing at this time to share a contract with the police. Michigamme Township will not pursue the contract to fund it by itself.
4. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUESTS FROM TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENTS – DUE DATE FEBRUARY 21, 2022

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2022, 3:15 PM – This meeting was posted on February 10th, 2022. It is held for Gymnasium ceiling renovation bids are due and will be opened at this meeting. New ceiling, lights, railing, a central fan will be installed with electrical upgrades in the room and upstairs kitchen. The second item on the agenda is the park resolution for the park grants.
2. BUDGET RESOLUTIONS – Seppanen read the budget resolutions explaining the Engine House one is for electrical work that was not included in the current fiscal year budget and is being paid with the Museum restricted funds in the General Fund. Haskett moved to approve the budget resolutions as presented with Anderson-Leake seconding the motion. Roll Call: Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
3. PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT – 2021 – Seppanen read the annual report submitted by Janice Anderson from the Planning Commission. The Board accepted the annual report as presented. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
4. ACCEPTANCE OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS RESIGNATIONS – Seppanen read the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Resignations from Janice Anderson and David Niemi. He thanked them for their time and consideration on the commission. It is with regret that the Board accepts the resignations. Anderson-Leake stated that the planning commission is a lot of work. Seppanen stated that the budget workshop is currently looking at increasing the stipends for the planning commission and the DDA. Seppanen moved to accept the resignations with Haskett seconding. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
5. APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR OPEN COMMITTEE VACANCIES – Seppanen stated that the Township has applications available for open committee vacancies. Two openings on the Planning Commission, one opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and two openings on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) which will be four-year terms. Applications will be accepted until 1 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2022, in the office. Notices will be published in the normal bulletin boards and on the website. Applications are available at the office and on the website.
6. 906 TECHNOLOGIES – MICROSOFT PRODUCT RATE INCREASE – CHANGE TO ANNUAL – Seppanen stated that 906 Technologies have given us a heads up that the Microsoft products will be raising their prices. If we opt for annual billing, we will be locked in at a discounted price. This is the products that the Township uses in its everyday business operations, such as Outlook email, Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Power Point) etc. Haskett moved to move to the annual contract with DeRoche seconding. Roll Call: Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nayses. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
7. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY – R-2022-02-14-12 – Seppanen introduced Joanna Mitchell from the League of Women Voters that sent this resolution for the Township to adopt. Joanna Mitchell explained the background of the resolution during the public comment. Seppanen read the resolution aloud. The Board asked if anyone had any questions regarding the resolution. DeRoche objected to the wording in the resolution pertaining to the processing of absentee ballots and establishing early in-person voting the weekend prior to the election. Anderson-Leake stated she likes the line that election challengers have the same training as election workers. Haskett stated that she likes the idea of absentee ballots because a person may have life events that preclude them to getting to vote, such as business meetings, picking up kids after work, and waiting in line for two hours. Seppanen stated he thinks it should be a national voting day and all the votes are counted at the same time rather than having the east coast already predicting the results to the west coast. Haskett moved to adopt the resolution with Seppanen seconding. Roll Call: Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Nay. 3 Ayes. 1 Nay. 1 Absent. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.
8. APPROVAL OF MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT ORDINANCE – Seppanen stated that Mr. Zappa has completed the ordinance for allowing one marijuana establishment grow operation. The ordinance specifies that there will be a restriction of one permit for grower and one for processor. The Clerk will make the ordinance available at the office and on the website. The ordinance will be published in the newspaper and will become effective thirty days after publication. Anderson-Leake thanked Mr. Zappa for the summary since the ordinance is 17 pages long. She did some homework since the forum regarding the tax base changing and discovered that zoning commercial will

not affect residential properties. She researched other townships with commercial establishments, and they report that they do not have a problem with the grow operations in regards for smell, light pollution, etc. Haskett stated that she attended the forum, she stated that marijuana is already in our community and parents need to have those conversations with their children. Water usage was a concern mentioned and she stated that at her resort she has a lot of water usage and has not noticed any shortage of water because of her business. She added that you would not be able to distinguish what is going on in the operation of grow businesses. All the residents' concerns have been addressed in this ordinance. Anderson-Leake stated that she doesn't think it will negatively impact the community. Anderson-Leake had compiled a list of concerns that were voiced at the Public Forum and sent it to Mr. Zappa, and he has addressed all these concerns in the ordinance. DeRoche stated that the Board needs to abide by the open meetings act (the Sunshine Act) and has a fiduciary duty to manage the Township in that manner. He insinuated that there was personal gain in passing this ordinance although he states he doesn't know and did not present evidence as such. Anderson-Leake stated that what he read has nothing to do with the vote on the ordinance. DeRoche wants the ordinance to go on a ballot initiative which isn't allowable. Anderson-Leake stated that Board members are elected to represent the people and make decisions for the Township in its best interest. DeRoche moved to postpone the decision until next month's meeting. There is no second to the motion, the motion fails. Haskett moved to adopt the ordinance as presented with Anderson-Leake seconding. Roll Call: DeRoche, Nay, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 3 Ayes. 1 Nay. 1 Absent. Motion carried. The ordinance will be published in the newspaper and will be effective 30 days after publication.

9. RESCIND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA OPT-OUT ORDINANCE – Seppanen stated that Mr. Zappa has prepared the appropriate language for the Township in *Section 12: Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances* “All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict are repealed, except that nothing within this Ordinance should be construed to authorize or allow medical marijuana facilities within Michigamme Township.” Therefore, Michigamme Township’s prior ordinance remains in effect regarding the opt-out for medical marijuana establishments.
 10. ADJUST MARCH 16 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING DATE – CONFLICT WITH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING – Seppanen stated that the March 16th budget workshop meeting date conflicts with a Board of Review meeting and needs to be changed to March 9th at 9:00 am to noon. March 23rd will be the Budget Public Hearing for the approval of the budget at 6:00 pm. Please note these changes that will be posted on notices and on the website tomorrow.
 11. SALARY RESOLUTIONS – Supervisor Seppanen read the salary resolutions aloud and asked for motions for the following:
 - a. Supervisor Seppanen salary resolution – Haskett moved Anderson-Leake seconded to approve the salary increase for Supervisor Seppanen. Roll Call: Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Abstain, DeRoche, Aye. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain. 1 Absent. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.
 - b. Clerk Hanson salary resolution – Haskett moved Seppanen seconded to approve the salary increase for Clerk Hanson. Roll Call: Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.
 - c. Treasurer Haskett salary resolution – Seppanen moved Anderson-Leake seconded to approve the salary increase for Treasurer Haskett. Roll Call: Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Abstain. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain. 1 Absent. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.
 - d. Trustee – Anderson-Leake salary resolution – Haskett moved DeRoche seconded to approve the salary increase for Trustee Anderson-Leake. Roll Call: Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Abstain. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain. 1 Absent. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.
 - e. Trustee – DeRoche salary resolution – Haskett moved Seppanen seconded to approve the salary increase for Trustee DeRoche. Roll Call: Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Abstain, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain. 1 Absent. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.
 12. EMPLOYEE PAID TIME OFF (PTO) – Seppanen stated that an employee is retiring and has a lot of vacation that has not been used to date. He proposes to pay her the balance of vacation upon leaving rather than her taking the vacation until retirement date as the assistance in the office is needed with the Clerk not in the office very often. Haskett moved to pay Debbie in a lump sum at her retirement and Seppanen seconded. Roll Call: DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye, Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
 13. POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES FOR BOARD OF REVIEW: Seppanen presented the updated federal guidelines for the poverty tax exemption. Anderson-Leake asked how persons know that this is available. Haskett stated that she has discussed this with persons asking questions regarding their property taxes. The forms are on the Michigamme Township website under Board of Review. Haskett moved to accept the guidelines with DeRoche seconding. Roll Call: Haskett, Aye, Seppanen, Aye, DeRoche, Aye, Anderson-Leake, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried.
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Three Minutes) – Paul Peterson, Ginny Graybill, Dennis Benti, Rick Wedin, Laura Mattson, David Niemi, Irene DeRoche, Bill Gierut, Beth Koenig, all commented.

- X. BOARD COMMENT – Anderson-Leake stated the recycling home-owner carts will be located at the sheds on the appointed garbage shed areas. The owner can bring the cart to the shed area or leave it there and use it. DeRoche thanked Anderson-Leake for writing the grants for the Township. Haskett stated that she prepares the Township report to the Board, it's the Clerk's duty to prepare the rest of the reports (checks issued and the bills to be paid), if certain reports are not available you would need to talk to the Clerk. The Treasurer's report helps in decisions the Board is considering for purchasing, etc. She has the report available to anyone who would like to see it and she is willing to make copies for the person upon request. Anderson-Leake stated that she asked MTA townships who puts their treasurer's report out for meeting attendees and 90% said that they put it on the table for viewing but it is not allowed to be removed from the Township and copies can be made upon request in the office. She encouraged the public to join the sesquicentennial meetings. She would like to see outreach to persons who may qualify for the poverty exemption. The fact that the Township doesn't have an annual meeting is why the officers' salaries are adopted by resolution in Michigamme Township. She thinks the residents need to put more trust in their elected officials. She added that the Trustee duties are to make sure the other three officials (Supervisor, Treasurer, Clerk) are doing their jobs properly. Seppanen stated that Board salaries are established by two methods. At an annual meeting the Supervisor recommends the salaries of the Board members which allows everyone attending the annual meeting to vote on the salaries. The other way is by resolution if there is no annual meeting held in the Township. He isn't sure when the Township stopped having annual meetings. Seppanen stated that the residents have the right to petition for the salaries for Board officials and request it be placed on the ballot. Michigamme Township is a General Law Township which follows different requirements than Charter Townships.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT – Anderson-Leake moved to adjourn the meeting with Haskett seconding the motion. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Absent. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.