

Clerk, Kathi Hanson
Trustee, Donald DeRoche

Supervisor

Treasurer, Laura Mattson
Trustee, Kathleen Frisk

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP
PO BOX 220, 202 W. Main Street
Michigamme, MI 49861
Phone: 906-323-6608
Fax: 906-323-6344

Michigamme Township Board Meeting
Location: Community Building
Date & Time: September 9th, 2024, at 6:00 PM
DRAFT Minutes

Guests: Debbie Kinnunen, Marsha McBride, Nancy Ferro, Carla Skytta, William Seppanen, Rose McBride, Marge Luke, Julia Leake, Scott Gravedoni, Rhonda Gravedoni, Brad Longchamp, Joe Perry, Laura Thompson, Craig Thompson, John Gregg.

- I. Call To Order by Clerk Hanson at 6:00P.M.
- II. Pledge Of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.
- III. Roll Call by Hanson. Members present: Treasurer Mattson, Trustee Frisk, Trustee DeRoche, Clerk Hanson. All present. Hanson asked DeRoche to chair the meeting (after the agenda is approved). All in agreement.
- IV. Consent Agenda- Frisk added to new Business #6 Audit, #7 Building access, #8 Sidewalk; Hanson added #9 Fill receptionist position.
 - 1: Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda with additions by Frisk. Second by DeRoche. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried. Hanson turned the meeting over to DeRoche after approval.
 - 2: Approve Minutes
 - A: August 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting: Motion to approve the August 12th minutes with changes by DeRoche. Second by Frisk. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried.
 - B: August 19, 2024, Special Board Meeting: Motion to approve the August 19th special meeting minutes with changes by DeRoche. Second by Frisk. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried.
 - C: September 3, 2024, Special Board Meeting: Motion to accept the minutes by DeRoche. Second by Frisk. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried.
 - 3: Treasurer's Report- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written by Frisk. Second by DeRoche. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried.
 - 4: Bills to be Paid- Motion to approve the bills to be paid by Frisk. Second by Mattson. Roll call vote. Frisk Aye, Hanson Aye, DeRoche Aye, Mattson Aye. Four ayes, motion carried.

4: Main Boiler Vent (John)- We checked, and the Bianco quote was accurate. John recommends we use Bianco for the job. Motion to accept the Bianco bid to fix the chimney by Frisk. Second by Mattson. Roll call vote: Mattson Aye, Frisk Aye, Hanson Aye, DeRoche Aye. Four Ayes. Motion carried.

5: DPW update (John)- The old park picnic benches are up for bid. The highest bid wins the first choice of bench, then the second highest bid, and so on. Benches will be up for bid until the October Board meeting. Contact John/DPW to place a bid. DPW in high gear prep for winter, and pump maintenance to begin. Frisk commented we should consider keeping our summer help on into the fall due to John's shoulder still healing. We will address during our October meeting.

6: Extend Rummage Sale through 9-15-24 (Mattson)- Motion to extend the Rummage Sale through September 15th, 2024, by Hanson. Second by Frisk. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried.

7: Sewer Rates (Mattson)- Motion to raise the bond/readiness rate to \$24.00 and the user fee to \$34.00 by Frisk. Second by DeRoche. Roll Call vote: DeRoche Aye, Mattson Aye, Frisk Aye, Hanson Aye. Four Ayes. Motion carried. Note: Rates were not raised last year. This year's increase is 5.45% (a \$3.00 increase from current rates)

8: Deputy Treasurer (Frisk)- Frisk spoke of the urgency to fill the deputy treasurer position. Mattson announced she has a deputy treasurer now (Irene Deroche), she has already been sworn in and gone to the bank to update signatures.

9: Tammy Schultz Lawsuit (Kathi) Hanson reported she noticed a large envelope addressed to the Supervisor in her mailbox. She was informed it was dropped off by Tammy Schultz and has not been opened yet. Hanson will contact the lawyer and send him all this information.

X. New Business

1: John Gregg to represent Planning Commission on Zoning Board of Appeals (Frisk)- Motion by Frisk to have John Gregg represent the Planning Commission on Zoning Board of Appeals. Second by DeRoche. All in favor, four ayes. Motion carried.

2: Liaison /work with MCRC about preventive maintenance for Township Roads (DeRoche)- DeRoche made the motion that he be the liaison to work with MCRC about preventive maintenance for Township Roads. Second by Hanson. All in favor, four ayes. Motion passed.

3: USDA Township Loan (Mattson)- Mattson tabled this topic until the October meeting.

4: DDA/ permission to erect the Stone Gateway Sign on Township property and do site rep. Scott Gravedoni reported the property they wanted to use to put the stone sign on is not available, so the next viable option is property on the North side of U.S. 41 (across from the sewer drain fields) that the township owns. They would also like to inquire if the DPW could use our new backhoe to prep/level/clear the ground area on the new site before the cement is poured. If not, would the Township help pay for site prep from an outside source? Much discussion followed and it was decided the first step needed to move forward is to get the board's permission to put the sign on this new location if it is feasible. Once permission is

- V. Public Comment- Clerk Hanson read Paula Roncaglione retraction statement (per her lawyer's instruction), Marge Luke (residents property upkeep, cemetery upkeep outstanding); Marsha McBride (overgrown weeds in sidewalks, alleys, and empty lots that are a hazard to residents walking); Julia Leake (we should readdress getting a zoning enforcement officer to enforce our ordinances); Joe Perry (addressed why certain areas at the park are closed to the public during the July 4th festivities due to State Laws regarding safety. Also stated there are many cracks in the ramps at the Fire Station and EMS building that need to get filled).
- VI. Board Comment- Hanson (introduction/updates/thank you to Laura Thompson, John, Don Leake, and residents for supporting her as the new clerk). DeRoche thanked Hanson for taking the position.
- VII. Correspondence: Hanson read Laura Thompson's resignation letter to the board followed by a letter from Rudy Gouts.
- VIII. Committee Reports
- 1: Fire- Liaison DeRoche reported there was no meeting held due to illness and lack of quorum. Joe Perry updated that August was a busy month (9 calls); clarified our boat was paid for by donations; updated our new Firetruck will start to be built in January 2025; and The Hunt & Fish Shop in Curtis (where we went for our trailer, updates on our boat, etc.) advised us to submit to BRP/Bombardier Recreational Products who once a year picks one volunteer organization per state and awards them a side by side worth \$27,000.00. We applied, we were picked for the State of Michigan, and it will be delivered sometime this month.
- 2: Planning Commission- Frisk reported they had their meeting September 4th, all were present, many items were discussed, and there is a workshop scheduled on September 11 at 5 pm in the card room to work on the Master Plan.
- 3: DDA- Scott Gravedoni reported the DDA had their meeting September 2nd; they received their final bid for the LED Sign (\$17,999.00), we need to pay them 50% down to order the sign, and it will take 8-12 weeks delivery time. Next items slated to be completed this fall are digging the holes for the two new billboards, and if time, the new signs up at the Museum and by Michigamme Market.
- 4: Michigamme Area Senior Meals- Bill Seppanen reported the seniors are happy to be back in the building and we are currently serving about 65 meals per week (more in person than take out).
- IX. **Continuing Business**
- 1: Superior Lock & Key Camera Security System update (John)- Work began today on the installation.
- 2: Drain Tile on North End of Building: update (John)- This project coincides with Northland Basements. The drain tiles need to be completed first, and because DPW will not be able to do the drain tile right away, John will contact Hammel (whose bid was already approved to do the job) tomorrow for a start date.
- 3: Northland Basements update (John)- The start date for this project is November 7th, 2024.
- A: Reconsider Hamel quote and hire? (John) N/A (quote already approved).

granted, they will move forward gathering additional facts to bring to the board. DeRoche made the motion to allow the DDA to use Township property for their sign if feasible. Second by Mattson.

5: August 15th incident (Kathi)- Nothing to report.

6: Audit (Frisk)- Frisk is requesting an audit be done since hearing \$5.00 monies are missing from a payment and the lockbox. An audit motion was made in a previous meeting, the previous clerk was planning to initiate it. Since she is gone, the current Treasurer and new Clerk will move forward on it.

7: Access to the keypad doors (Frisk)- Motion made by Frisk for a DDA member to have an access code so they can hold their meetings. Second by Hanson. All in favor, four ayes. Motion passed.

8: Sidewalks (Frisk)- Some property owners are not maintaining grass and weed growth and/or tree limbs that are encroaching on our sidewalks making it hard for some residents to walk on them. The clerk will discuss with John and see how to proceed.

9: Fill the receptionist position (Kathi)- Clerk to post receptionist job opening details locally and on Indeed. Deadline to apply is September 24th.

X.I Public Comment: Marsha McBride (money missing, building access, sidewalks are property owners responsibilities), Bill Seppanen (board voted on crack & seal and didn't follow through; they need to think about costs to taxpayers down the road), Marge Luke (unhappy with how the meeting was run, thanked Laura Thompson), Julia Leake (thanked Laura Thompson, residents should have access to the building, agreed with Treasurer for not signing checks with only one signature), Joe Perry (thanked Laura Thompson from the Fire Dept, EMS and Township), Rose McBride (sorry to see Laura go), Debbie Kinnunen (sorry to see Laura leave), Rhonda Gravedoni (thanked board for supporting DDA), Scott Gravedoni (thanked board for access to the building, sidewalks, and hoped the property next to him will eventually be kept clean and neat).

XII. Board Comment: Mattson (addressed missing monies and her frustrations regarding her work environment), Frisk (thanked everyone for being at the meeting, thanked Laura Thompson), Hanson (Rumors are dangerous, please get the facts and don't automatically think the worst of a situation. She also thanked Laura Thompson for all her help and wished she had had more time to work with her.), DeRoche (Thanked Laura Thompson, building access, board members should be able to ask residents into their offices, we need to follow the rules/guidelines during a meeting, thank you for coming).

XIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.