

# **EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**May 8, 2023 7:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Ron Taylor (absent), Clerk Korey Kripli, Treasurer Eileen Fournier, Trustee Todd Johnson, and Trustee Dan Zettel

**ATTENDANCE:** Planning and Deputy Supervisor Rob Kowalski, County Commissioner Brenda Simmons, Zoning Administrator Bob Clayton, and Deputy Clerk Kim Glasser. Several residents of Edwards Township.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL 10,2023**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL 21,2023**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

## **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by Eileen Fournier to add 19A Meeting Fees to the agenda and accept the agenda. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA:**

Jean asked about the cemetery ordinance for the interment fees. Deputy Supervisor Rob Kowalski stated that during the meeting tonight, the board will be updating the resolution. Then the board will provide a 30 day notice for anyone to dispute it. If it is not disputed, then it will become an ordinance.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER:**

Three new members on the Transit Board. A BS&A training class will be offered on May 23rd 1pm to 4pm. The county did not approve the purchase of a new vehicle. County Commissioner attended a NEMSCA Zoom meeting.

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:**

Two zoning permits were approved.

## **TREASURER UPDATE:**

Treasurer report presented by Eileen Fournier. Motion by Dan Zettel,

supported by Korey Kripli to accept the Treasurer Report.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve bills with checks #6671-#6704 and check #6705.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

### **HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:**

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to issue hall deposit returns. Motion carried.

### **ARPA:**

New blinds have been installed. Bar that was purchased came in damaged. Rob was able to get a refund and picked up another bar for \$350. Portable ice maker was installed as well. Kitchen has been painted. Office has been started. Once the office is done, the bathrooms will be next and then the entire hall.

Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Eileen Fournier to purchase a 70 inch smart tv, dvd/vcr player, and four kitchen stools for residents to use when renting the hall for events in total of \$1,100.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion by Todd Johnson, supported by Dan Zettel to paint the outside banisters, paint the Edwards Township sign, and install new vinyl letters for a total of \$1,300.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Todd Johnson to approve the additional \$1,231.40 to Home Depot for the countertops.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

### **PARKING CONTRACT:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to have Dematio Sealcoating sealcoat the parking lot for \$11,166.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

### **PLANNING BOARD:**

Since Rob Kowalski is now a township employee, he cannot be on the planning board anymore per MTA. Kim Glasser and Linda Groth were interested. This issue has been tabled for the next meeting when the Supervisor can attend.

### **RESOLUTION FOR CEMETERY FEES:**

The original cemetery ordinance was never signed by the Clerk or the Supervisor in 2017.

Motion made by Eileen Fournier, supported by Todd Johnson to create a new resolution to the cemetery using the same fees that the cemetery has been using.

Roll Call: Taylor Absent Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

### **REINSTATE CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**

Eileen Fournier brought up that the township had a cemetery committee before Covid. Fournier presented a sign-up sheet for anyone that is interested.

### **LIABILITY INSURANCE:**

Rob made sure that the township has insurance that covers everything including the new generator. The board will revisit this issue once the security cameras are installed to see if our premium will be cheaper.

### **PENSION PAYROLL ACCOUNT:**

A separate account will be used for pension payroll items.

### **CLAIMS:**

The board submitted 4 claims to the bond company which is also our insurance company when the last clerk resigned her position. Our agent, on his own decision, canceled benefit employee insurance. That is part of our policy that would have reimbursed us for the claims on the bond for the lost interest on the pension program because it was never turned in. The claims have been sitting for six weeks. They have been denied and the only explanation we received was that their attorneys feel that it is not the clerk's duty to take care of the pension. The board felt differently because the clerk signed it and the clerk is supposed to deduct the pension from the

paychecks. After some back and forth, the agent admitted that he canceled that part of the policy without talking to the board. The claim is exactly \$3,834.61. The agent is going to cut a check to the insurance company out of his own funds and the insurance company is going to issue the board that check. The agent is making it right and is adding the benefit employee insurance back to the policy.

The previous clerk signed the contract stating that she would control the pension program. She took money from people's paychecks and kept it in the general fund. She never sent it to the pension company. Our pension company gives interest daily. You can't go back to five years and ask them what the interest is since there is no way to know that. That is when the board did 70 hours of pension work to figure out how much money that employees were cheated because the money was never turned over. Since that part of the insurance policy was canceled, that is why they wouldn't refund the interest. Now they are giving us the interest back so the township is not responsible for the \$3,834.61.

### **KIRTLAND UPDATE:**

Eileen Fournier, Ron Taylor, and Dennis Stephens met with Dr. Quinn from Kirtland College to talk about how much our township and county is paying in taxes since they moved their West Branch Campus. The county currently pays \$1.4 million dollars every year in taxes to Kirtland. There are still 11 years left on this millage. Kirtland currently has a purchase order for their Roscommon Campus for \$2.5 million. Fournier brought up that if Kirtland is selling their Roscommon campus, why would Ogemaw County continue to pay for it? This is what the MTA Ogemaw County Chapter will be discussing on June 27th at 6pm at Edwards Township Hall.

### **MEETING FEES:**

The board decided to follow the existing resolution for paying employees to attend certain meetings.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rick Stillwagon asked about the generator being maintained.

Jean asked about the bid process for the board. Rob Kowalski stated that it is addressed at the meetings. The board looks for reviews online and word of mouth. Rob tries to look for local contractors first.

Tire program went well with over 200 tires collected.

Construction on Green Road was discussed. Still waiting for DTE.

Corner of Pointer/Rau was discussed due to potholes from farm equipment.

The board was encouraged to invite the Road Commission to the next board meeting. Todd Johnson said he would reach out to them.

Mike Laier stated there were just shy of 21 dozen American flags placed on graves at the cemetery.

Pat Miller extended a huge thank you to Rob Kowalski with all of his work on ARPA.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Special Board Meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7pm

Township Board Meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:30pm

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Todd Johnson to adjourn at 8:54pm. Motion carried.

---

Ron Taylor, Supervisor

---

Korey Kripli, Clerk