

EDWARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

July 8, 2024 7:30pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Rob Kowalski, Clerk Korey Kripli, Treasurer Eileen Fournier, Trustee Dan Zettel, and Trustee Todd Johnson

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 10, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Robert Kowalski to approve the minutes for the June 10, 2024 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Motion by Dan Zettel, supported by Eileen Fournier to approve of the agenda presented with the addition of 10A Justin Rogers - Ogemaw County EMS Director. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA: None

COUNTY COMMISSIONER:

Brenda Simmons stated that there will be a grand opening for the new transit building on July 18th at 10am. This building was mostly paid for by grants and will be used to wash transit vehicles among other things. The county will have a budget meeting at 9am at the county building. The jail costs \$2.2 million to run. The Animal Control Officer has left and took a job somewhere else. Brenda stated that the millage passed for a 24 hour road patrol, but right now the county has on-call road patrol from 12am to 6am. Several residents were in shock that this was the case.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Bob had 3 permits for the past month. Two permits were denied and are currently being appealed for variances. Bob had a couple conversations with the Amishi community about special buildings. They seem to want to work with the township in order to be compliant.

TREASURER REPORT:

Treasurer report presented by Eileen Fournier. Motion by Korey Kripli, supported by Dan Zettel to accept the Treasurer Report.

Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Robert Kowalski to approve bills with payroll checks #10,036-10,047 and payable checks #7217-7237 for a total of \$19,797.20.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion approved.

HALL DEPOSIT RETURNS:

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to issue seven hall deposit returns for a total of \$1,050. Motion approved.

JUSTIN ROGERS - OGEMAW COUNTY EMS:

There is an equipment millage on the August 6, 2024 ballot. This millage is for \$.5 mills which will be \$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value for residents. Annually, between the six ambulances that are in operation, EMS has driven over 345,000 miles. This millage will help cover costs for maintaining these EMS vehicles and upgrade new equipment.

GREEN ROAD UPDATE:

Green Road was supposed to be paved by June. The Road Commission is waiting on materials. Bob Clayton stated that it looked like the road commission had been prepping the road for being paved.

ELECTRICAL CHARGING STATION :

Rob Kowalski received a call from a resident about an electric charging station for electric vehicles. He also received a postcard in the mail from Consumers Energy about charging stations. Right now they are offering rebates from \$7,500 to \$10,000. Rob will be doing more research to figure out how much a charging station will cost to install and run.

CELL TOWER UPDATE:

There is no update at this time. The township is still waiting on information from the cell provider.

KITCHEN REFRIGERATOR:

The GFI has been reset four times for the refrigerator. Residents discussed that the GFI could be bad and that the township should check the GFI before buying a new refrigerator. The board agreed, but also wanted to approve the funds to buy a new refrigerator just in case the GFI was not the issue.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Dan Zettel to approve \$1,000 to purchase a new refrigerator as long as due diligence has been done to test the GFI and make sure it is not an electrical issue with the hall.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion passed.

ZBA MEETINGS:

There were two denials for permits. The township will send out the notices for the two meetings this upcoming week to neighbors of the two applicants.

TAXES:

The township received three letters from the State of Michigan that Quarterly Filings were not received on time for 2023. The reason these were not paid on time were because the IRS account for the township was shut down from the prior years of not paying taxes. Once we fixed the account issue and opened it back up, the State of Michigan told the township to pay the annual returns and not worry about the quarterly filings. However, with these letters, the state is looking for quarterly filings for 2023. The township has already paid the annual filings so the bills totaling about \$1,000 have already been paid through the annual filings. Rob Kowalski stated that he has written a letter stating what has happened over the course of the last few years and will send it to the State of Michigan in order to not have to pay the extra penalties and interest occurred. This letter will hopefully exonerate the township from the penalties and interest. The township is current with the state and continues to receive revenue sharing.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to send the letter to the State of Michigan in order to exonerate the township from the penalties and interest from 2019 to current.

Motion passed.

TRANSFER STATION:

The township has received numerous calls about transfer stations in order for people to dump their trash. Brenda Simmons stated that there is a transfer station in Foster Township and Ogemaw Township where people can take their trash. She believes that it costs about \$2 per bag.

ELECTION UPDATE:

Korey Kripli stated that there was a special meeting to approve the receiving board and election inspectors for the August 6, 2024 Primary Election. Kim Glasser is the election chair. The township is prepared and looking forward to another successful election.

QUICKBOOKS UPGRADE:

Korey Kripli stated that he needed to add three general ledgers to the Quickbooks account. Quickbooks only allows 250 general ledgers and the township is currently maxed at 250 general ledgers. The current cost of the software is \$90 and to upgrade it would cost an extra \$10 per month for a total of \$100. This upgrade will make sure the township has unlimited general ledgers available.

Motion by Eileen Fournier, supported by Korey Kripli to upgrade the Quickbooks account.

Roll Call: Kowalski Y Kripli Y Fournier Y Johnson Y Zettel Y

Motion passed.

ATTORNEY UPDATES:

Rob Kowalski submitted a letter from Brian Dematio's attorney about the dangerous building on his property. The township hopes to have more updates at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ray Miller was concerned about the Amish community avoiding property taxes by hosting church services in their houses. Rob Kowalski stated that the Amish pay taxes. If they farm, they can get the same exemption from their homestead. They will not be exempt because they hold church services in their homes.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Board of Review: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:30am
- Township Board Meeting: Monday, August 12, 2024 7:30pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Robert Kowalski, supported by Eileen Fournier to adjourn at 8:48pm. Motion carried.

Rob Kowalski, Supervisor

Korey Kripli, Clerk