

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP
3546 S STRAITS HWY, INDIAN RIVER, MI 49749
JANUARY 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kramer at 7:00 pm.

ITEM 2: Police Officer Brace Dawson led the board and public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL

Present – Supervisor Kramer, Clerk Reidsma, Trustee Vance, Treasurer Dillaha, Trustee Pearson

Staff Present: Ron Odenwald, Penny Passino,

All present. Quorum present – yes

ITEM 4: BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

No conflict of interest offered.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Approve the Meeting Agenda

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The floor was open for public comment at 7:02 pm. Closed at 7:03 pm.

K. Rutkowski Special Meeting Minutes Correction

ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items include – Bills Report, Treasurer Report, Minutes, Reports by: Police, Parks.

Board member request by Reidsma to move the following item to the main agenda: Bills Report (9d), and Board Member request by Dillaha to add the Special Meeting Minutes to the main agenda (9e).

MOTION: Move to approve the amended consent agenda items less items Bills Report and Special Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM 8: OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 8a: SEWER CONTRACT

MOTION: Move to approve the Sewer operations contract with Mead and Hunt for one year at a rate of \$6500 / month.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: This contract represents a \$600/mo increase over the present contract. No additional bids were received despite advertisement on NE MI Builders exchange and Township website.

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MOTION: Move to approve the Sewer plant expansion engineering assistance contract with Mead and Hunt for one year at a bill rate of \$80/hour and 15% mark-up on reimbursed expenses.
Moved by Kramer, seconded by Dillaha.
MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM 8b: NABANOIS SAD

MOTION: Move to approve the Special Assessment Resolution No.1 (Nabanois Trail) as written and read aloud with addition of “2024-01” in title.
Moved by Vance, seconded by Pearson.
MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll-call vote.

Discussion: It was resolved that the Township Board meet on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 7:00 pm to hear objections to the proposed assessment. Township Clerk authorized and directed to publish the notice of the hearing twice prior to hearing (10 day minimum) and shall provide 1st class mail notification of hearing to all owners or persons in interest prior to hearing (10 day minimum).

ITEM 8c: COMMERCE PARK REAL ESTATE

MOTION: Move to accept the offer on Lot #15 for a purchase price of \$23,000 (listed price of \$25,000) and buyer assumes the cost of Sewer assessment.
Moved by Vance, seconded by Reidsma.
MOTION CARRIED by 4-1 roll call vote.

Discussion: Another property for sale in commerce park received an offer just prior to the meeting and Board agreed to review the offer.

MOTION: Move to accept the offer on Lot #16 for a purchase price of \$35,000 (listed price at \$35,000) and seller (Township) assumes the cost of Sewer assessment.

Moved by Pearson, seconded by Vance.
MOTION CARRIED by 3-2 roll call vote.

Discussion: Property has a 60 ft right of way (easement) for line 5 that limits the use of the lot. The purchase price minus the Sewer assessment cost (\$6600 est) limits total cash available to \$28500 less broker & closing fees.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 9a: FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

MOTION: Move to approve the Fire Protection Contract for \$287,784 for 2024 payable January- April 2025.
Moved by Kramer seconded by Vance.
MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

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Discussion: Craig Weldon provided an in-depth discussion of the Tuscarora Fire Department's history, manpower, equipment status and the many services provided to the Township, including the growing cost of conducting business today. Three priorities discussed: approve the 2024 Contract, schedule a work session to move from "Payment in Arrears" (current practice for many years) to a "Payment in Advance" of Services rendered, and clarify Millage funding limits as costs will likely continue to rise.

ITEM 9b: EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

MOTION: Move to approve the compensation for Chris Green at \$26/hr beginning 1/15/24.

Moved by Reidsma, seconded by Kramer.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

Discussion: Board offered unanimous support for Chris and her accomplishments.

ITEM 9c: NORTH STAR GARDENS PRESENTATION

MOTION: Move to table this Request until further Board discussion and data can be acquired.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance.

MOTION CARRIED by roll call 5-0.

Discussion: Commercial Rehabilitation District size, policy & procedures, and pro-forma documents are all required.

ITEM 9d: BILLS REPORT

MOTION: Move to transfer \$7500 from the General Fund Balance to the Enterprise Fund to pay Tanner Electric bill for the Emergency Generator Transfer switching service and to be reimbursed with Sewer Grants and/ or Bonds at a future date.

Moved by Reidsma, seconded by Kramer.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 5-0.

MOTION: Move to pay the bills per the Invoice Register (TWP= \$19,640 (incl Tanner bill), Police=\$24,991.87, Lighting = \$50.10, and Sewer = \$26,223.01).

Moved by Reidsma, seconded by Kramer.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 5-0.

ITEM 9e: SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES CORRECTION

MOTION: Move to approve the following changes in the Special Meeting Minutes (12-14-23) as follows: "Library has the right to approve their own invoices ~~and has chosen to do this going back to September 2023.~~"

Moved by Vance, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote 5-0.

Discussion: Item brought to Boards attention by K. Rutkowski during public comment on agenda.

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ITEM 10: PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment began at 8:27 pm. Comments end 8:34 pm.

J. McGinnis – Planning Commission Comments

P. McGinnis – Township Parking Capacity Study

ITEM 11: BOARD COMMENTS

Three board members commented.

ITEM 12: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jay Reidsma, Tuscarora Township Clerk