

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP
3546 S STRAITS HWY, INDIAN RIVER, MI 49749
JUNE 4, 2024 at 7:00 pm
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Supervisor Kramer at 7:01 pm

ITEM 2: Veteran John Dach 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, Chris Green

Quorum present –

ITEM 4: BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

No conflict of interest offered.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC HEARING – PHASE 1 SEWER SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING

Name and Address (public comment opened at 7:02 and closed at 7:14).

- Dennis Forsberg -- yes to sewers
- Mary Deibel – yes to sewers
- Debbie Garner -- yes to sewers
- Jame McCready -- yes to sewers
- Pam Barrett -- yes to sewers
- Virginia Martin -- yes to sewers
- David Cooper,Jr – No to sewers (by letter)
- Thomas Watson – No to sewers (by letter)

ITEM 6: PUBLIC HEARING – 2024-2025 BUDGET HEARING

Name and Address (public comment opened at 7:15 and closed at 7:15).

- No Comments

ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The floor was open for public comment at 7:15.

- J. Kaser – blight on Gratiot and Apple Blossom painting

Public comment was closed at 7:17pm.

ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items include – Bills Report; Treasurer report; Budget Amendments; Minutes; Reports -- DDA, Police, FOIA.

MOTION: Move to approve consent agenda

Moved by Vance, seconded by Pearson.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote

Discussion: Supervisor Kramer shared the story of a 'police call' concerning a man injured by a chain saw, and Office Anderson quickly applied tourniquets to stop the bleeding, saving his life.

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ITEM 9: OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 9A PHASE 1 SEWER SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RESOUTION #4

MOTION: Move to approve Phase 1 Sewer Special Assessment resolution #4 for \$3,481,000 (as supplied in Board Packet).

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote

Discussion: Resolution #4 confirms the assessment roll, in the amount of \$3,481,000, and orders that it be collected in 40 equal annual installments, with the first installment due on Dec. 1, 2024. Unpaid installments will bear interest at the rate of 2.75% (1% above the rate on the bond), commencing July 1, 2024.

ITEM 9B: PHASE 1 SEWER RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF 2024 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BONDS

MOTION: Move to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of 2024 Special Assessment Bonds (as supplied in Board Packet) in the amount not to exceed \$3,481,000.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion: This resolution authorizes the issuance of the bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,481,000, or such lesser amount as is outstanding on the special assessment roll at the time of issuance of the bonds.

The bond is being issued in the anticipation of and secured by future due installments on the special assessment roll for the Phase 1 residential sewer expansion. The bonds are payable in 40 annual installments at the interest rate of 1.75% annum. Principle payment dates are annual and will tentatively commence on April 1, 2025. Interest payments are due semiannually tentatively commencing on October 1, 2024. Payment dates can be adjusted prior to closing without additional board action.

ITEM 9C: PHASE 1 SEWER BIDS

MOTION: Move to approve the award recommendations for the three Phase 1 bids (all contingent upon funding availability) – Gravity contract (Elmers @ \$2,688,787.51), LPS Contract (Matts Underground @ \$2,224,569), and the WWTP expansion contract (Grand Traverse Contractors @\$4,565,700 that becomes \$4,025,365 reduced scope with change order #1 – contingent on contractors approval), as supplied in Board Packets.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote

Discussion: This package must still go to the USDA for final approval. This recommendation (attached to Board Packets) is the same recommendation that the Performance Engineer presented and discussed at the May meeting. Each REU estimated to be \$18,372.20. The estimated cost covers Construction, Engineering, Legal, Financial, and contingency for a total cost estimate of \$8,291,928. Phase 1 cost details are available on the web or at the office. Phase 1 Sewer cost breakdown estimates (gravity contract, LPS contract, WWTP Expansion, and Equalization Tank) covered in the Motion. A revenue summary for a USDA Loan (\$3,481,000) and Grants (USDA \$2,844,000 and EGLE \$1,700,000) plus contingency required (\$266,929) to cover all Phase 1 Sewer Costs.

ITEM 9D: COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION DISTRICT & SERVICE AGREEMENT

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MOTION: Move to establish a Commercial Rehabilitation District and Service Agreement #1 from Sturgeon River to Indian River and including Indian River Center and Indian River Overlay for a public hearing to be held on 6-27-24 @ 7:00 pm to review the purpose and the boundaries.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Move to contract Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) to perform the requisite assistance in establishing the District & Boundaries at a cost not to exceed \$1000 and to designate Supervisor Kramer as the Board lead.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote

Discussion: NLEA will assist with drafting the following documents: a motion to set a public hearing, a letter to owners of real property within the proposed district, notice of public hearing, resolution for adoption of the proposed district, letter to assessor and letter to each taxing unit that levies ad valorem property taxes regarding the project application. North Star Gardens is willing to reimburse the Township for the NLEA expenses.

ITEM 9E: SET ADDITIONAL BUDGET HEARING

MOTION: Move to schedule an additional budget hearing at 7PM on June 27th, 2024.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote

Discussion: Supervisor requests an additional budget hearing.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 10A: CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS BROADBAND PRESENTATION

INFORMATION: Presentation by Charter Communications (Marilyn Passmore and Joan Movrich) to share Spectrum's plans as the #1 rural internet provider in the nation, which announced the launch of Spectrum Internet, Mobile, TV and Voice services to more than 375 homes and small businesses in previously underserved portions of Burt, Mullet, Koehler, and Tuscarora Townships.

Spectrum's newly constructed fiber-optic network buildout in Cheboygan County is part of the company's approximately \$5 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)- related investment in unserved rural communities, partly offset by \$1.2 billion in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) RDOF auction.

ITEM 10B: BLIGHT

MOTION: Move to proceed with a project plan to clean-up a blighted property at Parke and King Rd to be led by Trustee Janet Vance at a cost of \$9881 to remove equipment / vehicles / trash.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Dillaha.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion: A court order, issued in 2013 with a letter of agreement, is still in effect, but owner has failed to remove the blight objects. The goal is to remove all objects at the owner's expense. The plan will address questions concerning liens, law enforcement, contracted help to remove & junk the objects, and communication with the Board.

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ITEM 11: PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment began at 8:17 pm. Closed at 8:31 pm

A. Studor – Cell towers construction and health risks
P. McGinnis – Accusations about board member
T. Obranovic – South Blvd Speeding and need for yellow line at Straits Highway
B. Henderson – Questions on Parks budget items
K. Moutrie – Requested help on downtown blite – two locations.
R. Mudock – Phase 1 sewer congratulations and community collaboration

ITEM 12: BOARD COMMENT

Five board members commented.

ITEM 13: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 8:41PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Reidsma, Tuscarora Township Clerk