

WOODROW TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2023

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Tanner at 7:00 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Present are Supervisor Gordy Reher, Supervisor Colter Peterson, Treasurer Tim Mueller and Clerk Cathy Dietrich. To see sign in sheet for citizens present, request from Clerk.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve Agenda for Regular Monthly Meeting as submitted.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve November 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve October Treasurer Report, subject to audit as presented by Treasurer Tim Mueller.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve November Treasurer Report, subject to audit as presented by Treasurer Tim Mueller.

Treasurer Mueller requested information on if any projects that took place in 2023 could use the ARPA funds. Clerk Dietrich will review the rules and provide a list of the projects in 2023 that will use ARPA funds. This will be reviewed during the Board of Audit Meeting on January 11, 6:30 pm.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve claims as submitted by Clerk Cathy Dietrich.

M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve payroll as submitted by Clerk Cathy Dietrich.

Clerk's Report –

1. Discussed cleaning town hall carpet.

M/S/P Tanner/Reher Town Hall carpet to be cleaned at a cost of \$350.00 plus any costs for supplies.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Road updates;

- a. Supervisor Reher provided an update that roads have been graveled and graded for the year. The one project being worked on is Timber Drive. The township has requested Lott Excavating to move some embankments back for road snow removal. Currently when plowing is done there is nowhere to push the snow and the road becomes narrow. With some ditching and embankment work the plow drivers can move the snow into those ditches and embankments without narrowing the road. There were a couple of complaints

in which the county was called. County Environmental Services was out to inspect, and everything being done is acceptable.

- b. Chris Sonmor provided an update on the feasibility studies. A feasibility study was completed for Interlachen, Evergreen, and Buxton. Those studies can be used for the assessment process if you choose to go that route. If the Supervisors choose not to use for the assessment process, then it can be used as a planning tool for budget numbers without getting too far into doing a total survey and designing. Chris explained some of the information in the studies and informed us that it may be beneficial to have a special meeting with the Supervisors and Treasurer to review budgeting for these two roads and future projects. This special meeting will be held on February 2 at 9am
2. AIS signage on 14th Avenue is extremely small and hard to see. Supervisor Reher will review AIS signage with Neal Scharmer, Chairman of the Child, Girl, Woman, Lake Association. The lake associations should be involved with this. Since it is winter now, we'll postpone this until spring.
 3. Administrative Guidelines are to be updated annually in January. The 2023 Administrative Guidelines were approved to keep the same as 2022. The 2024 Administrative Guidelines will have the following amendments.
 - a. Compensation for Supervisors will stay at \$300 per month (approximately 12 hrs per month).
 - b. Compensation for Treasurer will change to \$450 per month (approximately 18 hrs per month).
 - c. Clerk compensation will stay at \$1000 per month (approximately 40 hrs per month).
 - d. Hourly compensation will change from \$20 per hour to \$30 per hour.
 - e. Compensation for attending a township meeting will be changed from \$75 to \$85. And any meeting (i.e. educational or legal, etc.) held outside of the township will be compensated at \$100 per meeting plus mileage.
 - f. Mileage and meal reimbursement shall be reimbursed following the IRS rate.
 - g. Moderator compensation for Annual Meeting will change from \$75 to \$100.
 - h. The technology stipend will change from \$100 to \$150.
 4. Supervisor Reher is contacting the company who did gravel crushing in 2021 and has not heard back from them yet. Will provide an update at the January meeting.
 5. Woodrow Township Emergency Management Organization (WTEMO). Tom Larson informed us Garmin has been working for about six years with FEMA for a nationwide GMRS, General Mobile Radio Service, which is a band and frequencies by FCC. All these little walkie-talkies you can buy at Free Farm and stuff like that, they have GMRS and they have FRS, family radio system. This new

system, they're doing this so that in case there's a problem with the regular system. Anybody that's got one of those designated radios, you can talk two-way, back and forth with people in your county or in your state or in your township.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Woman Lake Lodge alcohol license annual renewal. Clerk Dietrich informed the supervisors that Woodrow Township has received the annual renewal form from Cass County to renew their 3.2 malt liquor license. There have been no complaints on this subject and therefore M/S/P Tanner/Reher approve the renewal of this license.
2. Reviewed the 2024 meeting calendar and approved meeting dates. Clerk Dietrich will post in the Pine Cone Press Citizen. M/S/P Reher/Peterson approve 2024 meeting calendar for posting.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Tanner –

- I had a phone call last summer from a person on Woman Lake who wondered what we were doing with the public beach on Highway 5 where there's a dry hydrant that was installed by the township. One of the neighbors was cutting weeds on the park property and was parking his car on what he thought was township property. So, Gordy and I had a survey done to see where this car was being parked and where the weeds were being cut. There's a path there also, where the dry hydrant is. We proceeded working with the county to beautify that area and as you can now see it's all repaved in front of the dry hydrant, cleaned up, and the path marked off with substantial wooden posts and boulders that identify the location of that access path. It's mostly used for snowmobile access in the winter. It is a footpath, but nobody uses it. Most of the people who use that public beach would come by boat and have a picnic there. It's less than a quarter of an acre in size, so it's not a substantial piece of ground. More recently, I received a call from the newly elected president of the Child Girl Woman Lake Association complaining that there was an incursion by a car that is being parked on public property and isn't the township doing something about it. And he also said that the DNR designated both Woodrow Township and the Child Girl Woman Lake Association as stewards of the subject property. Well, this board has inquired significantly into all kinds of possible documentation to that effect. Finding none, I responded to Neal Scharmer, the president, that I reviewed your comments and requested the specific legal documentation which supports your statements. Neal Scharmer then sent back to me another two-pager that said, thank you for the response. My statements rely on oral representations made to me. I will follow up with Trails and Waterways Division of the DNR, Cass County Soil and Water Conservation Unit. I believe that both the Township and Lake Association were designated stewards for that tract and so forth. I responded that Woodrow Township will rely on written documentation rather than oral representations made to you. He then sent me another letter, stating he would undertake efforts to provide documentation. I didn't respond to that one. So that's where we stand with that. The bottom line is that Mr. Sharma thinks that the Lake Association should take control of that lake property, lakefront park property, and he's finally conceded that maybe we could

work together. The township park property is dedicated by plat and until he comes up with something more substantial it'll remain so. The thing is, where that neighbor is parking, it's a platted road. That was the purpose of the survey, to determine where the road was. So, anybody can park there. And by statute, the board and any individual are not only authorized, but mandated to remove noxious weeds on public property. If they're invading and they're traveling over to their own property. And that's what he's doing. He's mowing. And I pointed out to him that poison ivy that was encroaching, and that has been accepted by the township.

- Next matter is last October 24th, Senator Eichorn sent a letter inquiring how the township felt about a cannabis plant in Grand Rapids. I wrote back to Senator Eichorn saying that we opposed any use of public money to facilitate a cannabis farm and processing plant. And he then responded to me and said, the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board recently voted 5 to 3 to approve state funding for a cannabis growth facility near Grand Rapids. And I was one of the three who voted no. He goes on to explain, why should 33% of project costs be shouldered by taxpayers when our schools and towns have urgent needs? Is this an appropriate use of public funds? It's a long letter but is available for anyone to read if they would like.

Supervisor Reher –

- Investigating putting in a turnaround on 26th Ave to facilitate snow removal. The survey crew was out looking at it, and a power pole may need to be moved. Once the survey is drawn up, Chris Sonmor will review and provide information to the township for final decision.

Supervisor Peterson –

- Water heater has been installed and is working great.
- The parking lot new stop block has been installed.
- To save the stop blocks from being hit by the plow, there will be plastic post reflectors inserted into the stop block to prevent the plow damaging the stop blocks.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jeremy Lassen comments, the ruckus on Timber Drive was created by a couple of seasonal residents based on several issues, none of which had to do with the actual paving or future improvement of the road. Now, the township is moving forward to fund these types of projects in a more standard funding procedure. Timber Drive should not be left out of future planning, as the road itself is still in need of the proposed improvements, as determined by a previous study, Timber Drive should remain at the top of the list, regardless of its past issues. Secondly, the current work being done out there is amazing and will make a huge difference.

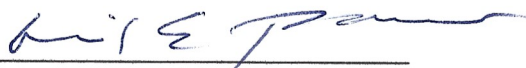
Doug Payne comments, my understanding is that there was a majority of the folks that have even agreed to help finance the Timber Drive project and so there was obvious support and it was a significant minority that were the ruckus. I would suggest that you have to evaluate in the future you're always going to have some people opposed to any change so as you're talking about other roads we can learn something from Timber Drive there will be somebody opposed to progress that's just how it is so you should determine in advance what threshold that is. I think it's a fairly minimal amount of ruckus on Timber Drive. Chair Tanner stated, the board was responding to a request and that was our

total role in it. This particular project needed to start with people coming to us asking for construction of a road project and that is what we did. Supervisor Reher has requested that Chris Sonmor complete a feasibility study for Timber Drive.

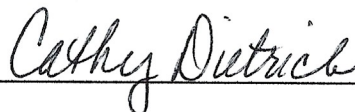
Lloyd Thielmann requests an update on recycling security cameras. Clerk Dietrich responded that the replacement camera has been ordered and will be installed. The other two cameras are running the way they are supposed to.

OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING ADJOURNED M/S/P Reher/Peterson @ 8:47 p.m.



Chair, Dave Tanner



Clerk, Cathy Dietrich

