

Helena Township Board Meeting September 12th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Peeples. Members present were Butch Peeples, Cathy Rice, David Peterson, Butch Bartz and Bonnie Robbins. Motion by Robbins to approve the agenda and supported by Bartz and approved. Motion by Robbins to approve the August 8th township board meeting minutes with the addition, requested by Paul Sak of "After Representative Roth updated the public on the issues of short-term rentals and that House Bill 5438 shows no movement in the legislature, he strongly encouraged the township to act now and do something to address short term rentals in our community." and supported by Bartz and approved.

Conflict of Interest: None

Public Comment: (3 minute limit): Paul Sak stated a correction for an addition to the August 8th township board meeting minutes. "After Representative Roth updated the public on the issues of short-term rentals and that House Bill 5438 shows no movement in the legislature, he strongly encouraged the township to act now and do something to address short term rentals in our community."

Lauri Stone reported Village Center project nearly completed with siding and landscaping this fall and spring. Carved bear installation by the Alden Volunteers at the Tennis Court Park needs approval by Parks & Rec committee and then board approval. A special meeting of Parks & Rec is scheduled for Monday evening at 7:00 PM September 16th, 2024.

Laura Wilcox commented that sub committees are not allowed as part of the Planning Commission.

Bridget Dewald requested that the minutes be published in the Antrim Review. Peterson will have June, July, and August township board meeting minutes published in the Antrim review and also September meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: beginning balance August 1st, 2024 is \$585,847.83

Total receipts: \$25,451.68 and total disbursements: \$52,402.39

Ending balance August 31, 2024 is \$558,897.12

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Robbins, supported by Bartz and approved.

Presentation of Bills: August 9th through September 11th 2024 is \$57,288.13

Fire Chief/Sheriff Report: Reviewed South Torch Lake Fire & Rescue report from Chief Paul Fabiano. New smoke detectors with sealed batteries available for the public.

Sherrif Hoch reviewed August report and personnel status. There is to be mental health training for department personnel. Jail tours Friday the 13th at 3:00 PM for 45 minutes to an hour. More jail tours scheduled for October 11th and the 25th. Public safety center 5.6 miles for 20 years is on the ballot for November 5th.

County Commissioner report reviewed from Terry VanAlstine and provided public safety center handouts. Oct. 11th at 10:00 AM at Kearney Township there will be a jail release simulation and community collaborative training. New recording equipment at the circuit court. New courtesy vehicle for the airport. Grass River boardwalk is now ADA compliant. New Meals on Wheels vehicle purchased.

Township Ambulance Authority (TAA) report; 10 ambulance runs and 1 mutual aid runs, and a total of 194 EMS responses for the TAA service area reported by Rick Teague. There were 14 responses by mutual aid during August.

All reports are linked with the minutes on the township website, www.helenatownship.com.

Communications: None

Speaker: Tammy Lockwood representing High Tea, reported 19 patients each will receive \$1,000 to \$10,000 for financial help. Requested approval for banner across downtown Alden. Approval needs to come from Frontier. Lockwood reminded women to get their mammogram.

Speaker: Kim Laverty representing BGI Tech-Natural Gas spoke about the Michigan Gas Choice program and DTE Energy. Contracts with Symmetry Energy for lower natural gas rates.

Committee Reports:

Zoning: Reviewed Bob Logee's zoning report.

Parks & Rec: Jim Gurr reported that there was no quorum for the Parks & Rec meeting. Peoples spoke about the need to address erosion at Elder Road public access. Robbins spoke about the EGLE permit removing the railroad bed section at the Baseball Park and a soil and erosion permit. Robbins spoke about updating the township's memorial policy for the township parks.

Planning Commission: Communication from Leslie Myers that the township write a stand alone ordinance or add to the zoning ordinance addressing flood insurance based on FEMA report.

Roads: Bartz reported current contracts with the road commission are completed. Future work to include both ends of cemetery road, end of Bliss road, Crystal Springs road and Chapman road.

New Business: Two docks from the Alden safe harbor to be removed for repairs. Robbins requested hiring Jessie Kubin at \$35 per hour to maintain township web site. Motion by Rice to pay up to \$500 for web site maintenance with support by Peterson and motion was approved.

Old Business: Tennis Court Park pavilion expansion passed building inspection. Motion by Robbins to pay for the engineered drawings for the expansion in the amount of \$3,789.00 to **Do All Maintenance** with support by Bartz and motion was approved. Robbins addressed the board about the sales tax part of the original invoice when the township is tax exempt.

Announcements:

Motion to pay bills: Robbins made the motion to pay the bills, supported by Bartz. All present voted yes, motion carried.

Speakers: None

Public Comment: Rick Knoff asked if the next planning commission meeting would be by ZOOM. Robbins said it will be on ZOOM.

Adjournment by call of the chair at 8:38 PM.

Prepared by Helena Township Clerk: *David Peterson*