OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2023

The Otsego Lake Township meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM by Supervisor Matelski. There were 14 guests.

Roll call of Board Members Present: J Bergel; J Brown; D Matelski; M Brown; D Pallarito

Absent:

Also Present: Parliamentarian Randy Stults, Constable Mike Coutant & Fire Chief Dale Tucker

Public Hearing to set FD millage opened at 7:01 p.m. The board had discussed leaving the millage at the current 1.50 at this time. **NO PUBLIC COMMENT** offered. Public Hearing closed at 7:04 p.m. Denise Pallarito made a motion to set Fire Department millage rate at 1.50 mills for operating the fire department: second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Supervisor Update: Dave Matelski; handled a noise complaint, talked to Mike's Electric about the lights that are flashing at the hall, they were recently replaced by different company and should be warrantied. Dave will contact them to fix it. The township hall irrigation was winterized, a couple heads will need to be replaced in the spring. The park will be winterized Friday. The Highlands are getting cleaned up. Paul Slaugh said it has been determined that the lake property near Kelly St is owned by MDOT. There is a meeting October 16th at 10:00 am to discuss the clean up and the way it can be enforced when people trespass.

Conflicts of Interest: None

Additions to Agenda:

Meeting Minutes presented by Mary Brown for August 17, 2023, regular meeting minutes and special meeting minutes for Augst 29th and September 8th. Correction to August 17th minutes, under trustee report on Bisballe completing work, it says "will" get done, it should say "may" get done. A motion was made by Jerry Brown to accept meeting minutes with corrections, second by Jeff Bergel; All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk's Report: Presented by Mary Brown: Township Bills for the period August 18, 2023, to September 21, 2023, with a total amount of $339,929.53. Motion made by Jerry Brown to pay the township bills for $36,065.53 for the General Fund; $287,173.59 for the Fire Fund (includes purchasing building) and $16,690.41 for Trash Fund, seconded by Denise Pallarito. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED**

There is a claim form available for Chief Tucker for the items damaged at the fire hall from generator surge, needs to get additional quotes and fill out form. Burnham & Flower have been notified of the purchase of the building next to FD and added insurance, the utilities were also switched. The township hall has been power washed. There were many spiders and Janssen's recommended the Bug Guy to spray for spiders. I called and he will treat the hall 3 times per year at $150.00 per time and will treat next week at that rate if we sign up for next year. Chief Tucker said the spiders are also bad at the fire hall, not at new building.

APPROVED BY: Board DATE: 10-19-23

Mary will try to negotiate a better price and get both locations done. A motion was made by Mary Brown to have spiders treated at the Township Hall; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. A motion was made by Mary Brown to have spiders treated at the Fire Hall; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.
The large tree on the north side of township hall was looked at by Shawn Thomas Trees for a second time. He said it is uprooting and getting worse, he gave a bid of $1600.00 to cut down tree, remove all debris and chip branches and clean up. He recommends removing the tree. A motion was made by Mary Brown to remove the tree by Shawn Thomas Trees; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Denise Pallarito will attempt to get seeds from the tree to try to start a new tree for future planting.
We have been awarded the Michigan Fire Equipment grand up to $10,000.00 We can not submit to the Par Plan Grant as we purchased the security cameras before the grant opened back up.
The vault toilets and the township hall septic will all be cleaned/or pumped next Friday.

Agreement for Election Services with Otsego County: We recently had a Clerk's meeting with the County Clerk. After much discussion we all decided to hold the early voting in 2024 for all 3 elections at the City Hall, this will help with the workload and cost of the elections. A motion was made by Denise Pallarito to allow agreement with the county for early voting; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Treasurer's Report presented by Jerry Brown. Motion made by Denise Pallarito to accept the Treasurer's report for August 31, 2023; second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED**

FIRE & EMS REPORT: **35** Calls, 28 EMS, 7 Fire, 4 Missed Calls. The Fire Chief gave his report. 525 was sent to CSI I Grayling for the lighting repairs, all but one is done, they had to re-order. CSI will come to the fire hall to make the repair when light comes in. Dale changed the combo locks at the new building.

CONSTABLE REPORT: Everything checked out with no complaints.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Fire Chief's contract: Denise Pallarito made a **motion** to remove the motion that had been tabled from the September 8, 2023, special meeting; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. The meeting on September 8th did not have the motion printed in minutes, that was made and second to not renew the chief's contract. A **motion** was made by Denise Pallarito to postpone until correcting the minutes of September 8, 2023, to state: "Motion made by Jerry Brown to not renew the fire chief's contract; second by Mary Brown". This was seconded by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Denise Pallarito made a **motion** to correct the September 8, 2023, minutes to add "Motion made by Jerry Brown to not renew the fire chief's contract; second by Mary Brown".; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Denise Pallarito recommends we close discussion and vote on the Fire Chief's contract (to approve renewal) (Stated in September 8, 2023 minutes, third sentence from bottom of page #1). **Ayes (4):** Pallarito, Matelski, J Brown, M Brown. **NO (1):** Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Denise Pallarito explained her reasoning for voting to not renew chief's contract was a hard decision and came down to complaints from citizens she had received. Jeff Bergel stated he didn't feel residency was enough of an issue to not renew the contract.

A **motion** was made by Denise Pallarito to have a fire chief posting to hire a permanent chief. Create a hiring panel and have a special meeting to review requirements. Mary Brown questioned if this was only for the purpose of discussing requirements, Denise said yes. Mary Brown second the motion. Ayes; 4; Pallarito, Matelski, Bergel, M Brown. NO: 1; J Brown. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Mary Brown made a **motion** to appoint Jeff Schermerhorn as interim fire chief as of October 1, 2023; second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Denise Pallarito: Bisballe is not going to be able to do any of the work at the cemetery due to the weather setting him back on other jobs. Denise Pallarito made a motion to spend up to $2,000.00 to block the entrances of both drives at the cemetery for the winter to keep vehicles from driving over any headstones. Second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Dave will look at it to see what would be best to block drives. Denise expressed her concerns about the maintenance at the cemetery this summer. She feels it has not been done as well as it should be, there was a mess around flagpole from the ferns being weed whipped and not cleaned up, also there have been debris piles that sat for extended periods of time. Dave agrees and would like to review and update the next maintenance contract with clearer directions. Denise stated the Thunder Over Waters was a success this year.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No meeting

Jeff Bergel: The trail head excavating work looks good.

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE: No meeting

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Jason Clement; Absent

Meeting adjourn meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown

Mary Brown, Clerk

Minutes approved by Township Board on October 19, 2023