OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2023

The Otsego Lake Township meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM by Supervisor Matelski. There were 9 guests.

Also present: Parliamentarian Randy Stults and Matt Barresi, County Administrator and Fire Chief Jeff Schermerhorn.

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

Conflicts of Interest: None

Additions to Agenda: Hall Rental fee waiver

Supervisor Update: Dave Matelski; met with MDOT, DNR, Paul Slaugh and Attorney General regarding the Kelly Street property. MDOT is the owner of the property. They are going to get the property cleaned up. MDOT will pay taxes (PILT) on the property. The railroad will be changing their train cars to be double high for more shipping capacity. Dave called Kirk Harrier at the Road Commission about blocking the new parking area for trail head so the project can be completed before using.

Pickleball: Gary Rider gave a presentation on the growing sport, there are currently 260 people in Otsego County as registered players. It is a growing activity all over, a very social game. There are about 36 million people in the country that play pickleball. Mr. Rider provided his background that includes serving as an athletic director, he has been involved in developing 5 tennis courts and would be happy to help if we decide to move forward with putting Pickleball at the park. Mary Brown suggested he contacts Christine Boyak-Wohlfeil as she is the park Committee Chair, and they would present the request to the township board for consideration.

Meeting Minutes presented by Mary Brown for September 21, 2023, regular meeting minutes and special meeting minutes from September 25th, October 6, October 9th and October 16th (Election Commission). There was a typo correction to 09/21 on page 2, an addition to sentence on page 2 of 10/06. Motion made by Jerry Brown to accept meeting minutes with noted corrections for 10/06: second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED. Jerry Brown made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected for 10/09, second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED.** Motion made by Jerry Brown to approve minutes for 09/21 and 09/25 as presented, second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Jerry Brown made a motion to accept the minutes for Election Commission Special Meeting on October 16th, second by Dave Matelski. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Clerk's Report: Presented by Mary Brown: Township Bills for the period September 22, 2023, to October 19, 2023, with a total amount of $62,043.65. Motion made by Jerry Brown to pay the township bills for $31,443.74 for the General Fund; $13,909.50 for the Fire Fund and $16,690.41 for Trash Fund, seconded by Denise Pallarito. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED**. Denise and Dave questioned the amount paid to Theresa Witulski? That is the Assistant Assessor who is paid by the parcel.

Mary Brown made a motion to waive the rental fee recently paid for a fund raiser taking place this weekend for a man with stage 4 cancer: second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Mary asked to go to Clerk's training in March in Mt. Pleasant, the cost is about $795.00 plus lodging, registration opens the end

of October. Denise Pallarito made a motion to allow the clerk to attend the training, second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.
There are additional bills that need to be paid next week; Shawn Thomas Trees, $1,600.00 (approved at our last board meeting already, Northwood Plumbing; $180.00 and Jim Salo Irrigation $275.00. Denise Pallarito made a motion to approve payment of these bills as presented; second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Two JE entries made in cost centers signed by supervisor.
Leo S inquired if the board was going to replace the tree recently cut at hall? (most likely next spring)

Treasurer's Report presented by Jerry Brown.
Motion made by Denise Pallarito to acknowledge the Treasurer's report for September 30, 2023, second by Mary Brown. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED**
STG Website: Jerry Brown provided information on changing the website to STG, they are user friendly and offer support if there are issues. A quote was given for 2 options. It was requested that a representative give a presentation at next month's meeting before we decide; Jerry will set that up.

FIRE & EMS REPORT: **31** Calls, 25 EMS, 5 Fire, 1 Missed Calls. The Fire Chief gave his report. Chief Schermerhorn said repairs were made to Truck 514 by Zaremba's; Jon Deming has asked if the MABAS incident command trailer can be stored in our fire hall (north building) just this winter, chief said there is enough room. Randy Stults recommended Chief gets a written agreement for storing the trailer and obtain a hold harmless agreement with liability coverage. Motion was made by Mary Brown to allow the MABAS trailer to be stored, second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. The fire department will be participating in the Santa Parade, there will be Trunk or Treat October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the fire hall, a tree lighting on December 1st. Chief Schermerhorn had extrication training with Station 6 at his house on Tuesday. There is a member going to firefighter training starting January 3rd in Petoskey (where he works) and Chief Schermerhorn will start Officer's training in January and will be taking another officer with him for that training. Cutting Edge will be providing a quote on the cameras at fire hall. The Chief provided a quote for purchasing Streamlight Survivor flashlights for $1,331.82, this is for 18 lights, which will give each member 1 and 3 extras. A motion was made by Mary Brown to allow Chief to purchase, second by Denise Pallarito. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

CONSTABLE REPORT: Mike Coutant absent, report given by Jerry Brown, all establishments checked out.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mary Brown contacted MTA about the FD Liaison position (Denise previously stated it is illegal to have this position) and was told that for our fire department it IS LEGAL to have a liaison.

NEW BUSINESS: ORV Ordinance. The County MTA meeting was held, and the townships were asked to provide to the county any changes we wanted on the roads that are currently closed/opened in our township. Dave talked about the ORV restrictions on our roads, stating it is a big industry for tourism. Denise gave input from the viewpoint of a business. She would like input from Michaywe' and have public comment allowed on this issue. All board members agreed it would be good to allow opening of all roads for a year and then re-evaluate. County Commissioner Jason Clement said the County is seeking input from the Townships on opening their roads. Motion made by Jeff Bergel to open all roads to ORV's, second by Mary Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS: **Quote from Cutting Edge** for security cameras at township hall. Jerry called Mike and found out we can get a bigger hard drive for added storage for about $200.00, and we could redact anything we needed to if we had a FOIA request. Mary Brown made a motion to approve the cameras for about $3,300.00, second by Denise Pallarito. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Fire Chief's Contract: Mary Brown updated the Fire Chief's job description with the changes the board previously recommended. The new job description was reviewed by Paul Slaugh, Township Attorney as requested and he said it looked good as presented. The Fire Chief's contract was also updated and both documents were presented to Chief Schermerhorn by Mary Brown. A motion was made by Jerry Brown to approve the Fire Chief's job description as presented, second by Mary Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Jerry Brown made a motion to approve the Fire Chief's Annual Contract for Chief Jeff Schermerhorn, with the addition the chief must reside within Otsego Lake Township (Policy #10122023-1), second by Mary Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. Fire Chief's contract and job description signed by all parties.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

Denise Pallarito: There will be a Downtown Gaylord Santa Parade on November 25th. There will be a meeting this Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. at Jay's hosted by MDOT on the roundabout on 27/McCoy. Denise said the Planning members were very grateful to attend the recent training at Boyne Highlands. Denise provided information on the County ZBA, Tim Miller sits on that board. They currently have 4 cases before them which would become statute if approved. Townships should have input. Currently there are 400 short term rentals in Otsego County. The County Planning Commission is hearing presentations that would allow for registering these rentals. The City of Gaylord currently has a renters registration program. Randy Stults explained the function of the ZBA, all townships should give input when it would impact our township.

PLANNING COMMISSION: The Planning Commission had no meeting.

NEMCOG was asked to re-quote the Master Plan update, it must be reviewed every 5 years. They provided a quote for $3,300.00 to update our Master Plan. Denise Pallarito made a motion to have NEMCOG do the update to our current Master Plan for $3,300.00, second by Mary Brown. All ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

Jeff Bergel:

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE: The Park Committee had no meeting. Jeff said the Iron Belle Trail is moving along nicely. Christine had given a quote for streetlights for the board to consider if we wanted to replace the 12 streetlights at the same time as the 3 for trial head lot are done. It would be about $6,000.00 per light to replace them, not in the budget for the entire project. Leo S. suggested we consider replacing what we have enough for in our budget possibly before the prices increase.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Jason Clement; Absent Meeting

adjourn meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown, Clerk