

**PROPOSED
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROCK RIVER TOWNSHIP
JULY 21, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Teri Grout, Dawn Leppanen, Trevor Case, Rowan Bunce, Janet Braun

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Jim Seppanen, Maria Strand, Brice Burge, Don Johnson, Steve Norman, Kathy Kallio, Rob Steinhoff, Ron LeJeune, Mickey Rondeau

PUBLIC COMMENT: 1.) Brice Burge from The Village of Chatham Board, gave an update on the Village's Marijuana Ordinance. He also stated that the Village would be interested in holding a joint public hearing with the township regarding the Marijuana Ordinances, as they are very similar.

MINUTES: Motion to approve board minutes of 6-16-20 by Case, 2nd Braun. MCU

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Report presented, reviewed and placed in file for audit.

PAY BILLS: Motion to pay bills (7778.02) with debits/checks #17367-17389 by Braun, 2nd Bunce. MCU

ASSESSOR REPORT: 1.) Report received and placed in file. **2.)** AMAR review.

CEMETERY REPORT: 1.) Not much going on besides lots of mowing.

FIRE DEPT: 1.) Five calls this month. First was a carbon monoxide tester that went off. Second was a rescue at Whitefish Falls, a truck was stuck. Third was a tractor on fire. Fourth was a search for a lost fisherman off the Rock River Road. Fifth was a call for help in removing trees down on road.

PLANNING COMMISSION: 1.) Had a regular meeting on July 13th. Will start working on a new Master Plan in the fall or winter. Don brought newer member up to date. Mick brought it to the PC's attention that there is federal funding available for recreational use. Trevor asked Ron if he was going to attend PC meetings. After discussion, it was decided that Don would leave a message on Ron's phone, besides emailing him.

SKI HILL: 1.) Closed for season.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: 1.) Report: Four permits. Trevor stated that he would like to do the job for a year, so he can compile a list of duties and hours, to help us to better determine what the pay should be for the position. Teri mentioned that the ZA for Mathias, Autrain and Marquette Townships may be interested in the position. We have not received a resume or letter of interest at this time. Trevor said if someone with experience wanted the position, we should hire them.

CORRESPONDENCE: 1.) Public Hearing Notice from WE. **2.)** Letter regarding opiate litigation **3.)** Notice form UPPCO regarding new meters. **4.)** Letter from Doug Miron asking public officials to vote for Kurt Harmon. **5.)** Letter from Alger County Treasurer regarding foreclosed property. This will be addressed under new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 1.) Braamse property: Motion by Leppanen, 2nd Case to purchase the Braamse property for 7757.84.

Roll Call Vote:

Braun: aye Nays: none

Leppanen: aye

Case: aye

Bunce: aye

Grout: aye

Supervisor declared the motion carried.

2.) Marijuana Ordinance: Rock River Township and The Village of Chatham will have a joint public hearing regarding both municipalities Marijuana Ordinances. The tentative date is August 13th at 7:00pm. There will be postings and a publication in the Munising News, when the date is finalized. **UPDATE: Since the meeting, Governor Whitmer has issued Executive Order 2020-160, which limits statewide indoor gatherings to 10 people or less. As a result, the Township Board and Village of Chatham have decided to postpone the Marijuana Ordinance public hearing until further notice.**

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Rob Steinhoff/Prosecutor's Office update: Prosecutor Steinhoff updated the board and public on the work he has been doing regarding victim services and answered questions regarding mental health resources and marijuana offences. Mick Rondeau commended Rob for attending County Commissioner meetings.

2.) Blight Complaint: Board received a complaint from Steve and Veronica Pokela against Douglas Darling, regarding property on Capital Hill Road. After discussion and reviewing the photographs submitted by Steve and Veronica Pokela, the board

agreed to move forward with the blight complaint. Motion by Case, 2nd Bunce to pursue the blight complaint leveled by Steve and Veronica Pokela against Douglas Darling.

Roll Call Vote:

Braun: aye Nays: none
Leppanen: aye
Case: aye
Bunce: aye
Grout: aye

Supervisor declared the motion carried.

3.) Foreclosed Property: Township Board received a letter from the Alger County Treasurer regarding foreclosure on a property on E. Cold Springs Road. The township has second right of refusal, after the DNR. After discussion and input from public, the board decided to purchase property, for future use, if current owners do not redeem it. Motion by Case, 2nd Bunce to purchase property on E. Cold Springs Rd. for price of 2051.57.

Roll Call Vote:

Braun: aye Nays: none
Leppanen: aye
Case: aye
Bunce: aye
Grout: aye

Supervisor declared the motion carried.

ANY OTHER BOARD BUSINESS OR PUBLIC COMMENT: 1.) Mick Rondeau informed the board of Renewable Energies' plan to decommission the Forest Lake Dam. Brice stated that they have to apply before they can drain the Basin. That is their intention though. Mick also asked the board if we would like his assistance in working out a deal with the Forest Service to trade properties, so the Township would own the ski hill. Trevor has been working on this for 2 years and said he would take any help he could get. Mick would like the ski hill to be a shooting range in the summer, but we would not be able to do that. We must adhere to NRA rules, which state that we need 80 acres minimum for a shooting range.

Motion Case, 2nd Leppanen to adjourn the meeting. MCU

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Election Commission meeting to follow.

Dawn Leppanen, Clerk

Teresa Grout, Supervisor

proposed minutes, subject to approval

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 18, 2020 AT 7PM AT THE TWP. HALL

