

**ADOPTED
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROCK RIVER TOWNSHIP
JULY 18TH, 2023**

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:06pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Teri Grout, Janet Braun, Maria Strand, Rowan Bunce, Trevor Case

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Ray Lane, Kate Staab, Sam Grahovac, Frank Hohn, Scott Bunce, Perry King, Nathaniel Wood, Janet Whitmarsh, Bob Maki, James Seppanen, Cecil Martin, Denise Gerth, Brice Burge - Munising Beacon, Jana H, Dan Johnson, Kathy LaRock, Ron LeJeune, Jim Rondeau, Dawn Rondeau, Alisa Charlebois

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public Comment heard.

MINUTES: Motion to approve board minutes of June 20th, 2023 meeting, by Bunce, second Case. MCU

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

PAY BILLS: Motion to pay bills (\$17,666.51) with debits/checks #18281-18302 by Case, second Braun. MCU

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: 1.) Hire New Zoning Administrator: Bunce motion to hire Mark Maki for Zoning Administrator position, Strand Second with a 1 Year work agreement. Roll Call Vote : Janet Aye , Trevor Aye, Teri Aye, Rowan Aye, Strand Aye

PLANNING COMMISSION: 1.) Renee McLaughlin has resigned from the planning commission. Motion to appoint Olivia Kingery to the open planning commission seat by Case, Bunce Seconds. MCU. Ron LeJeune objects to not being considered for his seat due to his past history on the board and veterans status, the board states LeJeune was not considered due to the fact that he did not show up to any meetings during his first year of planning commission seat appointment. **2.)** A June 17th meeting was held to discuss language changes to the ordinance with updates. Public hearing scheduled for August 21st at 7PM at the township hall. The proposed ordinance will be available for viewing on the township website as well as hard copies available at the library.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Report. Tax bills sent July 1st. 3 changes reflecting the inflation rate multiplier is the highest they have ever seen, 1.5 mil increase for MARESA which is a new tax liability, MARESA's new millage is now collected in the summer instead of the winter making summer taxes the highest they have ever been. There should be a reduction in the winter tax bills due to this change. BOR is for paperwork filing and exemptions coming up. AMAR submissions have been updated in the system. End of July / August we should be hearing answers for AMAR review for transparency of data. Assessing policies and more information will be available on the website in the future, hopefully by February. .Lack of property inventory on the market is still increasing property pricing. Everything made available to the public will be compared to the market trends.

FIRE DEPT: 1 Call - Involved in the 4th of July Parade. Still waiting to hear on the fire truck chassis so we can get our new fire truck.

CEMETERY REPORT: Sexton Resignation, post for new hire of sexton and grave digger.

LIBRARY: Summer reading program is going well. Businesses are offering prizes for the summer reading program. Summer walking group is still going. Soap Making Class on July 29th. Librarian will be at the Alger County Fair with books. Visitation has continued to double each month. Townhall roof was repaired by Whitmarsh Builders.

SKI HILL: Closed for the season. Thank you to Brice Burge and everyone involved in the Chili Cookoff to pay for the storage box. Electricity is being updated on the way to the ski hill by UPPCO / Steigerwaldt, no cost to the township as it is an UPPCO expense.

CORRESPONDENCE: 1.) Written Public Comment from Heidi Swajanen : Available with the minutes at the hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Janet asks about a bulletin board being installed for township news, however funds from that have been moved to the pavement for the township and firehall parking lot, Rowan offered to build the township a bulletin board for free by the time fall comes.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) Budget review for General and Fire Fund

2.) Post for Recording Secretary - In order to allow all of the board members to partake in the meetings, we are looking into a record taker for minutes for board meetings and planning commission meetings. \$12.00 per hour is the going rate for township employees. Clerk will post for the position in the paper, website, bank and coop.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS OR PUBLIC COMMENT: 1.) UPPCO / Steigerwaldt redoing ski hill electric

2.) Work Bee for Centennial Park & Cemetery, mostly painting needs to be done. Date to help will be posted on the website soon.

3.) Public Comment heard. Teri wants to thank everyone for helping with the township, Vince Grout for newsletters, Jon Rondeau for fairgrounds electric improvement by JP Electric.

Motion Bunce, 2nd Strand to adjourn meeting. MCU Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

Maria Strand, Clerk

Teresa Grout, Supervisor

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 15TH, 2023, AT 7PM AT THE TWP. HALL