

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ROCK RIVER TOWNSHIP
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Keskimaki-Krysiak, Trevor Case, Janet Braun, Rowan Bunce, Teri Grout

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Jim Seppanen, Maria Strand, Ron LeJeune, Jenny LeJeune, Dave Havens, Tom Schierkolk, Mary Jo O'Halloran Torongo, Scott Bunce, David LaMere, Lacey LaMere, Jennifer Wood, Brice Burge, Dave Akkala, Cindy Kallio, Dan Johnson, Kathy LaRock, Beverly Parkinson, Sandra Girard

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public Comment heard.

MINUTES: Motion to approve board minutes of 8-16-22 by Bunce, 2nd Case. MCU

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

PAY BILLS: Motion to pay bills (\$12,764.62) with debits/checks #18008-18032 by Case, 2nd Bunce. MCU

ASSESSOR REPORT: 1.) Report received. Cameron Fuess will be the new assessor beginning October 1, 2022.

CEMETERY REPORT: 1.) Report received.

FIRE DEPT: 1.) 3 calls this past month. One car accident, one car fire and one gas leak. New fuel tank for one of the trucks, ladders were tested. Countywide extraction training coming up.

PLANNING COMMISSION: 1.) Next meeting is October 10th. Blackburn Conditional Use Permit will be at this meeting.

SKI HILL: 1.) Closed for season.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: 1.) Report received

CORRESPONDENCE: 1.) Letters regarding the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy **2.)** State of MI Public Notice

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 1.) **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement:** tabled until we hear from our attorney. Supervisor addressed questions/comments from last meeting. Trustees stated that the DEI wording is not set in stone, the board is willing to amend the language.

NEW BUSINESS: 1.) **Clerk Resignation:** Clerk resigned due to not residing in Rock River Township anymore. Resignation regretfully accepted by board. Motion to accept Clerk's resignation by Case, 2nd Bunce.

Roll Call Vote: Braun: aye Case: aye Bunce: aye Grout: aye Nays: none

Supervisor declared the motion approved.

2.) **Appoint new Clerk:** Board discussed how to fill the Clerk's position. Since an election is coming up, board decided to appoint the Deputy Clerk to the position as she already has experience in the job. Motion Bunce, 2nd Braun to appoint Deputy Clerk Maria Strand as Clerk.

Roll Call Vote: Braun: aye Keskimaki-Krysiak: aye Bunce: aye Grout: aye Nays: none Trevor recused himself.

Supervisor declared the motion carried.

3.) **Add new Clerk to bank accounts:** Motion Keskimaki, 2nd Braun to remove Dawn and add Maria to all bank accounts.

Roll Call Vote: Braun: aye Keskimaki-Krysiak: aye Case: aye Bunce: aye Grout: aye Nays: none

Supervisor declared the motion approved.

4.) **Township Employee raise:** Trevor proposed a cost of living raise for all township employees, based on inflationary property tax increases set by the state. Motion as of April 1, 2023 to have this option by Case, 2nd Bunce.

Roll Call Vote: Braun: aye Keskimaki-Krysiak: aye Case: aye Bunce: aye Grout: aye

Supervisor declared the motion approved.

5.) Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor Raises: Trevor has done extensive research on how much Township Officials in our County are compensated. He found our Township is lower than all but one other township. He proposed that the Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor each receive \$600.00 per month, which is a \$100.00 raise for the Clerk and Treasurer and a \$150.00 raise for the Supervisor. Board discussed. These raises will not take effect until April 1, 2023, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year for the township.

Motion Case, 2nd Bunce to increase the Treasurer's salary to \$600.00 per month, beginning April 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Keskimaki-Krysiak: aye Case: aye Bunce: aye Grout: aye (Braun recused herself)

Supervisor declared the motion approved.

Motion Case, 2nd Bunce to increase the Clerk's salary to \$600.00 per month, beginning April 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Braun: aye Keskimaki-Krysiak: aye Bunce: aye Grout: aye (Case recused himself)

Supervisor declared the motion approved.

Motion Case, 2nd Bunce to increase the Supervisor's salary to \$600.00 per month, beginning April 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Braun: aye Keskimaki-Krysiak: aye Case: aye Bunce: aye (Grout recused herself)

Supervisor declared the motion approved.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS OR PUBLIC COMMENT: 1.) Public Comment heard.

Motion Case, 2nd Braun to adjourn meeting. MCU Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Dawn Keskimaki-Krysiak, Clerk

Teresa Grout, Supervisor

proposed minutes, subject to approval

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2022 AT 7PM AT THE TWP. HALL

