

Regular Board Meeting
November 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

1. In the absence of the Supervisor, MOTION by Roberts, support by Berg to approve Hope Tarnaski, Treasurer, to run the meeting. Meeting was called to order by the Treasurer and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. **ROLL CALL-** Sue Roberts – Trustee, Hope Tarnaski – Treasurer, and Erin Berg – Clerk. Absent from the meeting were Jeff Randall – Supervisor and Beverly Ikola – Trustee. Also present were Lisa Hegbloom, Utility Clerk; Kelly Heidbrier, C2AE representative and two residents.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES** – MOTION by Roberts, support by Tarnaski to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – MOTION by Roberts, support by Tarnaski to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – None.
6. **PETITIONS-** None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS:** - None.
8. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES**
PAUD – The Authority approved sending liens to be placed on tax bills.

GRSWMA – A garbage truck was involved in an accident, which caused garbage collection to run behind. The GRSWMA rented a garbage truck to use until their truck can be repaired.
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
A) POST OFFICE STATUS – Nothing new to report at this time. A resident mentioned that Gordon, WI, went through a similar situation with their post office, and that within 2 months of it shutting down, it was up and running again. He suggested the Township contact them to ask what they did to get their post office to reopen.
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
A) W/S PROJECT ENGINEERING AMENDMENTS AND AGREEMENT – Kelly Heidbrier, C2AE Representative, presented the Board with a packet of information. The first item was “Amendment #2 to the Payment Agreement by and between Bessemer Township; Owner and C2AE; Engineer. A discussion took place about the new interest rate (10.5%: prime +2) that will be calculated onto unpaid fees over 30 days old. The Board questioned how much the Township could spend down to lessen the amount of interested owed. A question was asked on whether the new interest rate could be negotiated if the prime rate goes down. With that, MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Berg to authorize the signatures on “Amendment #2” as is, with the possibility that the interest rate could be negotiated if the prime rate were to go down. Motion carried by roll call vote.

The second Item was “Amendment #1 to the Owner-Engineering Agreement” for the Wastewater Collection Improvements Project. Because the Township was not awarded a 100% USDA Loan, the scope of work for the sewer project had to be reduced. This decreased the fees owed by

Approved

\$57,850.00 MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Berg, to authorize the signatures of “Amendment #1” for the Wastewater Collection Improvements Project. Motion carried by roll call vote.

A similar “Amendment #1 to the Owner-Engineering Agreement” was also done for the Water System Improvement Projects. The reduced scope of work decreased the fees by \$36,850.00. However, an additional service was added on to include GIS System Integration. This allows the Township, specifically the DPW Department, to be able to pull up locates of water valves on their phone. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts, to accept the addition of the GIS System Integration and authorize the signatures on the “Amendment #1” for the Water System Improvement Project.

The last item presented was the “Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services”. The Agreement outlined the engineers’ services, the Townships’ responsibilities, costs, performance standards, and other general provisions. Mr. Heidbrier stated that bidding for the project can begin in June 2024. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to authorize the signatures of the Agreement pending review by the Township Attorney.

- B) HEALTH INSURANCE – Options for health insurance coverage for full time Township employees was presented. A discussion took place on what the different options offered, as well as costs of each. Because the effective date of coverage is January 1, 2024, there is not much time to research the different options. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to renew the current plan and authorize the appropriate signatures. Motion carried by roll call vote.
- C) ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – In light of recent allegations against the current Blight Officer, Dave Macomber, the Supervisor informed Mr. Macomber that his services have been suspended. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to support the Supervisor’s decision to suspend Mr. Macomber’s services immediately and indefinitely. Motion carried by roll call vote. A Township resident, Noah Bunt, has inquired about the open position. Mr. Bunt is qualified for the position as he has been in law enforcement for 17 years. A question was asked if the Board should hire the interested individual or advertise to the public. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts, to temporarily hire Mr. Bunt pending a proposed scope of services and letter of interest. Motion carried by a majority roll call vote. Due to the nature of the relationship between Mr. Bunt and the Township Clerk, Berg abstained from voting.
- D) FAIRGROUNDS – A letter from Juliane Giackino, Gogebic County Administrator, was presented to the Board regarding a proposal for the fairgrounds. Marenisco Township has been offered as a potential site for any move of the County fairgrounds. The Gogebic County Economic Development and Capital Improvements Committee then decided to open up the possibility of a potential fairgrounds site to other municipalities. Interested municipalities were asked to submit a proposal by January 5, 2024. No action was necessary.

11. **TREASURER’S REPORT** –Winter tax bills must be sent out by December 1, 2023. Tax bills are usually folded and stuffed by a machine at the City of Wakefield, but because the machine is currently out of order, the Treasurer has asked for volunteers to help with the folding and stuffing of the tax bills.

12. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE –**

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 16565 – 16594	\$26,390.73
Water Fund	# 22405 - 22412	\$27,866.84
Anvil Sewer		

Approved

Ramsay Sewer		
West End Sewer		
Blackjack Water		

MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Berg to approve the bills as presented, with the exception of check numbers 16567 and 16590 from the General Fund, which are checks that are made out to Mr. Macomber for past services. Once the Supervisor reviews those invoices, the checks may be sent. Motion carried by roll call vote.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS-

Don Ormes, VA representative, informed the Board that the VA has been busy with appointments because of the recent passing of the PACT Act.

The Utility Clerk stated that the total amount in delinquent utilities to be placed on the winter tax bills is \$25,193.69.

A discussion took place on the Anvil Sewer rates. The rates need to be looked at being increased. The Board would like to see that topic on the next Agenda.

14. ADJOURNMENT – MOTION by Berg supported by Roberts to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk

Approved