

Regular Board Meeting
June 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Meeting was called to order by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
2. **ROLL CALL**- Sue Roberts, Trustee, Hope Tarnaski – Treasurer, Jeff Randall – Supervisor, Erin Berg – Clerk. Absent: Beverly Ikola – Trustee. Also present were Steven Selin, Fire Chief and 4 residents.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES –** MOTION by Roberts, support by Berg to approve the May 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Randall to approve the May 28, 2024, special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** The Supervisor requested that “Utility Billing Clerk Request” be added under New Business Item D. MOTION by Randall, support by Tarnaski to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT –** None
6. **PETITIONS**- None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS:** - The Treasurer reported that she received a form from the Local Stabilization Authority asking to provide bank account information to receive funds electronically, rather than by a paper check. The Treasurer stated she would like Board approval prior to providing the information. A question was asked on what the funds the Township receives from the Stabilization Authority are for. Discussion ensued. MOTION by Randall, support by Roberts, to authorize the Treasurer to release bank account information to the LSA in order to receive payment electronically. Motion carried.
8. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES –** BASA – Due to the unknown time frame of the absence of Trustee Ikola, the Board needed to appoint an alternate member to the authority. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Berg, to appoint Trustee Roberts as the alternate member of BASA during Trustee Ikola’s absence. Motion carried.

GRTA - Due to the unknown time frame of the absence of Trustee Ikola, the Board needed to appoint an alternate member to the authority. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Berg, to appoint Trustee Roberts as the alternate member of GRTA during Trustee Ikola’s absence. Motion carried.

GRSWMA – The Authority will be entering into Union Negotiations with their employees; a new garbage truck will be added to the current fleet in the near future; the Authority is looking to replace the current trash compactor, which has been showing signs of depreciation.

PAUD – The Authority adopted a new policy for grinder pumps.

Gogebic County Land Bank – Contracts were approved for Ruotsala Construction to demolish the old Gambles building and a house that was destroyed due to a fire on US2 in Bessemer. Smily’s Excavating was approved to demolish the old Tree Service building on the main street in Wakefield.

The BTFD was given the approval to burn a home located on Horseshoe Bend.

Approved

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) **POST OFFICE STATUS** – Construction of the Post Office was set to begin on June 10, 2024, but it appeared to be postponed. It is rumored that Angelo Lupino was awarded the bid to pave the parking lot. No action was necessary.
- B) **AUDIT** – The Supervisor spoke with Ken Talsma, Anderson Tackman & Company, PLC, who stated that the audit will be completed soon. No action was necessary.
- C) **DPW – NEW HIRE** – The Board was presented with a list of new hires in the DPW Department. The list included two full time employees (Lane Peard and Mark Selin) and three summer employees (JJ Grasso, Alex Hendrickson, and Cory Wainio).
- D) **CITIZENS GRANT ADVISORY GROUP** – The Supervisor informed the Board that he continues to work on the creation of the committee, regarding what the Township needs to do. A question was asked if members of the committee need to be residents of Bessemer Township. Discussion took place. No action was necessary.
- E) **BLIGHT** – The position for the Township’s Ordinance Enforcement Officer has not yet been filled.
- F) **FIRE DEPARTMENT PAGER POLICY - MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to adopt the Fire Department Page/Radio Policy which places shared responsibility of the stewardship on the Township and individual firefighter. Motion carried by roll call vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A) **SEWER BACK-UP – ANVIL** – The alarm system at the Anvil Sewer Pumphouse failed to call out notifying that there was an issue on June 3, 2024. The alarm company found that something was turned off on the phone that it would alert. This failure caused a sewer backup in the basement of a residence. This is the third time this resident’s home has been affected. This time, the failure caused the family to lose their water heater and furnace. The resident’s supplied to Board with their receipt for a new water heater that they had to purchase. A lengthy discussion was had regarding acquiring legal advice from the Township attorney and contacting the liability insurance company. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Randall to authorize the Supervisor to contact the attorney and liability insurance company, and to reimburse the residents for the cost of the water heater. Motion carried by roll call vote.
- B) **UNION CONTRACT** – A discussion on the current Union Contract, employee wages, and the potential to earn more by obtaining certain certifications. No action was necessary.
- C) **4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE REQUESTS** – The Board reviewed a letter submitted by the Ramsay 4th of July Committee President, Jody Jurakovich. The letter requested the assistance of the Township in preparation for the upcoming festivities on July 2, 2024. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Roberts, to offer the Township’s assistance as they have done in previous years. Motion carried by roll call vote.
- D) **UTILITY BILLING CLERK REQUEST** – At a regular Board meeting held on May 13, 2024, the Board approved increasing the Utility Billing Clerk’s rate of pay from \$20.00 per hour to \$25.00 per hour. The Utility Clerk asked that rather than having an hourly rate, the Board consider a salary of \$17,000.00 per year, which roughly equates to paying her \$25.00 per hours for an average of 13 hours per week. **MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to approve the Clerks’ request of changing her wage from \$25.00 per hour to a salary of \$17,000.00 per year. **MOTION** carried by roll call vote.

Approved

11. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – The Treasurer went over the balances in each account. The treasurer informed the Board that the Assessor would be at the Township within the next week to prepare the bills for Summer 2024. The bills must be out by July 1, 2024.

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

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 16890 – 16927	\$26,733.69
Water Fund	# 22488 – 22498	\$50,874.59
Anvil Sewer	# 1409 – 1411	\$4,355.29
Ramsay Sewer	# 2901 – 2903	\$1,208.72
West End Sewer	# 1299 – 1301	\$4,598.90
Blackjack Water		

MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS-** Questions were asked regarding the Little Library post, the Story Book Walk, flowers at the Veterans Memorial, and the dugouts at the softball field.

Steven Selin, Fire Chief, gave a yearly breakdown of fire calls that the fire department received.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk

Approved