

Regular Board Meeting
October 9, 2023 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**- Hope Tarnaski – Treasurer, Jeff Randall – Supervisor, and Erin Berg – Clerk, Beverly Ikola – Trustee. Absent from the meeting was Sue Roberts – Trustee. Also present were Steven Selin, Fire Chief; Lisa Hegbloom, Utility Clerk; David Macomber, Blight Officer and three residents.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES – MOTION** by Tarnaski, support by Randall to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Tarnaski recommended that “Audit” be added to the Agenda under “New Business Item B”. MOTION by Randall, support by Tarnaski to approve the agenda with the addition of “New Business Item B”. Motion carried.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – A resident asked for an update regarding the fire number project and why it is so difficult to get a fire number changed. The resident and her neighbor have the same fire number, which is making it near impossible for delivery carriers to find her home. She is also concerned about first responders going to the correct home if they were ever needed. The resident spoke to the Emergency Management Coordinator at Gogebic County and verified that her fire number was correct and that the neighbors was incorrect. The resident asked why the neighbor could not be forced to change their fire number. The Board assured her that the fire number verification portion of the project was near completion, but that it would be a few years before new signs could be put up. The Supervisor told the resident that when the new signs do get put in, both her residence and the neighbors will receive new fire numbers.
6. **PETITIONS**- None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS**: - A letter was received from the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners thanking local law enforcement, ambulance service, and fire fighters for their involvement in the recent fire that took place at the Gogebic County Fairgrounds. MOTION by Randall, support by Tarnaski to accept the communications and place them on file. Motion carried.
8. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES**
Gogebic Range Water Authority – The GRWA will meet on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Two resumes were received for the open Administrator position.

Gogebic Range Trail Authority – The bills were paid, and a discussion was had on purchasing new equipment. A comment was made regarding the Iron Belle Trail and what a great asset it is to our community.

Gary Engstrom 5K – The Gary Engstrom 5K Run/Walk was held on Sunday, October 1, 2023. A large turnout of participants was reported. Thanks were given to all those who helped in preparation of the event.

Utilities – The Utility Clerk informed the Board that the current water bills are due on October 25, 2023. A home within the Township was sold on a tax foreclosure. The previous homeowner had an outstanding utility bill of \$1,235.25. The Utility Clerk asked the Board to write off that balance so the current homeowner can transfer utilities into his name. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to write

Proposed

off the previous homeowner’s utility balance of \$1,235.25. Motion carried by roll call vote. A Board member asked a question regarding a policy if a check that was written to avoid shut-off was returned because of insufficient funds. The Supervisor recalled a policy which allowed the resident 30 days to correct it. If after 30 days, no effort has been made by the resident, shut-off would take place. A suggestion was made to shut-off utilities as soon as a check was returned. The Supervisor will check with the attorney to determine if that can be done.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) COMPLAINT – SAARI UPDATE – The Blight Officer informed the Board that those residents with blighted properties who have not cooperated have now been turned over to the attorney, who will be sending letters to the alleged violators. The idea of presenting the Board with a progress report was brought up. The Blight Officer stated that he could provide the Board with a progress report at a later date if they so choose.
- B) POST OFFICE – No new information was received. A question was asked about if the contractor for the post office is from the area. A question was asked about where the old mailboxes are being stored.
- C) BALL FIELD – An article in The Globe indicated that the Wakefield-Marenisco School District would not be involved in any funding or updating of the Gogebic Miner’s softball field. The reasons for their disinvolvement included cost, and the fact that the field is prone to flooding. Bessemer Area Schools remains committed to putting in the necessary work to make the ball field useable.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A) FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE – Steven Selin, Fire Chief, informed the Board that the Fire Department would like to purchase 4 air tanks. The air tanks that they currently use are used air bottles, which are only good for 5 years. The new air tanks would be good for 15 years. He plans to replace 2 old air tanks with 2 new tanks every fiscal year. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to authorize the Fire Department to purchase 4 new air tanks. Motion carried by roll call vote. The Fire Chief told the Board that there is a new software program called NFIRST that fire departments have been switching over to, which allows fire departments to do their reports electronically. There is a one-time initial purchase price of \$949.00 and then a yearly subscription amount of \$142.00. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola, to authorize the purchase of the NFIRST software for the fire department. Motion carried by roll call vote.
- B) AUDIT – The Treasurer contacted Ken Talsma of Anderson Tackman regarding the Township’s current audit. He informed her that he would be available to come to the Township in either October or November.

11. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – There has been difficulty in accessing the Township’s bank accounts online. Gogebic Range Bank states that it is due to too many unsuccessful password attempts, but the Treasurer and Utility Clerk state that that is not the case. The West End Sewer bank account was overdrawn. The Treasurer contacted the bank and made a phone transfer from the Water account to cover the overdraft. Balances from the 4th of July Committee and Fire Department accounts were read.

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE –

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 16474-16504	\$18,100.07
Water Fund	# 22384-22387	\$612.03

Proposed

Anvil Sewer	# 1398	\$66.07
Ramsay Sewer	# 2876-2877	\$770.73
West End Sewer	#	
Blackjack Water	#	

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

The Clerk informed the Board that an application was done for two Kwik Trip gas cards; one for the DPW Department and the other for the Fire Department.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS-

The Supervisor informed the Board that he will not be present at the October 23, 2023 meeting and that one of the Board members would need to create an agenda and run the meeting.

Questions were asked about the post for the “little library” that will be at the park. The post has not been put in yet.

The lamp post for the basketball court lights has not yet been received.

The pavilion and bathrooms at the park are still open. No date has been set as to when they will be closed for the season.

There is no update on the “Mommy and Me Swing.” The price range for a wheelchair swing is anywhere from \$2,000 - \$20,000.

The Township has approximately \$2,000 to spend on park benches.

The idea of a “doggy stick library” was mentioned. It consists of an apparatus where sticks can be placed. Dogs can pick which stick they would like to play with.

A question was asked about the power outage that occurred on Friday, October 6, 2023. The cause is unknown

14. ADJOURNMENT – MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Ikola to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk