

Regular Board Meeting
November 13, 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-** Sue Roberts – Trustee, Hope Tarnaski – Treasurer, Jeff Randall – Supervisor, Erin Berg – Clerk, Beverly Ikola – Trustee. Also present were Steven Selin and Ben Tucker, BTVFD; Lisa Hegbloom, Utility Clerk; David Macomber, Blight Officer and two residents.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES –** MOTION by Roberts, support by Ikola to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** Randall recommended that “Fire Truck Repair” 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 –** None.
6. **PETITIONS-** None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS:** - The Gogebic Ontonagon Intermediate School District sent a letter to the Township looking for approval of the 2024 tax collection. MOTION by Randall, support by Roberts to authorize the appropriate signatures on the agreement between the GOISD and the Township for the 2024 tax collection. MOTION by Randall, support by Berg to accept the communications and place them on file. Motion carried.
8. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Gogebic Range Water Authority – The GRWA voted to hire Mary Seglin as the new GRWA Administrator. Seglin had been the interim Administrator since Tori Davey’s resignation. The GRWA will move their office and meeting location to the Ironwood Township building. This will leave the office that they rent from Bessemer Township vacant, and the Township will no longer receive the monthly rental income.

Utilities – The Utility Clerk presented the Board with a list of delinquent utility accounts that are more than 90 days past due. These accounts will be placed as a special assessment on the 2023 Winter Tax bills. MOTION by Randall, support by Tarnaski to accept the special assessment list and authorize the delinquent amounts to be placed on the 2023 Winter Tax bills. Motion carried by roll call vote. These accounts can be taken off the list upon payment of delinquent utility amount.

A new program is being offered through the Gogebic Ontonagon Community Action Agency that may help resident of the county who are at or under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines with the payment of their utility bills.
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A) **POST OFFICE STATUS –** With the GRWA no longer renting an office from the Township, the Township is left with a vacant office with no rental income coming in. The possibility of using this office for the post office was mentioned. A discussion about sending a letter to the Postal Service inquiring about this option took place. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to authorize the

Approved

Supervisor to write a letter to the Postal Service inquiring about placing the Post Office within the Township Office. Motion carried.

- B) BALL FIELD – All of the special clay sand needed for a softball field is now in and the field is almost ready to go for the 2024 Gogebic Miner’s Softball season.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A) FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT – The Fire Department was approved for a \$10,000 grant award under the Michigan Fire Equipment Grant Program. Steven Selin, Fire Chief, presented to Board with a spreadsheet to show how the grant money will be spent. The equipment will need to be purchased out of the General Fund and then the Township will need to send the paid invoices along with the check image to the State. The State will then reimburse the Township. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to authorize the Township to purchase the equipment, with payments not to exceed \$10,000.00 coming out of the General Fund. Motion carried by roll call vote.
- B) FIRE TRUCK REPAIR – Equipment testing was done on the fire trucks, and it was found that valves needed to be replaced on two of the trucks. An estimated invoice totaling \$1,219.00 from Pomasi for the repair of the valves was presented. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to authorize the payment for the valve repair not to exceed \$1,300.00. Motion carried by roll call vote.

11. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – The 2023 Winter Tax bills will be run by Thanksgiving. They 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. Account balances were read. The Treasurer found out that the pole for the light at the basketball courts has arrived, but the company installing it would like to push the project back until the spring. With the nicer weather, the Board agreed that they would like it to be installed now. The little library will be pushed back until the spring.

12. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE –

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 16528 – 16564	\$214,219.97
Water Fund	# 22392 – 22404	\$26,777.62
Anvil Sewer	# 1400	\$66.61
Ramsay Sewer	# 2878 – 2881	\$1,152.53
West End Sewer	# 1291	\$3,859.67
Blackjack Water	#	

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

A Profit and Loss Statement from April 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023 was given to the Board. The Clerk contacted the Auditor asking which dates would work for him to be at the office. To date, there has been no response.

Approved

13. PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS-

The Supervisor informed the Board that he is working on a Budget for the Ramsay and Anvil Sewer accounts for the need to up the rates.

The Supervisor's office hours will now be 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday; 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday; and 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

- 14. ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Roberts to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk

Approved