

Regular Board Meeting
April 8, 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, Beverly Ikola - Trustee. Also present were Lisa Hegbloom, Utility Clerk, Steven Selin, Fire Chief and 3 residents.
3. **PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES – MOTION** by Roberts, support by Randall to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** The Supervisor added “Fire Department Application” under New Business Item “D”. MOTION by Randall, support by Roberts to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT –** None.
6. **PETITIONS**- None.
7. **COMMUNICATIONS:** - The March 11 & 12, 2024 Board of Review Minutes and the March Treasurer’s Report for the Bessemer Township/Ramsay 4th of July Committee were presented to the Board. MOTION by Randall, support by Berg to accept the communications and place them on file.
8. **REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES – UTILITIES –** The April water bills have been mailed out to Bessemer Township residents. GOGEBIC COUNTY LAND BANK – Documents were signed for the 2nd round of grant monies awarded to the Land Bank. The money for the 2nd round will be used for the demolition of the Gambles building in the City of Bessemer and the tree service station in the City of Wakefield. Ruotsala Construction was awarded the bid for the demolition of the Gambles building. Smiley’s Excavating was awarded the bid for the demolition of the tree service building.
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A) POST OFFICE STATUS – A discussion took place on the possibility of a post office coming to Ramsey. Residents are concerned that, even though there was promise of a new post office, one will not be built. Residents are encouraged to continue to contact their State Representatives.
 - B) AUDIT – The Supervisor spoke with Ken Talsma, Anderson Tackman & Company, PLC, who stated that he was roughly 85% finished with the Townships 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Audit.
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A) TOWNSHIP INSURANCE POLICY – The 2024 Par-Plan from Hannula Agency, Inc was presented to the Board. The Supervisor noted that the DPW Department has a newer backhoe than the one listed and that the Fire Department’s new tanker needed to be added. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to authorize the Supervisor to notify the insurance company of the changes that were mentioned. Motion carried.
 - B) PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION POLICY – The Property Tax Exemption Policy and Procedures Resolution was presented to the Board. The General Property Tax Act states that all property located within Michigan is subject to ad valorem taxation, unless expressly exempt. The exemptions must be identified and authorized within specific sections of Michigan Compiled Law

Approved

and must follow procedures in order to be approved. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to pass the Property Tax Exemption Policy and Procedures Resolution. Motion carried by roll call vote.

- C) COUNTY 911 AGREEMENT – An Agreement between Gogebic County 911 and Bessemer Township Fire Department was presented to the Board. The Agreement states that the County loans radio equipment to all agencies, and that the agencies are responsible for maintaining it. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Ikola to authorize the appropriate signatures on the Agreement. Motion carried.
- D) FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION – An application to join the Fire Department was received from Isaac Ormes. Steven Selin, Fire Chief, informed the Board that the Department has already met with the applicant and approved his application. Mr. Ormes is currently a member of the Ironwood Township Fire Department and has completed the required Michigan Firefighter’s Training Courses 1 and 2. MOTION by Tarnaksi, support by Roberts to welcome Mr. Ormes to the Bessemer Township Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried. By roll call vote.

11. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – The Treasurer went over the balances in each account.

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

FUND	CHECK NUMERS	AMOUNT
General Fund	# 16810 - 16830	\$20,378.40
Water Fund	# 22463 - 22470	\$58,326.08
Anvil Sewer	# 1406	\$235.00
Ramsay Sewer	# 2893 - 2898	\$20,712.93
West End Sewer	# 1296	\$3,859.67
Blackjack Water		

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

The Clerk informed the Board that she received an email from a representative from Pitney Bowes, the company that the Township leases it’s postage meter from. The representative stated that the meter the Township currently uses an outdated meter. The Clerk was provided with a quote of \$405.84 to be billed quarterly, which is roughly \$10.00 more per month than what the Township currently pays. Board member Tarnaski stated that the Township uses the machine to mail out mass quantities of mail (utility bills, absentee ballots, etc) and asked the Clerk to inquire about a machine capable of handling larger amounts of mail. MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Randall to authorize the Clerk to move forward with a new postage machine after inquiring about different options. Motion carried by roll call vote.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS-** Questions were asked regarding the lighting for the basketball court at the park, the post for the “little library”, ordering a ballot box and video surveillance/alarms for the Township building, and the handicap swing for the park.

The fire number project is a work in progress. The volunteers are currently compiling a list of all residents and assigned fire numbers.

A resident commented about the solar eclipse that took place earlier in the day.

Approved

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Tarnaski, support by Roberts to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.
Motion carried.

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Erin Berg, Township Clerk

Approved