

Attendance: Sheri Shafer, Lou Lundquist, Lori McShane, Tara Dongvillo and Deb Lundquist.

Agenda: Motion by McShane, second by Dongvillo, to approve the agenda with the addition of letters from employees and policy review as new business item D & E. 2 ayes (Dongvillo-McShane) 3 nays (Lundquist-Lundquist-Shafer) Motion denied. Motion by McShane second by Dongvillo to approve the agenda only adding the policy review. 5 ayes.

Public Comments: Char Dugas, president of the Alger County Library board and Lisa Cromell, Munising public library director, spoke about all of the things offered at your local library as well as in Munising. The millage renewal will be on the ballot at the February 27th election. Please support the library. Karla Bowen thanked the board for the “bonuses” given to the members of the Alger County ambulance corps – Burt Township division.

Correspondence: none

Approve Minutes: Motion by Shafer, second by D. Lundquist, to approve the minutes from the January 9th regular meeting and the January 18th special meeting. 5 ayes.

Department and Committee Reports: Reports were available from the Assessor, DPW & Water, Fire, and Library.

Appointments/Resignations: Motion by Dongvillo, second by L. Lundquist to appoint Rod Lowe to the Planning commission. 5 ayes.

Supervisor Report: Dog Licenses are now available at the township office. Progress meeting with Wade from Cross Contracting as well as Matt and Jack to assess the progress of the new bathhouse at Woodland Park. They should be continuing to work through the end of February and then back in April. Law enforcement stats are included in your packet.

Treasurer’s report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer’s report – (\$1,266,528.27) Motion by Dongvillo, second by D. Lundquist to accept treasurer’s report and approve the bills for payment. (\$34,810.27) 5 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Planning Commission: Next Planning commission meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 3:30PM to continue to review and discuss the new zoning ordinance. Watch the township Facebook page and website for updates! Motion by Deb Lundquist, second by Dongvillo, to advise the planning commission that the board is only authorizing the current registered short-term rentals to be grandfathered in under the new zoning ordinance. 5 ayes.

Park Bathhouse /Loan: We are scheduled to close on the bonding/loan on March 7, 2024. Motion by Lou Lundquist, second by Deb Lundquist, to approve change order #1 detailing additional costs for changing location of the doors, addition of spray foam insulation, and change to an integrated solid surface sink – total additional cost \$13,691.00. 5 ayes. Motion by Lou Lundquist, second by Dongvillo, to approve pay app #7 & #8 to Cross Contracting for a total of \$103,041.90. 5 ayes.

RDA grant/loan application – Water System Project – Paving Wilson Street: Board discussion included delaying the paving of Wilson/Woodruff Street that was planned for this 2024 summer. After the board followed up with Rural Development, we feel the loan/grant will be approved and the work on the water project could be done as soon as 2026/27. Decision to wait and repair/pave the roads after the water project is complete.

New Business:

Elected Officials Salary resolution: The board is currently in budget workshop mode for the 2024-25 fiscal year. There has been discussion of increasing the pay for the elected officials. If we decide to move forward with a pay increase for the elected officials, resolutions must be passed and a 30-day referendum is in effect. The public will have 30 days to contact the board if they are not in agreement with the new salaries of the officials. We are scheduling a budget workshop meeting for later this week, and these resolutions may or may not be addressed at that special meeting. This item was placed on the agenda to be as transparent as possible with regard to these salary increases and make sure the public was aware of the referendum.

Zoning Admin letter regarding Coyotes Den: Question arose on property located at Airport Rd and M77. The current zoning ordinance states “no more than one principal structures on the lot.” Property owner has been contacted and will fill out the necessary forms to apply for a conditional use permit to operate a cabin rental on the property.

Accounts receivable invoice write offs: Motion by McShane, second by Shafer, to write off seven aged invoices (fire) in the amount of \$3,700.00. 5 ayes.

Policy Review: The Township Board and Administrative policies were distributed to the board for review. In lieu of recent events it was stressed that we should all review and adhere to these policies, especially the code of ethics. This will be put on the agenda at the next regular meeting to update as needed to include social media policy as well as recording conversations without consent in the workplace.

Other: Budget Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 @ 1:00 PM.

Public Comment: Cathy Egerer thanked everyone for the quick turnaround upon notification of the cancellation of the UP200 dogsled races. Leslie Carlson asked about the policies and the board procedures reading correspondence from the public and from the employees. Many community members spoke about a particular incident that occurred at the Woodland Park campground last fall. A police report was made and was reviewed and distributed to the board as well. The public asked Burt Township board members to take action and issue a no trespass order to keep this certain individual from entering Woodland Park Campground. The township board had lots of questions, both for the Alger County prosecutor and our own township attorney before we can make any decisions. The supervisor will contact the Alger County prosecutor Robert Steinhoff and invite him to our next meeting to answer board questions as well as questions from the public on this matter. Toni Whaley asked for clarification on the policies and reading of the letters from the employees and the policy violation.

Adjournment: 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted February 17, 2024

Lori McShane, Clerk