

Regular Meeting of the Burt Township Board
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 -- Community Center, 6:00 PM

DRAFT

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

Agenda: Motion by McShane, second by Dongvillo, to approve agenda as written.

Public Comments: Phil Bontrager thanked the board for the bonuses given to ambulance personnel.

Correspondence: none

Approve Minutes: Motion by Dongvillo, second by Lou Lundquist, to approve the minutes from February 13th special meeting and February 15th regular meeting. 5 ayes.

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

Appointments/Resignations: Motion by McShane, second by Lou Lundquist, to accept resignation from Scott Wieting from the Board of Review. 5 ayes. Motion by McShane, second by Dongvillo, to approve Steve Bow joining the Fire department. 5 ayes.

Supervisor Report: Thank you to everyone involved in the Winterfest activities. Governor Whitmer has approved low interest loans for businesses in the UP that are struggling due to lack of snow. Board of Review meets on March 13th from 3:00PM – 9:00PM, and on March 14th from 9:00AM – 3:00PM.

Treasurer's report and Approval of Bills: Treasurer's report – (\$1,824,366.64) Motion by Dongvillo, second by McShane to accept treasurer's report and approve the bills for payment. (\$35,643.74) 5 ayes.

Unfinished Business:

Planning Commission: Planning commission made a motion to ask the board to reconsider the motion regarding the grandfathering in of short-term rentals when the new zoning ordinance has been approved. Larry Shaffer was present at the meeting and led the discussion. Board decided to table the issue and have more time to review the information that the planning commission has been working on. We should have a draft of the new ordinance along with the new maps by the end of April.

Woodland Park Bathhouse /Loan: We successfully closed on the loan on March 7, 2024, for \$500,000 with Peoples State Bank with the help of Miller Canfield.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING: See our website for a complete 2024/25 budget packet. Motion by McShane, second by Shafer, to adopt the 2024/25 General Appropriations Act, showing revenues of \$2,331,350 and expenditures of \$2,252,085 and including an allocated millage of 0.5528 mills and a voted millage of 8.3486 mills. Roll Call vote – 5 ayes. Motion by McShane, second by Dongvillo, to approve the 2024/25 regular meeting schedule, keeping the regular board meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. 5 ayes. Motion by McShane, second by Lou Lundquist, to approve the new policy sheet for the 2024/25 fiscal year, showing all pay scales and rates for services in the township. 5 ayes.

New Business:

Complaint filed as to snow plowing township property: Supervisor Shafer spoke about a conversation she had with employee, Michael Beek, regarding the plowing of the ball park gates. She wanted the gates closed so it could be used for a dog run in the winter months. A disagreement ensued. Mr. Beek sited time and budget concerns and questioned the supervisor for the actual use of this property – general public need versus personal reasons. After the initial challenge, Mr. Beek plowed the gates before leaving for the day. Before checking if the gates were plowed, Supervisor Shafer posted on her personal social media account asking for the public for feedback while naming Mr. Beek. After the public posting, the board received a letter from Mr. Beek regarding the unprofessional behavior of the Supervisor. It referenced the social media posting and how she has created a toxic work environment for employees. The board received another letter by three additional employees supporting Mr. Beek and his statement. The township board and administrative policies clearly state that complaints from employees regarding elected officials should be submitted to the board and an investigation would be conducted, and the complaints would be read at a public meeting This agenda item completed that requirement.

Policy Review: The Township Board and Administrative policies were distributed at the previous meeting 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. First, we specifically reviewed the policy regarding handling of complaints regarding elected officials. There were two new policies that were proposed to be added, one regarding social media use, and the second regarding the recording of conversations in the workplace without consent of all involved. The board will review the proposed policies and they will be discussed at next meeting.

Woodland Park "No Trespass" order: Motion by Dongvillo, second by McShane, to file, on the accused, a no trespass order for the "Woodland Park Campground property". 3 ayes, 1 nay (L. Lundquist), 1 abstain (D. Lundquist)

Other:

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted March 15, 2024

Lori McShane, Clerk