

April 9, 2024

**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Also present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, Price and Deegan. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 regular meeting, the March 14, 2024 special meeting, and the March 23, 2024 annual, budget and special meetings as written. All ayes.

Campground Report: Clerk explained that maintenance needed to start replacing picnic table metal bases. Since a discount was given if ordering at least six bases, the manager requested that we start with a six base order. After review of available base options, motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to purchase six heavy duty bases at the cost of \$315.00 each. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 03-31-2024. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in March: 1) New dwelling-Empire Hwy. 2) Solar Array-Beaver Pond Rd. 3) Bathhouse-Empire Hwy. 4) Land division-Benzonia Tr. 5) Land division-Stormer Rd. 2.) Micah Deegan requested Board input for Planning on the following items: 1) Should regulations be kept for Radio Control Aircraft – perhaps keep; 2) Stand-alone Sign Ordinance - Yes, keep as stand-alone ordinance and update accordingly; 3) Wind Energy sections - Yes, update with new standards; 4) How long does the ordinance have to continue to regulate nonconforming uses – lawful time period needs to be reviewed.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Board reviewed the Sleeping Bear Marathon (SBM) Special Use application. After discussion, motion was made by Deegan; support-Neiswonger to approve the SBM application for the October 2024 event with the contingency that all conditions placed on the 2023 event would still be enforced, including receiving the final approvals from the County Emergency Management, and noting that SBM was exempt from attending the meeting this year, but would need to attend in person next year for possible final approval. All ayes. 2.) Supervisor explained that Eric Dubord was willing to serve on the Emergency Services Advisory Commission (ESAC). Motion-Carl Noonan; support-Deegan to appoint Eric Dubord to ESAC with a term expiring on December 31, 2028. All ayes. 3.) Regarding the kitchen update project, the Board reviewed the Stafford-Smith quote for appliances, sink and work table. Due to confusion on prices listed, motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to have the Supervisor clarify the Stafford-Smith refrigerator price and the quote total and once the quote was clear on final costs/total, allow the Supervisor to sign the quote. All ayes. 4.) In further review of the kitchen updates, motion was made Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the Aurora countertop for over the wooden cabinets and if needed, allow the Supervisor to sign the quote. All ayes.

Clerk Report: 1.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay April 2024 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes. 2.) Clerk reported that favorable inspections were received on the Township Hall generator by Glen Lake Electric and the hall's kitchen by the Health Department.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief, Bryan Ferguson reported on monthly fire department operations. Bryan requested approval to purchase a new heater for Empire's Station. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the purchase of a new heater for Empire's Fire Station from D&W Mechanical at the price of \$6,100.00. All ayes. Bryan also noted that the new engine had been delivered. 2.) Supervisor requested, and received, permission to purchase new ladders for the Township Hall.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:24 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk