

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Also present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, and Price. Absent: Deegan. Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Price to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Assessor Report: Supervisor Noonan explained that the Board of Review met today. The Board corrected five errors of fact/principal residence exemptions and granted one poverty exemption.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 11-30-2023. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in November: AG accessory building-Beeman Road. 2.) Due to the absence of Micah Deegan, the Board's Planning liaison, it was decided to table the Master Plan review until January.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Board reviewed the Empire Business Association's Special Event application for the 2024 Roy Taghon Memorial Snowmobile races at the airport. The Board agreed to place last year's conditions on the approval and add that the Health Department must be contacted regarding food being provided at the event. Motion was made by Casey Noonan; support-Price to approve the 2024 Roy Taghon Snowmobile Race Special Event application contingent on the following conditions: 1) Township receives copy of insurance coverage for the race. 2) Township receives the Leelanau County Emergency Management's approval of the race. 3) The Empire Business Association, in a timely manner, before the spring opening of the airport, repairs/levels all damages to any sod areas, and pays for any damages to the runway lights, markers and in general any damage to the airport property. 4) If repairs and/or payments are not received before the airport's spring opening, the Empire Business Association will be billed for all repairs, replacement, and needed maintenance to airport property due to race damage. 5) The Association notifies the Leelanau County Health Department that food would be provided at the event and follows any requirements, if any, the Health Department may make. All ayes. 2.) President of Race Day Events, Ryan Griessmeyer, requested permission to begin registering participants in January 2024 for the October 2024 Sleeping Bear Marathon before the submission of the Special Event application. Ryan noted that all conditions from the 2023 event would still be honored and they were also going to request permission to use all of Wilco Road for the 5K race. After discussion, motion was made by Casey Noonan; support-Price to grant preliminary approval for the Sleeping Bear Marathon to open registration for the October 2024 event with the contingency that all conditions placed on the 2023 event would still be enforced with an addition that timely approval would be received from the NPS for use of Wilco Road for the 5K event in order for Empire Township to apply for Wilco's closure from the Road Commission. All ayes. 3.) The Board reviewed terms of different boards that were expiring. Motion was made by Carl Noonan; support-Casey Noonan to reappoint Zachery Stanz to the Airport Authority Board for a term that expires in December 2026. All ayes. Due to ESAC term limitations, Larry Krawczak resigned after 10 years of excellent service to the fire department. Supervisor Noonan informed the Board that Charles Godbout was attending the next ESAC meeting to determine if he was willing to serve.

Clerk Report: 1.) Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Carl Noonan to pay December 2023 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief, Bryan Ferguson, reported that the new exhaust fan system was installed in Station 2 and was working well. Bryan also noted that the new engine should arrive in February 2024 and area fire departments, including Glen Lake, were submitting a regional FEMA grant for additional air packs for their departments.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 7:57 p.m.