

February 14, 2023

**Empire Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. Present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, Price, and Deegan. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Cemetery Report: Maple Grove Cemetery manager, Claude Fields, was present to discuss certain issues. He requested that the Supervisor sign a form accepting responsibility for not allowing winter burials. The attorney will be asked to review this request. Claude also brought up that buildings needed painting, additional gravel was needed in certain areas of the roadway, more tree trimming was still needed, and he would like to order a pry tool for help in lifting tombstones. Claude was told to order the pry bar and the Supervisor will continue working with the Road Commission on M-109 r-o-w trees and will review interior tree trimming needs with Claude. Claude was thanked for attending the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 01-31-2023. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in January: 1) Microwave dish antenna-Benzonia Trail 2) Accessory building-LaCore Road. 2.) Trustee Deegan noted that planning would be holding a meeting next week.

Supervisor Report: John Collins and Chris Grobbel were present to review the results of the latest Empire Village S. Bar Lake water quality report. It appears that some of the main concerns with the lake's quality are invasive species, phosphorous concentrations, stormwater runoff and wildlife E.coli. The village will continue monitoring the lake and will try to develop educational best practices for lakeshore and downtown Empire residents. John and Chris were thanked for attending the meeting.

Clerk Report: 1.) Board reviewed a request from Consumers Energy to renew their 30-year Electric Franchise Ordinance that allows them to construct, maintain and use electric lines and related facilities across public places. Motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to adopt Ordinance No 2023-01 Consumers Energy Company Electric Franchise Ordinance as presented. Roll call vote taken. All ayes. 2.) Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to pay the February 2023 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief Ferguson reported that the union agreement was being sent to the attorney and also noted that the current ISO rating had not changed.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:13 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk

February 15, 2023

**Empire Township Board
Special Meeting**

Supervisor Noonan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Township Office. Also present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, Deegan, and Price. Purpose of the meeting was to review the 2023/2024 FY budget.

Salary increases were recommended for the following positions: assessor, township hall custodian, cemetery manager and cemetery sexton. It will be reaffirmed to Joe Harriger that more involved maintenance work at the township hall and office would be paid at an hourly wage, separate from his custodian salary.

The following salary resolutions were made for elected officials to present to the public at the March 25, 2023 Annual Meeting. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to adopt a salary resolution that establishes the supervisor salary at \$14,000.00/year for FY 2023/2024. Roll call vote taken: Four ayes. One abstained-Carl Noonan. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to adopt a salary resolution that establishes the clerk salary at \$34,000.00/year for FY 2023/2024. Roll call vote taken: Four ayes. One abstained-Neiswonger. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to adopt a salary resolution that establishes the treasurer salary at \$30,000.00/year for FY 2023/2024. Roll call vote taken: Four ayes. One abstained-Price. Motion-Carl Noonan; support-Neiswonger to adopt a salary resolution that establishes the trustee salary at \$2400.00/year, per trustee, for FY 2023/2024. Roll call vote taken: Three ayes. Two abstained-Deegan and Casey Noonan.

After review of the current financial statements, motion was made by Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to transfer \$650.00 from General Fund Prior Surplus to: Elections Printing-\$250; Township Hall Utilities-\$200; Township Office Utilities-\$200; and transfer \$550.00 from Campground Fund Prior Surplus to: Permits-\$50; Utilities-\$500. All ayes.

Motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to transfer and carryover the \$2000.00 from the 2022/2023 General Fund Glen Lake Dredging account to the Glen Lake Dredging Committed Funds. All ayes.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 5:53 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk