

March 12, 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 February 13, 2024 regular meeting and the February 21, 2024 special meeting as written. All ayes.

Assessor Report: The Board of Review considered seven appeal requests at their March meetings.

Treasurer Report: Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 02-29-2024. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in February: 1) New dwelling-View Ridge Rd. 2) Land division-Honeybee Rd. 2.) Micah Deegan reported that Planning was making progress on possible Zoning Ordinance updates.

Supervisor Report: 1.) The following board appointments were made: 1) Motion-Deegan; support-Neiswonger to appoint Larry Krawczak to the Board of Review. All ayes. 2) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to reappoint Roy Pentilla to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term expiring in 02-2027. All ayes. 3) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to reappoint Dale DeJager and Larry Krawczak to the Planning Commission with terms expiring in 02-2027. All ayes. Supervisor noted that Eric Dubord would be attending the ESAC meeting tomorrow to evaluate if he would be willing to serve for a term expiring in 2028 on that committee. 2.) Brendan Mullane, County Road Commission Manager, was present to give his annual presentation on Road Commission activities in 2023. On request of a resident who could not attend the meeting, Clerk Neiswonger asked Brendan if a roundabout had been considered at the M72/Benzonia Trail intersection. Brendan explained it had been considered, but it was decided that it might not be the best location for a roundabout. Brendan noted that MDOT also considered the installation of red flashing lights on the Benzonia Trail stop signs to add an extra safety feature to the intersection, but further explained that such lights would require a MDOT variance because of their installation on a rural road. Clerk asked if the township could help facilitate the installation of the flashing lights. She also asked what the cost was of such lights and Brendan noted that they would cost approximately \$10,000. Upon this knowledge, consensus of the Township Board was that the township would be willing to pay the cost for the Benzonia Trail flashing stop sign lights. Brendan confirmed he would check back with the Traverse City MDOT office on the status of the variance. Resident Tom Petersen expressed his displeasure that Liberty Street was not on the list for upcoming county improvements. Tom was told that at this time there were no funds available to improve these smaller roads in the county. Brendan agreed to look at the corner of Olive and Liberty Streets for any possible repair that could be done. Brendan was thanked for attending the meeting and his informative presentation.

Clerk Report: 1.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay March 2024 monthly bills as presented and attached. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief, Bryan Ferguson reported on monthly fire department operations. Bryan explained that he has requested bids for a pump truck to be received by May.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:37 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk

March 14, 2024

**Empire Township Board
Special Meeting**

Supervisor Carl Noonan called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. at the Township Office. Also present were members Casey Noonan, Neiswonger, Price and Deegan. Purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed 2024/2025 FY budget.

After review, the Board decided to increase the Township Office Repair & Maintenance account to \$5,000 and increase Planning's Professional Services account to \$7,000. In addition, the Board proposed to possibly levy 4.5 for next year's current taxes for Fire Department operations. It was also decided to pay the Campground Manager an additional \$100/week. The Campground Manager will be asked to attend a Board meeting with a year-end report.

The following amendments were made to the current year's budgets: General Fund: Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to transfer \$2,713.00 from General Fund Prior Surplus to: Deputy Clerk Wages-\$600; Clerk Supplies-\$43; Board of Review Education-\$90.00; Assessor Land Division Wage-\$100; Election Wages-\$610; Election Supplies-\$800; Election Equipment-\$390; Township Hall Communications-\$10; Planning Secretary MP/Zoning Wages-\$70; and transfer and carryover the \$2000.00 from the 2023/2024 General Fund Glen Lake Dredging account to the Glen Lake Dredging Committed Funds. All ayes. Campground Fund: Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to transfer \$165.00 from Campground Fund Prior Surplus to: PR Taxes-\$40; Supplies-\$35; Licenses/Fees-\$30; Repair & Maintenance-\$60. All ayes. Cemetery Fund: Motion-Casey Noonan; support-Deegan to transfer \$70.00 from Cemetery Fund Prior Surplus to: Dues-\$40; Misc. Expense-\$30. All ayes.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 2:46 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk