

November 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 October 8, 2024 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Assessor Report: Supervisor interviewed David Yack, a Level 3 assessor, for the assessor position. Supervisor recommended the hiring of Mr. Yach. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to hire David Yack as the Empire Township Assessor and have him begin working with current assessor Pam Zientek immediately. All ayes. Due to the retirement of Pam Zientek and the excellent job she has done for the township as the assessor, motion was made by Carl Noonan; support-Deegan to give Pam Zientek a \$2,000.00 bonus in recognition of the excellent service she has given Empire Township for over a decade. All ayes.

Cemetery Report: Board reviewed request from Manager Claude Fields to grind stumps in MDOT's r-o-w along M-109. MDOT gave permission for the work as long as Miss Dig was contacted regarding work in the area. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve the charge of \$500.00 from Traverse City Stump Grinding to remove the stumps along M-109. All ayes. In addition, the Board reviewed the landscaping plan for Maple Grove's columbarium area by Wild Juniper Nursery at the approximate cost of \$4,766.82. Motion-Neiswonger; support-Deegan to approve Wild Juniper Nursery's columbarium landscaping planting for a cost to not exceed \$5,000.00. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 10-31-2024. Report received as read.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in October: 1) New dwelling-Dunns Farm Rd. 2) Parking area-MacFarlane Rd. 3) Garage-Glenmere Rd. 4) Deck, storage, basement-Dunns Farm Rd. 5) Garage and porch-Glenmere Rd. 6) Relocate dwelling-Benzonia Tr. 2.) Resignation letter was read from Planning Chair Duane Shugart, effective January 1, 2025. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to accept Duane Shugart's resignation as of 01-01-2025, with regrets. All ayes. 3.) Board reviewed the draft Sign Ordinance and made final changes to Section 2. 4a. Illumination Standards as follows: Signs shall be illuminated only with steady, stationary, shielded light sources directed solely downward onto the sign without causing glare or shadowing on neighboring properties or roadway and change to Section 6. Table 1: Residential Total Signage to 24 sq. ft. Motion made by Carl Noonan; support-Casey Noonan to adopt Sign Ordinance # 2024-01, with modifications made at this meeting. Roll call vote taken: All ayes. 3.) Micah Deegan noted that he believed Planning Commissioners should be considered for a pay increase at budget time.

Clerk Report: 1.) Board decided Sleeping Bear Marathan did not need to submit a final report on 2024 race, but would need to meet with Board prior to 2025 event. 2.) Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to pay October and November 2024 bills as presented. All ayes.

Final Business: 1.) Kathy Wiejaczka thanked Carl Noonan and Micah Deegan for their service to Empire Township. 2.) Fire Chief Bryan Ferguson reported on monthly fire department operations.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 8:19 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk