

October 8, 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 September 10, 2024 regular meeting as written. All ayes.

Campground/Cemetery Report: Board reviewed bonuses for campground and cemetery employees. Due to another successful year at the township campground, motion was made by Deegan; support-Neiswonger to give the following bonuses: Manager Yolanda Bertaud-\$2,500; Maintenance Manager Joe Harriger-2,000, Assistant Maintenance George Manesiotis-\$700. All ayes. After a successful year at the township's cemeteries due to excellent management and maintenance the following bonuses were given to employees: Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to give Manager Claude Fields a \$2,000 bonus. All ayes. Motion-Carl Noonan; support-Casey Noonan to give sexton Joe Harriger a \$2,000 bonus. All ayes. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to give Dick Becker a \$100 bonus for his upkeep of Bland Cemetery. All ayes. In addition, after review of Maple Groves landscaping plan for the columbarium area by Wild Juniper Nursery at the approximate cost of \$4,766.82, motion was made by Deegan; support-Casey Noonan that the Board felt it was a great idea but would like a drawing of the area submitted by the nursery, a spring planting rather than fall and questioned whether a large enough area was being planned for private services and visits by loved ones. All ayes.

Treasurer Report: Price reported on CDs and bank accounts as of 09-30-2024. Report received as read. Price also reported different costs involved to update the treasurer's tax program. He also noted that the assessor needed a new computer with an additional hard drive for backups. Motion-Deegan; support-Casey Noonan to approve up to \$2,000 for a new computer and hard drive for the assessor. All ayes.

Planning & Zoning Report: 1.) Zoning Administrator, Tim Cypher, issued the following permits/approvals in September: 1) Two new dwelling land use permits: Benzonia Tr. And Ravens Tr. 2) Two reissued LUPs. 3) Four garage or accessory buildings or decks or addition to a dwelling- Gilbert Rd., Benzonia Tr., MacFarlane Rd., and Whispering Pins Ln. 4) Concrete pad-Empire Hwy. 2.) Board reviewed the draft Sign Ordinance and made the following recommendations to Planning: Include a Temporary Sign definition; In section 6, Table 1 Signs Requiring a Permit, Board increased the maximum size of signs in the Agricultural, Commercial, Gateway, and Residential Districts maximum sign size and changed that any sign over 12 sq. ft. needed a permit. Micah Deegan will take these changes to the Planning Commission.

Supervisor Report: 1.) Supervisor reported that the kitchen update needed just a few final touches and Bilco doors will still be installed to the basement.

Final Business: 1.) Fire Chief, Bryan Ferguson reported on monthly fire department operations. The department will hold an open house at Station #2 in conjunction with the museum's Heritage Days. Bryan also requested that since the old engine sale would be listed on-line with a third party, that the Supervisor be allowed to sign that 3rd party agreement which the Board agreed with.

All business being concluded the meeting was adjourned by the Supervisor at 9:11 p.m.

Christine M. Neiswonger, Clerk