

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

February 19, 2024

Supervisor, Tim Carls called the meeting in the Florence Township Hall to order at 7:05 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all. Other board members present were Janice Jones, Kayla Miller, Don Schrock, and Ben Russell. Others present were Tonya Ziehm, Roger Wittenberg, Chad Spence, Kelly Spence, David Northrop, Janet Suhonen, Dusty Schrock, and Gordy Evilsizor.

The January 15th minutes were read, and an amendment was made to the Financial Report. The minutes were then approved with a motion from Don and a second by Ben. Motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The treasurer's report showed a General Account balance of \$53,478.67; CDs totaling \$306,962.98; Florence Fire Fund CDs Totaling \$69,221.68; a tax account of \$353,807.38; ARPA Funds of \$110,275.61; and income of \$616.68. Ben made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Don seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Don made a motion and Janice seconded a motion to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$26,748.42. Motion was approved by all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

A roll call vote was taken to enter a closed session at 7:34pm. Ayes- Tim, Don, Janice, Ben, Kayla
Nays- none

Janice made a motion to adjourn the closed session and return to a regular session at 8:17pm. Ben seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all.

Janice made a motion to allow the settlement pursuant to discussion and authority given in closed session. Roll call vote taken. Ayes-Tim, Don, Janice, Ben, Kayla, Nays- none

Don handed out the proposed budget for Constantine Fire Department. Mike Haydon reviewed it. He is proposing raising wages using a step wage system. He also went over the Apparatus Replacement Schedule. They need to replace a tanker truck earlier than expected. He is proposing that the cost of the truck would be split between Constantine Twp – 45%, Florence Twp – 30%, and Constantine Village 25%. Mike is also looking into some grants that may be available to help cover costs.

Mike also talked about the Building Authority, which is a public, non-profit corporation that helps in financing and constructing building projects.

There were 4 fire runs for our township this month. There is an ambulance meeting Thursday.

Don and Dusty went to a materials management meeting. There is a resource available for recycling electronics and other items. There was discussion of including the information with the tax bills. Kayla will also put the information on the website.

Ben talked about the Planning Commission meeting. There was a public hearing for Larry Miller's land split, which was approved. In the regular session they discussed the boundary lines adjustment for Joe Wickey.

Paul is working on a land split for Stutzman Farms.

OLD BUSINESS

Kayla brought petitions and affidavits for those running for an elected office. They are due April 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS

After discussion on Cyber Liability Insurance, it was decided not to apply at this time.

Kayla will file the 2024 Asset Forfeiture Report stating that Florence Township had no forfeitures during 2023.

The PAR Plan Board of Directors is accepting nominations for Zone Representatives from St Joseph County, who will be elected this year.

Kayla made a motion to accept the resolution that the Board of Review shall follow the [above] stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption. Resolution was approved with a roll call vote. Ayes- Don, Tim, Janice, Ben, Kayla, Nays- none

The proposed budget for 2024-2025 was created with the help of the board members. Janice made a motion to amend the budget according to what was discussed. Don seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chad Spence announced his run for sheriff. He is from Mendon and worked at the St Joseph County Sheriff's Department for 25 years. He is currently teaching CTE classes in Centreville.

ADJOURNMENT

Janice and Ben made a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Miller, Clerk