

Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2020
Dial-in Number (US): (701) 802-5250
Access Code: 714999#

Call to Order: 5:30 pm Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Supervisor- Jim Simmons, Maria Graser- Treasurer

Trustees: Bev Michaels, Marlene Saari, Kevin Lyons, Bernie Brunello

Absent: Mary Segalin, Clerk

Also Present: Sandy Lahtinen, Brenda Angus, Leroy Johnson- Zoning administrator, Jay Kangas, Kim Pelkola, Lynn Coron- Deputy Clerk, Rich Jenkins, Mark McDonald- Township Attorney, Brett Imwalle, Kelly Stanzak, Katie Nelson, Shane Condon, Amy Condon, Lynn Vanderschagen, Bob Brentar, Tom Hampston, Chuck Williams, Lewis Somero, Vicki Nelson, Tom Novascone- Township Assessor, and Peggy Krohn.

Supervisor Simmons read a few statements before the meeting started: I would like to make a couple of comments before we start our meeting tonight. This year has brought some very unique challenges to everyone in general. We continue to see things change daily, and most of those changes have been for the better. However, all of us continue to adjust and hope for some light at the end of the tunnel.

Last week, Maria and Marlene spent time with the members of the fire dept. going over the proposed Ordinance 59 items line by line. Changes have been annotated in red for easy review. A fire ordinance needs to be put in place, but it needs to be done right. It is important for both the Board and fire department to remain committed in creating an ordinance that is effective, realistic, and projects the mission of the department accurately.

While several copies of the proposed ordinance were given to the fire dept's leadership, I was wrong when I stated that a copy was mailed to each member. At the time I believed the mailing had taken place. For this misunderstanding, I apologize.

There have been some issues between the Board and the Fire Dept. for many years. There were issues when I was a member of the department in the early 2000's. I believe these problems can be resolved because there are good people who want things to work. The Township is fortunate to have LeRoy Johnson who has spent countless hours researching regulations. This has been a long process going back to early 2017 with Steve Boyd.

As long as satisfactory process is being made on the ordinance, it would be worthwhile to delay reintroduction until a final draft is ready.

Public Comment: (3-minute limit) A citizen stated that the July 27, 2020 minutes should have included her comment about the board of Review having only 2 board members present, and that she was willing to fill in as the alternate, also requesting BOR mins.

An Ironwood Township Fire Dept. member (President) stated that she represents the whole Fire Dept. opinion- They do not approve of the Fire Ordinance 59, and would like to review it more.

She also said that the Fire Trucks tires need replacing on all vehicles. Also, would like the use of the Fire Dept. basement to be put on the agenda. She stated that they would like it to be re-inspected for safety.

Another citizen was questioning the Fire Dept. personnel records.

Amendments to Agenda: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Michaels supported by Brunello to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting, July 27, 2020, as presented. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-46203-46255,EFT 30-33- Totaling \$48,318.39, Water Fund-#9119-9124- Totaling \$9,909.68, Wastewater Fund- #1957-1959- Totaling \$13,367.95, Tax Fund - #8399-8410- Totaling \$192,588.35. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Appearances: None

Old Business: Simmons offered nothing new to report on the Lake Rd Spring. The re-introduction of Ord. 61 -Anti-Noise- is tabled due to continued modifications.. The PAUD pick-up, open for bidding was discussed. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Brunello to authorize Simmons to place a competitive bid. Motion carried. The monies would come from the General, Water, and Waste Water funds combined.

The FALL Township clean-up is tabled until the next meeting. A plan needs to be in place as far as how the clean-up will be done safely- due to the virus.

A discussion of Ordinance 59 was had. Copies of the revised ordinance was mailed to each Dept. member prior to the meeting. Saari and Graser spent a few hours with the FD members going through the ordinance line by line. There are still many questions about the Ordinance. Lyons suggested a committee be formed to help this process go faster, smoother and more consistent. A motion was made by Lyons supported by Michaels to allow- Graser, Lyons, Saari and Jay Kangas to be on the committee. Motion carried.

Communications: The President of the ITVFD -Katie Nelson- presented the board with an official letter concerning the Fire Dept Ord. The letter is to serve notice that the Fire Dept. does not accept the ordinance as written. The Dept. feels it needs more time to work with the township to come to a mutual agreement as to the ordinance before it is introduced and approved.

A letter was written to the board concerning a garbage bill that a citizen has been paying since 1999. Graser looked into the property and found it was deeded to his brother but it is unknown as to when. He is requesting a refund of the years he has been paying this property's garbage bill. The board discussed the issue and decided that this issue is between him and his brother, not the Township.

New Business: The Township Assessor, Tom Novascone, reported on the AMAR review from the Dept. of Treasury. A corrective action plan was submitted.

Reports:

Supervisor: Simmons thanked the election workers and work crew for a successful, safe election. Nothing new to report on the insurance/embezzlement case. The office being closed to

walk in traffic hasn't hindered business at all. When the Fire Chief decides to fill out the reports completely for firefighter pay, then they will be paid. Noting the Fire Chief was absent again.

Treasurer: Attended a Broad Band meeting. They will be sending out a survey- Sept./Oct.

Clerk: No report, absent.

Trustees:

Michaels- Nothing to report

Saari- Attended the Fire Dept. meeting.

Brunello- Nothing to report.

Lyons- Nothing to report.

Fire Dept.: No report

Public comment: There were several comments about the Fire Dept., the trucks needing tires, board making a nice gesture in applying for the first responders grant (hazard pay) due to the virus.

A citizen also stated, she "wants this in the minutes"- for Simmons to appoint a designated bd member to check on the Fire Dept. tire issue.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

James Simmons, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk