

Charter Township of Ironwood

Regular Meeting VIA Teleconference
Ironwood Township Board
Time: 5:30 pm
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020
Dial-in Number (US): (701) 802-5250
Access Code: 714999#

Call to Order: 5:30 pm Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Supervisor James J. Simmons Jr., Treasurer Maria Graser, Clerk Mary Segalin

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

Public Comment: (3 minute limit)

Amendments to Agenda:

Consent Agenda:

Minutes:

- Approval of the Regular Meeting March 9, 2020.

Bills and Salaries:

- General Fund Vouchers: #45819-45918- Totaling \$89,103.20
- Water Fund Vouchers: #9085-9091- Totaling \$7,901.46
- Waste Water Vouchers: #1939-1945- Totaling \$14,609.57

Appearances:

Old Business:

Communications:

- Michigan Township Participating Plan Board-Seeking member representation
- 2019 Gogebic Range Water Authority- Water Quality Report
- 2019 City of Ironwood- Drinking water report
- Lange Enterprises, Inc.-Fire Signs Order

New Business:

- Resolution #2020-01 Temporary Emergency Measures due to COVID-19

Reports:

- **Supervisor:**
- **Treasurer:**
- **Clerk:**
- **Trustee:**
- **Fire Department:**

Public Comment: (3 minute limit)

Adjournment:

Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2020

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

Roll Call: Supervisor- Jim Simmons, Mary Segalin-Clerk, Maria Graser- Treasurer

Trustees: Bernie Brunello, Marlene Saari, Bev Michaels

Absent: Kevin Lyons

Also Present: LeRoy Johnson- Zoning Administrator, Ron Jacobson, Joe Rohde, George Kivi, Jay Kangas, Sandy Lahtinen, Brenda Aili-Angus, Scott Carlson-Fire Chief, Barry Bolich-GCRC, Kathy Maki, Vicki Nelson, Katie Nelson, Mike Nelson, Harvey Hulstrom, Dennis Slade, Cathy and Rudy Grbavacich, Heidi DeRosso, Donna Lipske, Jean Sgaggio, Arene Schneller, George Kivi, and Leanne Kangas.

Simmons read a statement before the meeting started: There has been some confusion as to what “qualifies” being placed on the agenda for a Township Board meeting. According to the MTA, regular Township meetings are “Business Meetings” and are not “Public Hearings”.

Simply requesting to be placed on the agenda does not automatically mean that an individual will be approved to appear on the agenda. There should be a written request stating the reason for wanting to address the board. The citizen’s request will be carefully reviewed, as the Board wants to remain consistent.

Recently, a Township citizen didn’t have a valid business reason to be placed on the agenda. I asked the Deputy Clerk to remove the person from the agenda. The citizen will be allowed to speak for three minutes during public comment just like any other person. There has been a lot of speculation concerning the administrative action taken by the Supervisor in regards to the Fire Chief. It is the position of the board that these actions are considered to be “Personnel Issues” and are being treated as such.

Please observe the Public Comment period with respect for others. Also remember that Public Comment is not a question and answer period. It is a period of time for the citizen to address the members of the Board unabated.

Public Comment: (3-minute limit) A citizen read: I, Vicki L. Nelson, would like to have my name included in the minutes. I would also ask to have this statement filed along with the minutes from this meeting. I am here as a concerned resident. I am not representing the views of any other township volunteers or residents. I find it very hard to believe that Mr. Simmons, appointed Supervisor of the Charter Township of Ironwood, has the power to fire a volunteer/employee of the township without approval of the Charter Township of Ironwood Board-especially when this individual was approved for his position by the board approximately 6 weeks prior. What could have possibly happened that required such immediate action? I have been reading Michigan Township Association articles and have read in many places that this would not be proper protocol. Can the board explain to me what the policy is regarding the firing of volunteers/employees? I am the wife of a volunteer who has been on the Fire Department for over 35 years and a mother of a daughter who has been on the fire department for over 10 years.

I would certainly hate to think that if Mr. Simmons could fire them overnight based on his feelings only. Also- I had asked to be put on the Charter Township of Ironwood Board meeting agenda for the March 9th meeting because I had concerns regarding the policies/procedures regarding the firing of the Fire Chief. Mr. Simmons directed Deputy Clerk Lynn Coron to put me on the agenda. When I saw the agenda on-line on Friday- I was not on it. I went to the office and asked Clerk Mary Segalin why I was not on the agenda. She stated that, "Jim said to take you off". I stated that I had not been asked if I wanted to be taken off the agenda and that I wish to be placed back on it. She said she would call Jim. She then said "Jim will be coming down to talk to you". Mr. Simmons arrived and asked what he could help me with. I stated that I wanted to be put back on the agenda. He said the matter was resolved. I said the matter regarding the procedure was not resolved and I wanted to be put back on the agenda. He again said, "no". I asked him if he felt he had the power to just take someone off the agenda without asking them and he said he did. I read in the MTA that Mr. Simmons should have left me on the agenda and then at the beginning of the meeting (during the time when the agenda is being discussed for approval) to ask the board to put me on the agenda. So- I did ask board member Marlene Saari to do so – told her my concerns were regarding the procedure in which the fire chief had been fired. I was notified by her on March 9, 2020 that Mr. Simmons told her it was a personnel issue and I could speak during public comment. Again, I was asking to speak regarding procedures/policies- not personnel issues. So- I ask the board to explain who determines who gets on the agenda? Does that power also lay with the township Supervisor?

Another citizen commented on her request for the employee handbook and fire dept. policy and procedure books were denied and that she could request them in writing as a FOIA. She stated the website says it can be a verbal request. She also said she's concerned that the supervisor can fire anyone without an open board meeting. The fire dept. now has a 17-member roster, 7 of which live in the township. We can't afford to lose anymore fire dept. members. The IPSD does not have a tanker nor the jaws of life.

Another citizen wanted to thank the fire dept. for all they do and hopes this issue gets resolved. A citizen had concerns regarding the 911 surcharge. She said she doesn't even get 911 coverage at LGP- it goes straight to Ashland- bouncing off their tower. And in turn Ashland claims they can't transfer the call back here. I need this board to address this issue. "Why don't we get answers?"

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

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Saari supported by Michaels to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting, February 24, 2020, as corrected. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-#45765-45818- \$68,771.36, Water Fund- #9083 & 9084- \$5,027.32, Wastewater Fund- #1935-1938- \$12,928.28. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote. All ayes.

Appearances: Heidi DeRosso explained the 911 surcharge vote that is on the ballot for the March 10, 2020 election. She stated the surcharge may go up to \$3.00 as the copper lines need replacing by fiber lines, the current portable radio will not be able to be serviced in the future so an upgrade is necessary, and the increased cost of dispatch. Citizens questions why she was told her 911 call could not be transferred to Gogebic County. DeRosso said she will speak with

Ashland as she knows they have the capability of transferring the 911 calls locally, and will report back. Larry Grimsby is the Gogebic 911 contact for the emergency committee.

Barry Bolich of Gogebic County Road Commission, spoke about the Lake Rd Spring. He stated that the Road Commission dropped the ball as far as deeding it to the Township which was agreed upon back in 2016. He is asking the Board to reconsider owning the spring. Segalin stated she has been in contact with Senator McBroom's office and they would like to know how many residents use the spring on a regular basis for water.

Old Business: None

Communications: Tokio Marine HCC sent a letter regarding coverage of the sound system and wiring for the gym – they will not pay for these items, as they are not part of the damaged structure (gym).

A citizen had requested they not get a garbage bill at Powderhorn as they do not utilize the garbage pickup. They said their neighbors don't get a garbage bill. The Treasurer stated that if their neighbors either had a dumpster or is part of the Association, then they wouldn't get a garbage bill from the Township. A motion was made by Simmons supported by Brunello to deny the request. A citizen had pointed out that the Supervisor cannot make a motion. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to allow the motion to be rescinded. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to deny the request. Motion carried.

New Business: A motion was made by Segalin supported by Brunello to re-appoint Joe Rohde to the Planning Commission board. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The board discussed a tentative Spring clean-up date. Saari will check with the transfer station to see if May 16th, 2020 is an acceptable date. Saari will report back to the board.

Reports:

Supervisor:

- The scheduling conference was held March 3, 2020 in regards to the joint lawsuit with the insurance company regarding the embezzlement..
- Last Tuesday, we had the district meeting for MTA in Watersmeet. A lot of time was spent talking about the 911 issue on the ballot and its importance to Gogebic County.
- At the last township meeting, it was brought up that we are not up to date with AMARS. The facts are that we are up to date. This was confirmed with our Assessor Novascone.
- The auditor will be here on March 19,20,23, and 24th to work on the 2019 audit. We look forward to getting 2019 wrapped up asap.
- The video surveillance was hooked up last week and we are able to keep audio/video records of the activity outside the office and the hallway entrance right by the two office windows.

Treasurer: The last day to pay taxes here was March 3, 2020. The tax fund balanced with the County Treasurer. Graser requested a quote on the remaining balance of the new fire numbers- the amount is approximately \$14,200. She attended the Capital MTA conference in Lansing.

Clerk: Attended the Capital MTA conference in Lansing. Reminded everyone tomorrow is election day.

Trustees:

Michaels- Attended the local MTA meeting

Saari- Attended the local MTA meeting

Brunello- Attended the Solid Waste meeting. Questioned if the water infiltration problem is addressed in the new ordinance that Johnson is working on.

Lyons- Absent

Fire Dept.: Carlson stated the Frost Fest was successful. Carlson thanked the volunteers and attendees for making it a success. Chief Carlson reported they had 2 fire calls in February. He is requesting to purchase two sets of gear at \$3,000 each. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Saari to allow the purchase. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Public comment: A citizen had wondered if the embezzling settlement is up to just the township board. Simmons stated it is not.

Several citizens had comments over the Supervisor's power to fire employees ex: Fire Chief Carlson, the general attitude of this office, the need for video cameras, if employee evaluations are being performed. Another citizen questioned why checks not getting cashed in a timely manner. A citizen encouraged board members to know their laws and to read the Charter Township Act. A citizen requested the Supervisor publish a formal apology to the Fire Chief.

Closed session: Scott Carlson wrote a request to go into Closed Session, subject to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss personnel issues. A motion was made by Saari supported by Brunello to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel issue at 6:20pm. Motion carried. A motion was made by Michaels supported by Brunello to enter back into regular session at 6:45pm. Motion carried. Simmons stated the board and the Fire Chief agreed there are issues and are moving forward to having better communication between the Fire Chief and the Board.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Motion carried.

James Simmons, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk

Charter Township of Ironwood Transaction List by Date March 5 through April 6, 2020

D#	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Mar 5 - Apr 6, 20				
	45819	Scott Carlson	per diem	-80.00
	45820	VOID	VOID:	0.00
	45821	Daily Globe	Frost Fest Ad	-114.00
	45822	Election Source	Election supplies	-30.00
	45823	Gog Range Solid Waste	1123 Households	-14,319.05
	45824	Lakes Distributing	hand soap and sanitizer	-80.86
	45825	Tri State Business Systems	Copies	-150.00
	45826	Anderson, Jeffrey L.	Seasonal	-257.30
	45827	Basso, Nicholas J	Payroll	-557.19
	45828	Bastman, Michael J	Payroll	-629.25
	45829	Carlson, Joanne L	Deputy Treasurer	-101.75
	45830	Coron, Lynn	Deputy Clerk	-175.10
	45831	Graser, Maria L	Payroll	-612.95
	45832	Segalin, Mary E	Payroll	-598.83
	45833	Simmons, Jr., James J.	Payroll	-526.32
E-pay		Internal Revenue Service	Taxes	-1,113.74
	45834	Tammy Magiera	Election worker	-169.15
	45835	Brianna Haughom	Election chair	-186.15
	45836	John Kevan	Election worker	-169.15
	45837	Amy Noren	Election worker	-169.15
	45838	Brenda Hannu	Election worker	-169.15
	45839	Carlson, Joanne L	Election worker	-169.15
	45840	Coron, Lynn	Election worker	-109.45
epay		Nationwide	Pension	-468.37
	45841	AI's Computer Service	Install and cost of cameras	-1,723.99
	45842	Xcel Energy	Utilities	-1,905.91
	45843	44 North	Inv. #200315	-179.22
	45844	Charter Twp-Utility Fund	Water use-FD/TH	-206.39
	45845	Pitney Bowes	Postage machine lease	-384.57
	45846	Holiday Companies	TH/FD Fuel	-600.16
	45847	Quill Corporation	hand santizier, clorox wipes	-21.96
	45848	Saari, Donald D	Building permits	-405.32
	45849	Carlson, Scott R	Per diem for training	-80.00
	45850	Anderson, Jeffrey L.	Seasonal	-259.50
	45851	Basso, Nicholas J	Payroll	-557.20
	45852	Bastman, Michael J	Payroll	-593.91
	45853	Carlson, Joanne L	Deputy Treasurer	-115.64
	45854	Carlson, Scott R	Mtgs	-108.52
	45855	Coron, Lynn	Deputy Clerk	-193.80
	45856	Foley, Michael J	BOR	-308.53
	45857	Graser, Maria L	Payroll	-612.94
	45858	Niemi, John S	BOR	-290.25
	45859	Rohde, Joe	BOR	-306.44
	45860	Segalin, Mary E	Payroll	-598.82

Charter Township of Ironwood

Transaction List by Date

March 5 through April 6, 2020

D#	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
	45861	Simmons, Jr., James J.	Payroll	-526.32
	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Taxes	-88.32
	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Taxes	-1,291.50
	45862	O'Reilly	FD vehicle	-25.98
	45863	VISA	Totes, Norton,Motel rooms,printer,toner	-2,130.31
	45864	MedMutual Life	Life Ins	-99.90
	45865	Quill Corporation	paper, batteries,tape	-75.96
	45866	Plunkett's Pest Control	Pest control	-59.96
	epay	Mi Dept of Treasury	Taxes	-780.16
	45867	Liberty Flag & Specialty Company	Flags	-126.72
	45868	Plante Moran PLLC	5 hrs consulting service	-1,000.00
	45869	Anderson, Jeffrey L.	Seasonal	-237.27
	45870	Basso, Nicholas J	Payroll	-557.20
	45871	Bastman, Michael J	Pa	-593.91
	45872	Brunello, Bernie	Mtgs	-180.08
	45873	Carlson, Joanne L	Deputy Treasurer	-64.75
	45874	Coron, Lynn	Deputy Clerk	-175.09
	45875	Graser, Maria L	Payroll	-612.94
	45876	Johnson, LeRoy	Mtgs	-57.26
	45877	Segalin, Mary E	Payroll	-598.82
	45878	Simmons, Jr., James J.	Payroll	-526.32
	E-pay	Internal Revenue Service	Taxes	-1,124.64
	45879	US Bank	Copier lease	-173.91
	epay	Nationwide	Pension	-463.34
	45887	Nationwide	Pension	-463.34
	45880	AFSCME	Union dues	-81.30
	45881	BC/BS of MI	Ins	-557.44
	45882	Anderson, Jeffrey L.	Seasonal	-237.27
	45883	Basso, Nicholas J	Payroll	-557.19
	45884	Bastman, Michael J	Payroll	-593.91
	45885	Carlson, Joanne L	Deputy Treasurer	-50.88
	45886	Graser, Maria L	Payroll	-612.94
	45887	Johnson, LeRoy	Zoning	-642.03
	45888	Segalin, Mary E	Payroll	-598.83
	45889	Simmons, Jr., James J.	Payroll	-526.32
	45890	BC/BS of MI	April 2020 Ins	-5,344.42
	45891	DAGO Inc.	March Assessing	-3,741.25
	45892	Delta Dental	April 2020 Ins	-398.30
	45893	Purchase Power	Postage for machine	-2,099.89
	45894	Northway Communications, Inc.	Program 3 radios	-225.00
	45895	The Daily Globe	1 year sub.	-173.00
	45896	Brentar Jr., Robert L	FD	-47.57
	45897	Brentar, Zachary	FD	-47.56
	45898	Carlson, Scott R	FD	-483.35
	45899	Condon, Shane	FD	-47.56

Charter Township of Ironwood Transaction List by Date March 5 through April 6, 2020

D#	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
45900		Ellsworth, Josh	FD	-47.56
45901		Nelson, Michael	FD	-47.56
45902		Smith, Justin A	FD	-47.57
45903		Tervonen, Robert J	FD	-27.40
E-pay		Internal Revenue Service	Taxes	-1,457.16
epay		Nationwide	Pension	-463.34
epay		Mi Dept of Treasury	Taxes	-1,131.13
45904		Anderson, Jeffrey L.	Seasonal	-210.44
45905		Basso, Nicholas J	Payroll	-557.20
45906		Bastman, Michael J	Payroll	-593.91
45907		Carlson, Joanne L	Deputy Treasurer	-470.15
45908		Coron, Lynn	Deputy Clerk	-386.37
45909		Graser, Maria L	Payroll	-701.10
45910		Segalin, Mary E	Payroll	-598.83
45911		Simmons, Jr., James J.	Payroll	-526.32
E-pay		Internal Revenue Service	Taxes	-1,259.98
45912		Jacobs, McDonald, Silc, P.C.	Misc. legal matters	-3,396.44
45913		Auto Value	Vehicle repair	-17.96
45914		John Deere	paint, camera supplies	-120.29
45915		AFLAC	Ins	-355.40
45916		Xcel Energy	public/TH util.	-1,889.21
45917		Gog Range Solid Waste	1123 Households	-14,825.40
45918		Nationwide	Pension	-463.34

-89,103.20

Charter Township of Ironwood Water Fund
Transaction List by Date
March 5 through April 7, 2020

Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Mar 5 - Apr 7, 20			
9085	Xcel Energy	Warehouse	-246.15
9086	City of Ironwood	Water use	-543.21
9087	Gogebic Range Water Authority	Admin. Fees	-630.00
9088	John Deere Financial	Water parts	-32.98
9089	Gogebic Range Water Authority	Water purchase	-5,940.00
9090	Verizon	Cell phone 1 replacement, 1 new	-227.34
9091	Xcel Energy	Warehouse	-281.78
			-7,901.46

Mar 5 - Apr 7, 20

Charter Township of Ironwood Sewer Fund
Transaction List by Date
March 5 through April 7, 2020

	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mar 5 - Apr 7, 20				
	1939	Holiday Stationstores, LLC	Vactor truck fuel	-94.96
	1940	XCEL	Lifts	-683.93
	1941	Hannula Insurance Agency	Bond on sewer imp loan	-300.00
	1942	Jack Doheny Co.	Internal retaining parts	-22.67
	1943	City of Ironwood	Sewer use	-1,691.34
	1944	XCEL	Lift stations	-715.72
	1945	Gogebic-Iron Wastewater Authority	OM&R	-11,100.95
				-14,609.57

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF IRONWOOD
COUNTY OF Gogebic, MICHIGAN

*At a Regular Meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Ironwood, held via
teleconference in Ironwood Township, within the Gogebic County,
on the 13 day of April, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.*

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following preamble and resolution were offered by _____ and supported by _____

RESOLUTION FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MEASURES

WHEREAS, Michigan's Governor has issued Executive Orders and Directives pursuant to the Emergency Management Act, Public Act 390 of 1976, which impact Township operations, including limitations on the number of persons who may attend meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of the Township, its officers and employees to take all steps necessary to inhibit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Resolution is to delegate certain basic administrative powers on a temporary emergency basis, so that decisions and responses to changing conditions can be made without the need for a Township Board meeting.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Township Supervisor, following consultation with the Township Clerk and Treasurer, and the Chair of any involved public body, if practicable, is hereby authorized to cancel, postpone, or reschedule any meeting or public hearing of the Township Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals or other Township body to be held during the month of April or May, 2020. Notice of all special or rescheduled meetings and public hearings shall be given in compliance with, and all meetings conducted in accordance with, the Open Meetings Act, Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, and other applicable law.
2. The Township Supervisor, in consultation with the Clerk and Treasurer, if practicable, and the Chair of any involved public body, may establish rules of public participation and attendance at those public meetings which are held, in order to comply with the Open Meetings Act, in light of applicable Emergency Orders issued by Federal, State or County authorities, and best public health practices.
3. The Township Board hereby approves the issuance of checks in payment of invoices by the Township Treasurer in conjunction with the Clerk as provided by law for budgeted expenditures, such as utility bills, payroll, contractual agreements, professional services, and other budgeted non-capital expenditures, subject to audit at the next meeting of the Township Board.
4. The Township Supervisor, in consultation with the Township Clerk and Treasurer, if practicable, may determine Township office hours, and close or limit access to the office for protection of the public, staff and employees, subject to the requirements of law for other situations in which access is made necessary by law.
5. Township staff shall publicize by posting on the Township website and at the Township office alternative means to have access to Township services.
6. Consistent with public safety and emergency directives and orders, the Township shall continue to conduct business and accept and process applications for zoning, building or other permits in a manner which eliminates or limits the need for face to face contact with citizens or applicants.
7. Except for the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer, who are subject to the authority of those

offices, the Township Supervisor, in consultation with the Clerk and Treasurer, if practicable, may make decisions whether employees work from home or not work.

8. All citizens will be informed of and encouraged to register to vote by means not requiring an in-person visit to the Clerk's office. In the event the Clerk suspends regular office hours, the Board hereby delegates to the Clerk the authority to designate the hours that the clerk will be at the clerk's office for the purpose of receiving registrations, and to give notice, as provided by Section 498 of the Michigan Election Law.

9. This Resolution shall not infringe on the statutory duties and authorities of the Township Treasurer and Clerk, nor the ability of the majority of Township Board members to call a special meeting by written request as provided by statute. Further, the Township Clerk and Treasurer, by written consent of both, are hereby delegated the authority to call a special meeting of the Township Board.

10. The authority delegated by the Resolution shall expire automatically at end of business day on May 31, 2020 and subject to earlier rescission or modification by the Township Board, or extension by action of the Township Board.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Mary Segalin, Township Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss.

COUNTY OF Gogebic)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Township of Ironwood, Gogebic County, Michigan (the "Township") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township at a regular meeting held on April 13, 2020, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my official signature this 13 day of April, 2020.

Mary Segalin, Clerk
Charter Township of Ironwood