

Charter Township of Ironwood
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 8, 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, Mary Segalin-Clerk, Maria Graser- Treasurer

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

Absent: none

Also Present: Sandy Lahtinen, Brenda Angus, Leroy Johnson- Zoning administrator, Jay Kangas, Shane Condon, Tom Hampston, Rich Jenkins, Vicki Nelson.

Simmons read a statement before the meeting started: If there is anyone who would like to speak during public comment, please state your name when addressing the board.

Public Comment: (3-minute limit) Some citizens voiced their concerns about the fire Dept. not being able to fill swimming pools for citizens of the Township, said they done it as long as the Fire Dept was operational. They also stated it's a good opportunity for the volunteers to get training and the citizens usually donate monies to the Dept. Graser stated that the Fire Chief specifically told her- no filling pools. They also would like the FD ordinance to be tabled because the volunteers did not know about the ordinance or its contents and would like input. A citizen made a comment about the accounting system and the need for a better system because some checks are out of order and are missing.

Amendments to Agenda: Old business: Lake Rd. Spring. A motion was made by Saari supported by Brunello to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Michaels to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting, May 26, 2020, as presented. Motion carried.

Bills and Salaries: General Fund-epay, #46017-46055- \$22,711.37, Water Fund- #9105-9109- \$74,822.17, Wastewater Fund- #1949- \$704.46. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Lyons to accept the bills and salaries as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Appearances: None

Old Business: The June 22, 2020 board meeting will be held in the Township gymnasium, with safe social distancing being practiced by the set up of the chairs. Ordinance 59, 60, 61 have been tabled due to more info and input needed by the board and the Fire Dept. Johnson stated that the ordinance is required by law, using MTA verbiage. Bylaws are no longer accepted as they are employees of the Township. The ordinance ensures they are covered under ins., payroll and are a legal organization. A motion was made by Saari supported by Michaels to table Ordinance 59 until the fire dept. has input on it. Motion carried. A motion

was made by Lyons supported by Brunello to table ordinances 60 & 61 so the board can review them further. Motion carried.

The Road Commission owns the Lake Rd Spring. They wondered if the township would like to own it or not. The board requested Segalin find out what the board wanted to do with the Spring years ago. This subject is tabled until the next meeting.

Communications: A motion was made by Lyons supported by Segalin to place the L-4029 report for tax collection on file. Motion carried.

New Business: Segalin presented the MTA online learning pamphlet. It would cover the cost of unlimited online MTA continuing education for the board. There are 3 different packages being offered. A motion was made Brunello supported by Graser to table the MTA info until next meeting- board would like more info on what each package has to offer.

Reports:

Supervisor: Johnson stated- the Trailer park needs an authorized inspection- Since 2015 the State has wanted the individual municipalities to take over with the inspections. The State has a complaint form in which we can work off of. We will be sending a notice to the owner, health dept. and the State concerning the conditions of the park.

The Township office will be officially open as of June 10, 2020 per the Governors order. We ask that the patrons wear a mask and if they are uncomfortable coming inside, we will serve them outside.

The Road Commission has started work on the Township roads. Luppino will be starting this week.

The legal matters with the insurance company had a 8 1/2 hr mediation with no resolution, via zoom. There is a tentative trial date for January 2021. Unfortunately, the schools may be cutting programs and staff due to the embezzlement.

The 2019 audit field work is complete, with no deficiencies noted again- 3rd straight year in a row!!

Treasurer: Graser is working on the summer taxes. She stated that the trailer park owes \$21,000 in past due water bills. She has sent a certified letter, with no response. She sent the attorney this info to see what more can be done to collect this money owed. She continues to work with BS&A training.

Clerk: The census has reported that only 47.5% of the Township has responded to the census questionnaire. You can go on our website for more info. We have over \$8000 in past due water bills, without penalties and interest added on due to COVID 19. We will be applying them next billing cycle.

BS&A training continues- we may need to purchase another module for the water/sewer and garbage billing.

Asked for one more volunteer for the election commission. A motion was made by Brunello supported by Graser to appoint Lyons and Michaels to the election commission for the Township. Motion carried.

Trustees:

Michaels- Nothing to report

Saari- Stated she's in agreement with the tabling of the FD ord. and would like better communication between the FD and the board.

Brunello- Nothing to report

Lyons- Nothing to report

Fire Dept.: No report

Public comment: A citizen had thanked the board for tabling the FD ordinance, and complained about the FD volunteers not knowing about the ordinance and would like input into it. Another citizen had asked if the trailer park had water leaks in the uninhabitable trailer homes, and if they should be shut off at each individual trailer. It is the property owner's responsibility to know if there are leaks.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Brunello supported by Segalin to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 pm. Motion carried.

James Simmons, Supervisor

Mary Segalin, Clerk