

FLORENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

December 18, 2023

Supervisor, Tim Carls called the meeting in the Florence Township Hall to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all. Other board members present were Janice Jones, Don Schrock, and Ben Russell. Others present were Paul Osthoff, Roger Wittenberg, Tonya Ziehm, Elwood Miller, Chris Miller, Dusty Schrock, & Janet Suhonen.

The November 20th minutes were read and 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 \$49,668.39; CDs totaling \$306,962.98; Florence Fire Fund CDs Totaling \$69,221.68; a tax account of \$191,274.40; ARPA Funds of \$110,182.14; and income of \$8,285.80. Ben made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Don seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Kayla made a motion and Don seconded a motion to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$12,076.46. Motion was approved by all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

Don reviewed the Fire Report. Florence Township had five safety calls this month. There was also one mutual aid call with White Pigeon. Constantine spent a large amount of money on EMT training. They also did annual preventative maintenance on all the apparatuses. Fire Truck 421 was sold and Florence Township received \$8,000.

Larry Miller submitted an application to do a land split on his property. Larry Miller was present to describe the project and answer questions from the board. Paul has been working with Larry to complete the necessary paperwork. After much discussion, Paul will present the land split project to the Planning Commission for review. A special meeting will be held.

Tim made a motion to appoint Dusty Schrock to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Janice seconded the motion. Motion was approved by all.

Tim made a motion to appoint Mike Rodefer as the alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Don seconded. Motion was approved by all.

Ben made a motion to approve the revision of our master plan to be in collaboration with the county's Master Plan. Roger will be the liaison. Janice seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. All voted yes.

Roger gave an update on the solar ordinance. The state is working on legislation that could potentially limit the township's zoning rights, so the planning commission is putting the creation of the solar ordinance on hold until clarification from the state.

Paul is working with Connie Steffel on granting a new address. The township is responsible for this procedure. Paul is working on understanding and creating a process for this. Roger suggested this process be included in the township's master plan. Janice made a motion to accept the St. Joseph County, Michigan Address Request/Verification/Removal Form. Ben seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Road Commission sent the 2024 Preservation & Rehabilitation Contract. After much discussion, Janice made a motion to sign the contract to finish Mintdale road from the bridge to Engle using ARPA funds. Ben seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken. Motion passed, 4-1. Don- yes, Tim- no, Janice- yes, Ben – yes, Kayla- yes.

The dropbox arrived and needs to be installed. Suggestions were taken for local contractors to install. Don will call a contractor and see if he is willing to do the installation.

NEW BUSINESS

Janice made a motion to amend the budget as discussed. Kayla seconded the motion. Roll call taken, all voted yes.

Tim & Kayla met with Kevin Decker from Decker Insurance Agency. Tim was able to clarify some questions.

Tim received a letter from the Treasury saying they received our Corrective Action Plan.

Suggestions were given for snow removal. Kayla will find someone available.

There was some discussion on cemetery lot purchasing and transferring. There was also some discussion on pricing. We will discuss again.

Tim appointed Chris Miller as Deputy Clerk.

Ben made a motion to hire Norma Townsend as an election consultant for \$20/hour. Janice seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Janet brought the camera sign to put up outside.

ADJOURNMENT

Ben and Don made a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Miller, Clerk