REGULAR MEETING

**January 4, 2024**

**Aurora, Minnesota**

***The Regular Meeting of the Town of White was called to order by Chairman Skelton at 5:00 P.M., on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at the City/Town Government Center.***

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Supervisors-Skelton, Anttila, Kippley; Clerk-Knaus, Treasurer-Gross; Foreman-Niemi; Attorney – Kearney

Absent:

Also Present: Bill Lesar, Curt Anttila, Bill Maki, Jeremy Stecker, Sam Nelson

**1. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WHICH INCLUDED TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 7, 2023 AND CLOSED MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2023; ALL BILLS AND PAYROLL AS PRESENTED BELOW, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE TO BE FILED FOR DECEMBER 2023. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA DIRECTING CLERK TO REVIEW AND CLARIFY THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4.6. MOTION CARRIED**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Check#** | **Vendor** | **Description** | **Check** |
| CC12-04-23 | Cardmember Service | Election, Printing, Technology Supplies | $ 1,464.05 |
| 35051 | Zito Media | Fire Hall & PW Telephone & Internet | $ 410.78 |
| 35052 | East Mesabi Sanitation | Refuse Collection Nov 2023 | $ 12,169.50 |
| 63305 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 54.13 |
| 63306 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 73.84 |
| DD12122301 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 34.42 |
| DD12122302 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 77.78 |
| DD12122303 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 69.90 |
| DD12122304 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 245.32 |
| DD12122305 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 172.39 |
| DD12122306 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 63.98 |
| DD12122307 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 113.26 |
| DD12122308 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 132.97 |
| DD12122309 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 320.21 |
| DD12122310 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 113.26 |
| DD12122311 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 63.98 |
| DD12122312 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 34.42 |
| DD12122313 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 172.39 |
| DD12122314 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 89.61 |
| DD12122315 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 497.60 |
| DD12122316 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 221.66 |
| DD12122317 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 73.84 |
| DD12122318 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 73.84 |
| DD12122319 | Payroll Period Ending 10/30/2023 | Fire Department October 2023 Payroll | $ 14.71 |
| FD12-12-23 | E.F.T.P.S. FD | FD October Withholding Tax | $ 82.98 |
| D12-13-23 | Empower | Employee Deductions | $ 350.00 |
| DD12132301 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 769.55 |
| DD12132302 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 300.47 |
| DD12132303 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 1,396.70 |
| DD12132304 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 1,252.02 |
| DD12132305 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 2,445.10 |
| DD12132306 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 1,749.82 |
| DD12132307 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 2,223.28 |
| DD12132308 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 2,329.17 |
| DD12132309 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 1,326.77 |
| DD12132310 | Payroll Period Ending 12/09/2023 | Regular Payroll Ending 12/09/23 | $ 2,007.89 |
| F12-13-23 | E.F.T.P.S. | Withholding PPE 12/09/23 | $ 5,551.82 |
| M12-13-23 | MN Department of Revenue | Withholding PPE 12/09/23 | $ 1,074.41 |
| P12-13-23 | P.E.R.A. | Payroll Deductions PPE 12/09/23 | $ 2,978.10 |
| ST12-13-23 | MN Dept of Revenue - Sales Tax | Sales Tax - Nov 2023 | $ 1,278.00 |
| 35056 | First National Bank of Gilbert | 12 month CD 7144 Purchase | $ 370,567.28 |
| 35057 | CTC | Town Office Phone Dec 2023 | $ 225.39 |
| DD12182301 | Payroll Period Ending 11/30/2023 | Baland Vacation Payoff | $ 1,983.48 |
| F12-18-23 | E.F.T.P.S. | Baland Vac Payoff Withholding | $ 597.40 |
| M12-18-23 | MN Department of Revenue | Baland Vacation Payoff State WH | $ 110.87 |
| HCSEV12-20-23 | Empower | Michael Baland 2023 HCSP Balance Contribution & Sick Leave Severance | $ 8,126.45 |
| DD12222301 | Payroll Period Ending 12/20/2023 | Niemi Sick Leave Incentive for 2023 | $ 1,444.36 |
| F12-22-23 | E.F.T.P.S. - SLI | Employee Withholding | $ 294.68 |
| M12-22-23 | MN Department of Revenue - SLI | State Withholding | $ 87.56 |
| J12-26-23 | KS STATEBANK | Mack Truck Payment #3/3 | $ 84,109.83 |
| D12-27-23 | Empower | Employee Deductions PPE 12/23/23 | $ 350.00 |
| DD12272301 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 1,377.70 |
| DD12272302 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 490.88 |
| DD12272303 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 2,842.96 |
| DD12272304 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 1,714.82 |
| DD12272305 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 2,250.76 |
| DD12272306 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 2,167.84 |
| DD12272307 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 1,291.77 |
| DD12272308 | Payroll Period Ending 12/23/2023 | Regular Biweekly Payroll 12/23/2023 | $ 2,029.03 |
| F12-27-23 | E.F.T.P.S. | Payroll Deductions PPE 12/23/23 | $ 5,171.70 |
| M12-27-23 | MN Department of Revenue | Employee Deductions | $ 1,021.97 |
| P12-27-23 | P.E.R.A. | Payroll Deductions PPE 12/23/23 | $ 2,849.69 |
| DD12292301 | Payroll Period Ending 12/29/2023 | December Monthly Board Payroll | $ 567.98 |
| DD12292302 | Payroll Period Ending 12/29/2023 | December Monthly Board Payroll | $ 150.23 |
| DD12292303 | Payroll Period Ending 12/29/2023 | December Monthly Board Payroll | $ 467.98 |
| DD12292304 | Payroll Period Ending 12/29/2023 | December Monthly Board Payroll | $ 279.01 |
| DD12292305 | Payroll Period Ending 12/29/2023 | December Monthly Board Payroll | $ 650.17 |
| F12-29-23 | E.F.T.P.S. Monthly | Employee Deductions | $ 227.88 |
| M12-29-23 | MN Department of Revenue Monthly | Employee Withholding | $ 67.38 |
| P12-29-23 | P.E.R.A. Monthly | Retirement Deductions | $ 267.52 |
| 35058 | A1 Services, Inc. | Pumping Holding Tank & Credit Memo | $ 76.00 |
| 35059 | Anttila, Craig | Travel Expenses | $ 55.02 |
| 35060 | Aurora Auto Value | Truck 6 battery, DEF, wiper blades | $ 2,034.63 |
| 35061 | Bradach Lumber | Snow shovels, Sign Parts | $ 116.47 |
| 35062 | Benco Equipment | Crane & Lift Inspection | $ 2,375.07 |
| 35063 | Como Oil & Propane | LPG-Transport LLCC | $ 4,445.20 |
| 35064 | Diamond Mowers | JD Mower Cutting Shaft | $ 551.32 |
| 35065 | Excel Business Systems | Copier Contract | $ 87.08 |
| 35066 | 1st Ayd Corporation | Squeegee, soap | $ 304.74 |
| 35067 | Amanda Gross | Travel Expenses | $ 134.33 |
| 35068 | Hoyt Lakes, City of | Ambulance Agreement | $ 800.00 |
| 35069 | JR Kopp | IT Contract | $ 300.00 |
| 35070 | Kippley, Edward | Travel Expenses Reimb. | $ 27.10 |
| 35071 | Knaus, Jodi | Travel Expenses | $ 112.69 |
| 35072 | Lake Country Power | Dec Electric Service | $ 2,336.00 |
| 35073 | Lawson Products | Clevis Grab Hook | $ 69.47 |
| 35074 | Minnesota Power | South Ave Lift Station | $ 11.73 |
| 35075 | Minnesota Power | Quarry Lift Station | $ 17.42 |
| 35076 | Minnesota Power | Street Lighting | $ 59.57 |
| 35077 | Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc | Disability Insurance | $ 287.86 |
| 35078 | M-R Sign Co., Inc. | Road Signs | $ 711.54 |
| 35079 | DVS Renewal | License Plates | $ 263.25 |
| 35080 | Mesabi Bituminous Inc | Water Line Break Cold Mix | $ 851.90 |
| 35081 | Menard's-Virginia | FD Ladder, Temp Gauge, Shop Lights | $ 165.97 |
| 35082 | PeopleService Inc. | Jan 24 W/WW Professional Services | $ 365.00 |
| 35083 | Range Paper | Kitchen Drain Hose | $ 86.64 |
| 35084 | Polansky, Roxane | Clothing Allowance | $ 127.03 |
| 35085 | Radko Iron & Supply, Inc. | Tools & Shop Materials | $ 109.76 |
| 35086 | Curtiss Anttila | Housing Institute, Service Contract | $ 800.00 |
| 35087 | St. Louis County Auditor-PW | Nov 2023 Fuel | $ 2,492.79 |
| 35088 | Jon Skelton | Travel Expense | $ 27.10 |
| 35089 | St. Louis County Auditor | Tax Notices, Special Assess Prep | $ 440.18 |
| 35090 | MN State Patrol, CMV | Vehicle Decals 2024 | $ 40.00 |
| 35091 | Michael Skinner | Fire Chief Conference Reimb. | $ 641.61 |
| 35092 | Taconite Tire | Tire Disposal | $ 315.00 |
| 35093 | VC3 | December Service Contract | $ 38.00 |
| 35094 | Michael Lesar | Accountability Tags Reimb. | $ 86.70 |
| 35095 | Northstar Services | Fire Hall Heat Issues | $ 149.00 |
| 35096 | Minnesota Pump Works | Pump Handles for Lift Station | $ 270.55 |
| 35097 | Central Pension Fund | Retirement Contributions Dec 23 | $ 2,688.00 |
| 35098 | Jim Jones | LLCC Supply Reimb. | $ 369.93 |
| 35099 | Northstar Services | Fire Hall Heat Issues | $ 389.00 |
| 35100 | L & M Fleet Supply, Inc. | Herzog Gift Card | $ 50.00 |
| 35101 | XZ6344990 | Health Care Savings | $ 94.64 |
| 35102 | XZ9322001 | Health Care Savings Reimbursement | $ 11.96 |
| 35103 | XZ7617518 | Health Care Medical Reimbursement | $ 33.30 |
| 35104 | Colosimo, Patchin, & Kearney, LTD | Monthly retainer Jan 2024 | $ 465.00 |
| 35105 | Linde Gas & Equipment Inc. | Welding Supplies/Services | $ 251.50 |
| 35106 | Renner, Richard | Optical Allowance | $ 200.00 |
| 35107 | I.U.O.E. Local 49 Fringe Benefits | FEB 2024 Group Insurance | $ 9,940.00 |
| 35108 | Menard's-Virginia | Straps for Lowboy, Ice Melt | $ 244.48 |
| 35109 | Nuss Truck & Equipment | Truck #5 Repairs | $ 609.40 |
| 35110 | Lundgren Motors, Inc. | 2017 F350 | $ 71.08 |
| 35114 | X101211993 | HCSP Reimbursement | $ 30.39 |
| 35115 | Essentia Health | Craig Anttila HCSP Reimb. | $ 250.00 |
| 63307 | Minnesota Life Insurance Company | Employee/Employer Insurance | $ 156.30 |
| 63308 | Colonial Life | DEC 23 Employee Deductions | $ 537.42 |
| 63309 | MN NCPERS | Life Insurance Employee Paid | $ 32.00 |
| 63310 | I.U.O.E. Local 49 | Union Dues DEC 2023 | $ 245.00 |
| 63311 | Palo Volunteer Fire Department | Good Will Fund SEP & OCT 2023 | $ 210.00 |
|  |  | **TOTAL** | **$ 576,721.61** |

**2. THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023, LISTED RECEIPTS IN THE AMOUNT OF $565,683.14:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 10/23 Tax Apportionment  2023 Year End Advance  Township Aid  LLCC Rental Fees  Garbage Bag Revenue  Cemetery Revenue  Disparity Reduction Aid  MV Credit – Agricultural  LMC Return Premium Check  LMC 2023 P/C Dividend  Refuse Revenue  Twin Lakes Pavilion Rent | 425,073.08  7,764.68  1,374.50  290.00  4,820.00  1,300.00  114,191.00  1,815.55  5,406.00  2,634.00  929.81  50.00 |
| Interest Earned | 34.52 |
| **TOTAL** | **$565,683.14** |

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY SKELTON TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023 RECEIPTS AS READ. MOTION CARRIED**

**3. CITIZENS/GUESTS**:

* Jeremy Stecker – informed the Board he is still interested in rezoning the property he owns and suggested the Township submit a larger area for re-zoning to St. Louis County Planning and Zoning from industrial to residential; Stecker spoke with St. Louis County Planning and Zoning and was informed a larger area for re-zoning is more favorable versus spot zoning and it would be more favorable if the Township submitted the request. Skelton replied the Township Board supports Stecker but cannot take on the financial costs. The Township has no opposition to developing the area and suggested Stecker provide the Clerk with maps and more detailed information about his plans and suggestions.
* Curt Anttila – has been attending the housing institute meetings and will be putting together a marketing plan and housing application which will be officially presented to each entity in the future. He is also provided input on the recently submitted LRIP grant for the Township. The Township needs a strategic planning session with Lislegard present to discuss available funding.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE LISLEGARD, CURT ANTTILA, JON SKELTON, AND JODI KNAUS TO DISCUSS FUTURE PROJECTS AND AVAIALBLE FUNDING FOR THOSE PROJECTS.**

* Erik Nelson – Stepetz Road Land Purchase Agreement – Nelson could not attend the meeting as requested.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO TABLE TO MARCH 2024 AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

4.1 Wold Facility Study Update – Maps will be digitized by Vivid Design but it will take several weeks. Invoice for services $3,740.83

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING THE INVOICE FOR PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,740.83 TO WOLD ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS. MOTION CARRIED**

4.2 Twin Lakes Property & Dock Discussion – letter was sent. The Starken’s will be at the February Board meeting.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.3 Joint Water Project - Resolution 2024-001 was reviewed:

**RESOLUTION 2024-001 AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING FOR THE EAST RANGE WATER PROJECT AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE EAST RANGE WATER BOARD TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN THE PROJECT BEING BID AND CONSTRUCTED WITH THE CITY OF AURORA ACTING AS FISCAL AGENT**

**WHEREAS**, the East Range Water Board was established as joint power entity on July 21, 2021 by joint action of the City of Aurora (“**City**”) and the Town of White (“**Town**”) for the purpose of overseeing and implementing the East Range Water Project which is intended ultimately to provide a new source and system for the delivery of drinking water to the four East Range communities of Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes and Town of White, in different phases (the “**Project**”); and

**WHEREAS**, the plans and specifications for the Project’s system facilities and related improvements are at full 100% design stage and, upon final approval by the Minnesota Department of Health, will be ready to be bid for construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent estimate of the Project’s cost is approximately $ 33 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the secured and anticipated financing commitments for the Project from third-party sources has reached the amount of approximately $ 21 million and the amounts of additional third-party funds being sought for the Project, even if obtained, will still leave a funding gap of *several* million dollars up to $15 million (the “**Funding Gap**”) which will have to be bridged through local borrowings by the City and Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town and City, are both fully committed to the successful completion of the Project as evidenced by their joint commitments as expressed in the Joint Powers Agreement of July 21, 2021, which outlines the conditions and responsibilities of each party in relation to funding for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, completion of the Project will ensure the availability of an abundant supply of high- quality water to serve the drinking water needs of the residents of the East Range for decades to come.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town and City Aurora, in order to position the Project for the solicitation and awarding of construction bids, hereby renew their prior commitments to the successful completion of the Project and hereby commit to undertake, when deemed necessary to bridge the said Project Funding Gap, to issue water system revenue bonds in an amount sufficient to bridge the Funding Gap. The repayment of such revenue bonds shall be secured by a pledge of water system user rate revenues assessed at a level up to the Maximum Affordability Rate as established by the Public Facility Authority for the Project service area. The obligations for the repayment of such revenue bonds shall be allocated between the City and Town water users according to the ERU Rate as set forth in the Joint Power Agreement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the parties intend that the City will act as the Fiscal Agent for the administration and fiscal management of any and all such Project revenue bonds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the legally designated authorities and officials of the Town of White Board of Supervisors and the Council of the City of Aurora, Minnesota, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements as is necessary to implement the said financings for the Project and evidence the adoption of this Resolution.

Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted:

For: Anttila, Skelton, Kippley

Against:

Absent:

**Whereupon said Resolution No. 2024-001 was declared duly passed and adopted this 4th day of January 2024.**

The Township Board then reviewed Resolution 2024-005:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Town of White, Minnesota  Resolution No 2024-05 | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of White is hereby applying to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority with the City of Aurora acting as fiscal agent for a loan from the Clean Water Revolving Fund/Drinking Revolving Fund for improvements to its municipal wastewater treatment system/drinking water system as described in the loan application. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of White & City of Aurora estimates the loan amount to be up to $12,000,000 or the as-bid cost of the project. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of White, with the City of Aurora acting as fiscal agent, has the legal authority to apply for the loan, and the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to repay the loan and ensure proper construction, operation and maintenance of the project for its design life. | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the Town of White on January 4th, 2024. | | | | |

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA APPROVING RESOLUTION 2024-005 FOR THE JOINT WATER PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED**

4.4 LLCC Deed/Legal update – No new updates from the attorney.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

4.5 Election Cycle – No new updates.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY DIRECTING THE OFFICE STAFF TO RESEARCH & TRY TO FIND AN ATTORNEY WHO CAN REPRESENT THE TOWNSHIP AND WHAT THE FEES WOULD BE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS CHANGE ELECTION TERMS AND REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED**

4.6 Equipment Operator Vacancies – First vacancy top finalist who was offered the position withdrew from the process and declined position. Second finalist Tanner Lokken passed the drug test, physical and background checks required. Discussion was held to decide if the second vacancy should be filled at this time. The Board has concerns about the current financial status of the Township and how contract negotiations may affect the budget. Kippley would like to meet with Knaus to review the contract language proposed Friday, January 5th prior to the employees voting on the contract on Monday, January 6th.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO HIRE TANNER LOKKEN AS HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 18, 2024. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE THE DECISION OF FILLING THE SECOND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR VACANCY. MOTION CARRIED**

4.7 2023 Curve Realignments – No new updates.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO TABLE TO NEXT MONTH.**

4.8 Insurance Claim on Salt/Sand Dome Updates –Payment of $2,000.00 minus the deductible is pending by the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA DIRECTING NEIMI TO FIND A CONTRACTOR TO FIX THE ROOF AND MAKE THE REPAIRS IN THE SPRING. MOTION CARRIED**

4.9 FEMA 2023 Spring Road Damage Updates – FEMA informed the Township mitigation is available for the culverts that were fixed last spring. Approval is needed to move forward with submitting a mitigation request.

**IT WAS MOVED BY ANTTILA, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY THE TOWNSHIP SUPPORTS APPLICATION TO FEMA FOR ANY MITIGATION FUNDING AND/OR ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR THE ROADS IMPACTED BY THE 2023 SPRING FLOODING TO PREVENT FUTURE FLOODING. MOTION CARRIED**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

5.1 Blinds for LLCC – Sam Wilkes called the office and requested new blinds be purchased for the classrooms at the community center. The Board suggested putting this on the list of items needed for the LLCC for the facilities plan.

5.2 Fire Hall cleaning – Skinner inquired to see if Roxy Polansky could clean the Fire Hall when Gary Starken retires. The Board realizes the Standard Operating Procedures need to be completed and there are meetings scheduled for these discussions. This should be placed on that agenda. The General Maintenance Worker’s job has a lot of facilities and responsibility currently and there is concern about too much being placed on this job. The cleaning of the Fire Hall got added when COVID was a concern.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO FIND OUT WHAT OTHER FIRE DEPARTMENTS DO FOR CLEANING THEIR FIRE HALL. MOTION CARRIED**

5.3 Keller Fence Company Quote - $7,119.00 Niemi got this quote for fencing around the gas tanks. The concrete barriers were placed and Neimi indicated by statute this needs to be done.

Kearney suggested we should have documentation showing this is necessary.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA DIRECTING NIEMI TO RESEARCH AND GET DOCUMENTATION ON THE LAWS AND STATUTES AND REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED**

5.4 Water & Sewer Rates Effective 1/1/2024 – The City of Aurora proposed rate increases for both residential and commercial rates effective 1/1/2024.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of White adopted a Water and Wastewater Ordinance for residents in designated areas of the township to have water and sewer connections according to the Agreement with the City of Aurora and Town of White effective August 7, 2012;

**WHEREAS,** the Town of White Board of Supervisors recognizes that revenue is needed for the cost of operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS,** the established and approved residential water and wastewater connection, operating, and usage rates need to be periodically amended from time to time to support the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater infrastructure;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the authorizing authority of the Town of White Board of Supervisors approves the attached updated residential rate schedule, and does hereby adopt this resolution.

Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted:

For: Anttila, Skelton, Kippley

Against: NONE

Whereupon said Resolution No. 2024-003 was declared duly passed and adopted this 4th day of January, 2024.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA APPROVING RESOLUTION 2024-003 RESIDENTIAL RATES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution **APPROVING COMMERCIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

Resolved by the Town of White Board of Supervisors that:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of White adopted a Water and Wastewater Ordinance for residents in designated areas of the township to have water and sewer connections according to the Agreement with the City of Aurora and Town of White dated August 7, 2012;

**WHEREAS,** the Town of White Board of Supervisors recognizes that revenue is needed for the cost of operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS,** established and approved commercial water and wastewater connection, operating, and usage rates need to be periodically amended from time to time to support the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater infrastructure;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the authorizing authority of the Town of White Board of Supervisors approves the attached updated commercial rate schedule, and does hereby adopt this resolution.

Upon vote taken thereon, the following voted:

For: Anttila, Skelton, Kippley

Against: NONE

Whereupon said Resolution No. 2024-004 was declared duly passed and adopted this 4th

day of January, 2024.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY APPROVING RESOLUTION 2024-004 COMMERCIAL RATES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA DIRECTING CLERK TO PUT WATER RATES ON THE AGENDA MOVING FORWARD FOR THE WATER PROJECT AGENDA ITEM. MOTION CARRIED**

5.5 LLCC Vaporizer for the Propane Tank – Niemi brought up the vaporizer has quit working and needs to be replaced or heat will be lost in the Loon Lake Community Center. The cost to replace is several thousand. He spoke with Como representative and Como believes it is our responsibility. One could be ordered and here in a few days.

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY DIRECTING NIEMI AND OFFICE STAFF TO RESEARCH WHO OWNS THE TANK AND GO FROM THERE AND TO PUT ON AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA IF IN FACT IT IS OUR TANK, FIXING IS APPROVED IF IT IS IN THE CONTRACT REPAIRS OF THE TANK OUR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOWNSHIP. MOTION CARRIED**

**6. REPORTS:**

Clerk’s Report

1.) Election preparation & training is in progress for the upcoming Presidential Primary on March 5, 2024. Absentee Voting begins January 19, 2024.

2.) Report preparation for the Board of Audit meeting in February is in progress. We look at investments, indebtedness, and review all financial transactions and will make recommendations for the 2024 Project Priority List & Strategic Plan for the next five years.

3.) Working with FEMA on the Spring 2023 declared disaster continues to be time intensive with reporting and after-the-fact work such as getting permits and mapping for the emergency work that was completed on culverts throughout the Township. In the end, we will get reimbursement for the approved costs associated with the Project.

4.) On-going Projects & Pending Items not discussed:

* Franchise Fees for Power & Utilities (fiber)
* Road Vacation Filings for the Road Realignments in 2023
* Facilities Capital Improvement Plan & Updated Strategic Plan – Knaus & Curt Anttila

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO FILE THE CLERK’S REPORT. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 TO DISCUSS THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR VACANCY, APPROVE THE LOCAL 49 BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR 2024-2026. MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA TO ADD FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY MEETINGS TO THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED**

Foreman Niemi – Snow events; Lane 55 personal property has been removed; crane remote arrived; burials; fuel pump issue; loss of heat at Public Works on Christmas Eve was resolved;

Supervisors:

Anttila – Laskiainen meeting went well; would like Clark to speak to Brian Maki at Lakehead about volunteers; needs the generator and propane tank filled for the concession stand; slides will be built on 1/20/24.

Kippley – Excellent job taking care of roads.

Skelton – Nothing that hasn’t already been discussed.

**7. TRAINING REQUESTS & MEETING NOTICES**:

* Public Works Staff – MSHA Refresher Course through Local 49 – Virginia, MN – No cost for training but travel & OT if necessary;

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA APPROVING THE PUBLIC WORKS STAFF TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING WITH EXPENSES AND OVERTIME PAID IF NECESSARY. MOTION CARRIED**

* Knaus – Ehlers Public Finance Seminar, Edina, MN – February 1-2, 2024 $350.00 plus travel expenses;

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY ANTTILA APPROVING BOTH KNAUS AND GROSS TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING WITH EXPENSES PAID. MOTION CARRIED**

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024 5:00 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center with the Board of Audit Meeting following; East Range Water Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:30 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; ERJPB Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:00 AM @ City/Town Government Center; Special Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2023 5:00 P.M. @ City/Town Government Center; Laskiainen: February 2-4, 2024;

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**IT WAS MOVED BY SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY KIPPLEY TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING AT 6:27 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**

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**Jodi L. Knaus, Clerk Jon Skelton, Chairman**