

SOO TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Soo Township Community Center
November 14, 2018

PRESENT
Larry Perron, Supervisor
Jim Callon
Cheryl Thoresen
Andree Watson

EXCUSED ABSENCE
Don Kucharczyk

The November Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Supervisor, Larry Perron, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Steve Forrest, Jeff Killips, Larry Kirwan, and Chuck Palmer were in attendance.

Resident, Larry Kirwan inquired as to the status of the lawsuit against Jody Stonehagen. Attorney, Chuck Palmer gave him an update and that a hearing is scheduled for December 20th at 10:30 am before Judy James Lambros, Circuit Judge.

Steve Forrest approached the Board with a request that Pine Grove Cemetery be annually opened until Veterans Day, November 11th. The Cemetery closing date is November 1. His request will be evaluated by the Cemetery Board.

Fire Chief, Jeff Killips gave the monthly Fire Department report. Jeff reported that Engine #402 is in need of repair at a cost of \$6827.81. Also, Air bottles need to be replaced.

A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Don Kucharczyk to approve the October Board Minutes. Motion carried.

The Supervisor reported that the furnace blew up at the Neebish Island Fire Hall. An estimate has been received by Albert Heating for an 80,000 BTU high efficiency furnace at a cost of \$3,510 installed. The Supervisor to contact Albert Heating.

The October budget was discussed.

A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Andree Watson to approve the movement of \$18,510 from the carry-over figure of the 2018-2019 budget to the Contingency line item for the following anticipated upcoming expenses; \$3,510 for Neebish Island furnace, \$10,000 for Fire Department Equipment maintenance, and \$5,000 for new software for the Treasurer. The carry-over amount from the 2017-2018 Budget is \$358,358.19. A Roll-call vote was taken: Larry Perron-yes, Jim Callon-yes, Andree Watson-yes, Cheryl Thoresen-yes. Don Kucharczyk was absent. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Cheryl Thoresen to transfer \$14.00 from Supervisor Education/Training #171-956 to Supervisor Mileage #171-860. A Roll-call vote was taken: Jim Callon-yes, Andree Watson-yes, Cheryl Thoresen-yes. Larry Perron abstained. Don Kucharczyk was absent. Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Chery Thoresen to approve the purchase of a new furnace for Neebish Island from Albert Heating and Cooling at a cost of \$3,150. A Roll-call vote was taken: Jim Callon-yes, Andree Watson-yes, Cheryl Thoresen-yes, Larry Perron-yes. Don Kucharczyk was absent. Motion carried.

A letter was read from the Neebish Island Improvement Association with a list of concerns and improvements needed for the Community Center/Fire Hall. Estimates will be obtained and considered in the 2019-2020 Budget.

The signing of an Agreement between Soo Township and the Pickford Ambulance Service was tabled until the December meeting.

The Clerk reported that for the November 6th Election, 1114 residents voted at the polls and 340 residents voted by Absentee Ballot. This was over 60% of the registered voters in Soo Township.

Twenty residents took advantage of the Fall Clean-up Days in Soo Township.

The Board discussed the passing of the Michigan Recreational Marihuana Ballot Proposal and impact on Soo Township. Further discussion was tabled until the December meeting giving the Board Members more time to study the material received from MTA and other sources.

The Treasurer reported that Manatron will no longer support the software for the taxes and the Township will have to purchase new software. The Treasurer said the cost of new software from BS&A will cost approximately \$5,000.

Winter 2018 Tax Collection will begin December 4th and continue on Tuesdays from 9:00-1:00 and Fridays from 1:00-5:00. The last day for Winter Tax Collection will be February 28, 2019 from 9:00-5:00 pm.

Jim Callon presented the Planning Commission Report.

A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Andree Watson to allow the moving forward with the request to build an airstrip on Neebish Island. This airstrip would be part of Essential Services for Neebish Island and therefore would comply with Soo Township's Zoning Ordinance. Motion carried.

Attorney Chuck Palmer reported that a Show Cause Hearing again Osborn Junk Yard to be filed.

Supervisor, Larry Perron reported that the Insurance Company reviewed the request for installation of Playground Equipment by the Neebish Island Improvement Association and stated, per the insurance company, this would not raise the Township Liability Insurance significantly. However, there was importance placed on the regular maintenance and upkeep of the equipment. The Supervisor will notify the Neebish Island Improvement Association of the Insurance Company report.

The Supervisor to meet with the Neebish Island Improvement Association regarding complaints he has received from some residents.

The Sault Ste. Marie Ambulance Agreement renewal was received with no changes. It will be signed and returned.

The Supervisor reported that word has been received that the lift station has been repaired.

A Motion was made by Jim Callon and Supported by Don Kucharczyk to pay the October bills from check #9695 to check #9706 totaling \$5,821.11 and November bills from check #9707 to check #9744 totaling \$19,830.41, including Electronic payment in the amount of \$2,590.92 for October payroll taxes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Andree Watson
Clerk