

**SOO TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
**Soo Township Hall**  
**January 12, 2022**

PRESENT

Larry Perron  
Allen Walther  
Jim Callon  
Cheryl Thoresen

EXCUSED

Don Kucharczyk

The January monthly Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Larry Perron, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Pam Chipman, Chuck Palmer, Jeff Killips, were in attendance. Also attending was Mr. Justin Savoie and Ms. Kaylee Avery.

**Public Comment:**

-Since Mr. Savoie was in attendance the matter of his application for a Special Use Permit was brought up to the board. Jim Callon gave a briefing on the findings of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission recommended approval as per the permit presented to the board. Larry Perron asked to change the operating hours for his garage from 7am-9pm to 7am-6pm. Mr. Savoie agreed to the change.

**-Jim Callon made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit as presented (with the operating hours change). The motion was supported by Cheryl Thoresen. A roll call vote was held: A. Walther (yes), J. Callon (yes), C. Thorensen (yes) and L. Perron (yes).**

**Board Meeting Minutes:**

-The December board meeting minutes were discussed. A clarification was added to the Assessors Report section.

**-A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Cheryl Thorensen to approve the minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting of December 8, 2021. Motion carried. (L. Perron abstained).**

**Assessors Report:**

-Pam Chipman reported that all assessor data would be required to be online this year. Land value date and ECF studies would need to be posted on the Township website. She will work with the Clerk on this.

-Pam Chipman reported that the Board of Review met on 14 Dec at 2pm to review for clerical errors. Minutes have been provided to the Clerk.

-It was also discussed that there is a need for an alternate Board of Review member. P. Chipman will work with the other Board of Review members to find someone.

**Fire Dept report:**

-Jeff Killips reported 5 fire department runs for the time period between 12/21/21 and 1/10/22. J. Killips gave a brief synopsis of each run.

-No new information has been received on the new fire truck. Still anticipating a late March delivery.

-Discussion was held on repairs needed for the existing fire truck. A list of item needing attention was promulgated.

-J. Killips reported that Soo Township Fire Dept had received a grant from the DNR to purchase new radio's. The grant will cover 50% of the anticipated \$5,000 cost.

**Clerk's Report:**

-A. Walther reported that the Audit is complete with no major discrepancies and that the report is available for review by the board members.

-A. Walther asked the board to consider a policy that would allow the volunteer firefighters in good standing to rent the Community Center at no cost once per calendar year. No objections were made and the policy will be passed on to the firefighters.

-A discussion was held on the EUPConnect Collaborative. They have asked Soo Township to join their group. C. Palmer gave a brief description of their efforts. There was no desire by the board to join the group at this time.

-A. Walther reported that he had completed the necessary election training and will be working with Karen McClenny on future elections. It was also reported that A. Walther would have to place his name on the ballot this year for the Township Clerk position since he was named the clerk prior to the halfway point of Andree Watson's term.

-A brief discussion was held on the DNR listing of land "for sale" within Soo Township. A. Walther reported that the parcels within Soo Township were undesirable due to lack of road access.

-A. Walther reported that the State was offering grants to first responders for recruiting and training. He will work with the fire chief to determine if it's something we should apply for.

-A. Walther recommended that we transfer \$5000 from the Contingency Fund (899-957) to the Elections-Salaries (262-702) to cover the shortfall created by the August 2021 election. State funding has been applied for but not yet received. **J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by C. Thorensen to approve the transfer. A roll call vote was held, J. Callon (yes), C. Thorensen (yes), A. Walther (yes), L. Perron (yes). The motion passed.**

-A. Walther reported the township had received a mailing from the State of Michigan informing us we were eligible to incorporate as a "Charter Township". A discussion was held and it was determined that it was not in the best interest of Soo Township to attempt to incorporate as a Charter Township. **J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by C. Thorensen to oppose incorporation as Charter Township. A roll call vote was held: A. Walther (yes), C. Thorensen (yes), J. Callon (yes), L. Perron (yes). The motion passed to oppose incorporation as a Charter Township.** The necessary public notices will be placed in the newspaper by the Clerk

-A. Walther reported that the Final Ruling had been issued for the ARPA funds and that Townships can no select the \$10 million "standard allowance". This allows the Township to spend our allocation on government services. It is the boards plan to use the ARPA funds to partially pay for the new fire truck.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

-General fund balance is \$285,809.26.

-C. Thoresen reported that winter tax bill payments are being received.

-C. Thoresen reported that a CD with First National Bank mature on Jan 06, 2022. A discussion was held whether to renew the CD or redeem it. The board concluded that it should be renewed for an additional 12 mo. term.

-C. Thorensen brought up that she has decided to retire from the Treasurer's position. No date was given and she along with the rest of the board will attempt to find a good candidate to replace her. She stated she would work with whomever was selected to get them trained for the job. The board was disappointed in the news as C. Thorensen has been an outstanding Treasurer and her knowledge and experience will be difficult to replace.

**Planning Commission Report:**

- J. Callon reported that the commission worked on the Special Use Permit discussed earlier in the meeting for the Savoie garage.
- J. Callon also reported that the board continues to review the results of the resident survey.
- J. Callon reported the Planning Commission is still down a couple members. Efforts are being made to find replacements.

**Permit Administrator:**

- J. Callon reported no permits issued recently.

**Attorney's Report:**

- Hearing dates for the Caster and Siegwart cases have been set for February 2022.
- Proline Auto suit has been filed and should be served in the next week or so.
- C. Palmer apologized for not getting a letter out to address the possible marijuana grow operation in the Radar road area. He will take care of it soon.

**Supervisor's Report:**

- L. Perron provided the Clerk with invoices from the Neebish Island Community Center rehab. The Clerk will call Mrs. Reed to ensure they get taken care of.

**J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by C. Thorensen to approve the payment of the December bills, payroll and tax withholdings as follows:**

**December checks for bills: Checks 11368-11371, 11383-11388, 11390-11400, and (2) Electronic Transfers totaling \$10258.37**

**December Payroll checks: Check#'s 11372, 11374-11382, 11389 totaling \$6719.24**

**December Payroll taxes: US Treasury- \$2319.34, MI DOT (Ck 11367)- \$428.68 totaling \$2748.02**

**J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by A. Walther to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Allen Walther, Township Clerk