

**SOO TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
**Soo Township Hall**  
**May 11, 2022**

PRESENT

Larry Perron  
Allen Walther  
Jim Callon  
Don Kucharczyk  
Cheryl Thoresen

EXCUSED

The May 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, Krista Broos-Adams, Johnathan Scheel, Ceston Scheel, Bev Eavou and Katie Chipman-Bergsman were in attendance.

**Public Comment:**

-Mr. Johnathan Scheel introduced himself and his son, Creston Scheel. He is running for Michigan State representative and briefly went over his qualifications and beliefs.

-Mrs. Beverly Eavou introduced herself and gave the board an overview of the importance of election integrity. She feels the Qualified Voter File (QVF) isn't as accurate as it should be and feels more should be done to make it accurate for future elections.

**Board Meeting Minutes:**

-The April board meeting minutes were discussed.

**-A Motion was made by Jim Callon and supported by Don Kucharczyk to approve the minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting of April 13, 2022. Motion carried (C. Thoresen abstained).**

**Assessors Report:**

-Katie Chipman gave the Assessors report in the absence of Pam Chipman.

-One land division was presented to the board, 012-035-032-00, Sean Higgins property.

**J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve the land division as presented.**

**A roll call vote was held to approve the land division for parcel 012-035-032-00. J. Callon (yes), D. Kucharczyk (yes), A. Walther (yes) & L. Perron (yes). Motion carried. (Resolution 2022-04)**

**Fire Dept report:**

-Jeff Killips reported there were four fire department runs for the time period between 04/14/22 and 05/11/22.

-J. Killips stated that he travelled to Grayling to look over the new fire truck. Everything looks good and it's expected to be delivered in the next couple weeks.

**Clerk's Report:**

- A. Walther gave a brief on the revised Budget format that included a line item for the fire truck and a more clear display of income and funds available.

- A. Walther recommended Tom Sherman be hired as 4 Mile Beach Park Security and that the park be opened May 16, 2022.

**D. Kucharczyk made a motion and it was supported by J. Callon to approve the hiring of Tom Sherman. A roll call vote was held, C. Thorensen (yes), J. Callon (yes), D. Kucharczyk (yes), A. Walther (yes), L. Perron (yes). The motion passed.**

-A. Walther reported that the cemetery opened on 5/2/2022. Still wet in portions, some burials have been postponed for dryer conditions.

**Clerk's Report (cont)**

- A. Walther reported that the cemetery needed to hire a groundskeeper for the season as one of last year's employee's wasn't returning. It was also recommended that the hourly wage for the position be raised to \$16/hr immediately for both groundkeeper positions to better align with increased hourly wages in the area.

**J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve the pay increase for the groundskeeper positions to \$16/hr. A roll call vote was held, C. Thorensen (yes), J. Callon (yes), D. Kucharczyk (yes), A. Walther (yes), L. Perron (yes). The motion passed.**

-A. Walther advised that the Annual Meeting will be held on June 8, 2022 at 6:30pm followed by our regular meeting.

-A. Walther reported that a budget workshop was held on 4/28 with a focus on the payroll for FY 2022/23. The proposed Payroll was submitted for board approval.

**D. Kucharczyk made a motion and it was supported by J. Callon to approve the Payroll as submitted for FY 2022/23. A roll call vote was held, C. Thorensen (yes), J. Callon (yes), D. Kucharczyk (yes), A. Walther (yes), L. Perron (yes). The motion passed.**

-A. Walther recommend the following budget Adjustments:

**Transfer \$1500 from the Contingency Fund (899-957) to Fire Dept Natural Gas (336-920).**

**Transfer \$4000 from the Contingency Fund (899-957) to Payroll Taxes (862-715).**

**Transfer \$10,000 from Fire Dept. Equipment Maintenance (336-933) to Fire Dept. Operating Supplies (336-757).**

**J. Callon D. Kucharczyk made a motion and it was supported by J. Callon to approve the transfers. A roll call vote was held, C. Thorensen (yes), J. Callon (yes), D. Kucharczyk (yes), A. Walther (yes), L. Perron (yes). The motion passed.**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- C. Thoresen reported that there were going to be a lot of changes with regard to the County Equalization, taxes and assessing.
- C. Thorensen reported the General Fund balance was \$456,935.10.
- C. Thorensen briefed the board on one outstanding property tax payment from the Best Western. The property had been recently sold so that has probably created some confusion.
- C. Thorensen introduced Krista Broos-Adams as the new Deputy Treasurer effective immediately. L. Perron gave the Oath of Office to Mrs. Broos-Adams.

**Planning Commission Report:**

- J. Callon reported that he did not attend the May Planning Commission meeting due to sickness. C. Palmer reported that due to a couple absences there was no new business presented.

**Permit Administrator:**

- J. Callon reported no permits issued recently.

**Attorney's Report:**

- C. Palmer discussed the current status of the Pages lawsuit and was waiting a date for the pre-trial date.
- C. Palmer stated a letter had been sent to Mr. Martin regarding the marijuana growing and the smell issue. Nothing had been heard back from Mr. Martin.
- C. Palmer reported that Sault RV had been notified that the property needed to be cleaned up. The owner had responded and requested an on-site visit by the Supervisor to clarify what needed to be cleaned up.

**Supervisor's Report:**

-L. Perron reported that the Chippewa County Road Commission was seeking culvert projects for the 2023 construction season. He would be advising the board in the next couple mnths of recommendations. Projects are due by Sept 2022.

- L. Perron opened a discussion about the possibility of a 425 agreement with the City of Sault Ste Marie with regard to the possibility of a big box store being built in Soo Township. The City was asking for an agreement to move forward with the project and no annexation of Soo Township property would be involved in the agreement. After a brief discussion the board members all felt it would be good to move forward cautiously.

- L. Perron discussed the need to finalize the clean-up of the Rawlings property with the owner.

- L. Perron asked that C. Palmer and A. Walther get together to recoup cost to the township in regards to the McCormack property on 6 Mile Rd. Both agreed to do so.

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

**April checks for bills: Check#'s 11491-11495, 11507-11515, 11517-11525, totaling \$55241.23**

**April Payroll checks: Check#'s 11489, 11496-11506, & 11516 totaling \$6802.04**

**April Payroll taxes: US Treasury- \$2059.84, MI DOT (Ck 11490)-\$404.82 totaling \$2464.66**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Allen Walther, Township Clerk

