

SOO TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Soo Township Hall
June 14, 2023

PRESENT

Larry Perron
Allen Walther

ABSENT

Krista Broos-Adams (excused)

Jim Callon
Don Kucharczyk

The June monthly Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Larry Perron, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Killips, Pam Chipman and Charles Palmer were in attendance. Members of the public, Calvin Carter, John Pethus, Larry & Nancy Bolio, Kris Davis, John McClellan, Nancy Martin, Ben Martin, David Martin, Sherry Duesing, Kristi & John Causley, Robert Little, David P. Clark, Penny Clark, Kyle & Brittany Stabile, and Scott Baril, were also present.

Public Comment:

David Martin opened the public comment to discuss the activity in and around the gravel pits along Radar Rd. It was reported that the truck traffic, stone crusher activity, and dust were exceptional this year. Mr. Martin also reported that he felt the dust may contain "silica dust" which is a health hazard. It was also discussed that they often operate from 6am-10pm. It was also reported that the increased truck traffic is damaging the road. Mr. Martin feels that Soo Twp has the ability to regulate the operations surrounding the gravel pits.

Other members of the public also felt the same about the increased activity and also reported some individual truck drivers driving aggressively. Home values were also discussed along with concerns over taxes.

L. Perron discussed the permitting involving the pits. Two of the three pits were in existence before zoning. The other pit does have some stipulations attached to the property from a 1999 litigation. C. Palmer will look into this. L. Perron has discussed the issue with the Chippewa County Road Commission and letters were sent to the companies operating the pits asking them to be aware and courteous to the neighborhood. L. Perron advised those living in the area that he will further discuss the issues with the Chippewa County Road Commission, City of Sault Ste Marie, and the company performing the work on Easterday Ave. Information that he receives will be shared with David Martin who will further share it with the neighborhood.

Public Comment (cont):

Mr. John McClellan addressed the board about his property on Seymour Rd. He shared that he was in the process of getting the necessary permits to place the house on a foundation and hoped it would be done by the end of July 2023. He would also like someone from the township to inspect his property before the next court date to document any progress that may be made in cleaning up the property. Mr. McClellan was asked to contact C. Palmer to arrange any visits from township personnel.

Mr. Ken Lind of EMC Insurance discussed the townships insurance policy renewal. Everything seemed in order and no changes were recommended.

Board Meeting Minutes:

-The May 10, 2023 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 May 10, 2023. Motion carried.

Fire Dept report (Jeff Killips):

-5 fire runs reported for the month.

-Discussed the award from the Sault Tribe 2% funds in the amount of \$24870.73. The award for the purchase of MSA Airpacks.

Assessors Report (Pam Chipman):

-Reported that there will be a July Board of Review (7/18) and that she will notify members of the board.

- Reported that she and Katie had both attended the county equalization training held this month.

Clerk's Report (Allen Walther):

-Discussed moving financial record keeping from Quickbooks Desktop to Quickbooks Online.

-Cemetery board held meeting on May 24th, 2023. Cemetery totals for 2022 season: 21 burials and 7 grave sites sold. Thoresen Excavating will be increasing the charge to open/close a grave by \$25 to \$375. Working on comparing our prices to neighboring cemeteries.

-Will be attending MTA Cemetery Training in Gaylord on 6/20.

-Sault Tribe 2% funds awarded to Soo Twp Fire Dept. \$24870.73 as a grant to assist with the cost of MSA Air-packs. Money has been deposited into the GF acct and the Fire Dept Operating Supplies (336-757) budget line item will be increased by the same amount.

-Joseph Parr has submitted a bid to cut the grass at the Neebish Isl Comm Center for the 2023 season of \$250. Recommend we accept his bid.

A. Walther made a motion and it was supported by J. Callon to accept the bid of \$250 for grass cutting at the Neebish Isl Community Center. A roll call vote was held and all approved. Motion passed.

-EMC Insurance for 7/1/23-6/30/24 due on 7/1 (can pay 7/3 per Ken Lind). Total is \$17117.00. Request board approval to pay on 7/3.

D. Kucharczyk made a motion and it was supported by J. Callon to approve the payment to EMC Insurance of \$17117 on 7/3 via electronic transfer. A roll call vote was held and all approved. Motion passed.

Clerk's Report (Allen Walther): (cont)

- Recommend the following budget adjustments for current FY:
- Transfer \$500 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Hall Rental Refunds (265-964)
- Transfer \$2000 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Firefighter Millage Stipend (336-860)
- Transfer \$100 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Clerk Salary (215-702)
- Transfer \$1900 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Assessor Salary (257-702)
- Transfer \$300 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Permit Administrator (720-702)
- Transfer \$1500 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Treasurer-Office Supplies (253-727)

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve the budget adjustments as presented. A roll call vote was held and all approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Presented by A. Walther):

- The General Fund balance was \$490620.82 as of 5/31/2023.
- The Tax Account balance is \$850.38 as of 05/31/2023.
- The ARPA account balance is 162112.54 as of 05/31/2023.
- CD held at Central Savings Bank (\$54024.01) transferred to a Soo COOP Credit Union CD at 18 months/4.4%.

Planning Commission Report (Jim Callon):

- Not enough members for a quorum at last meeting.
- Further discussions about the master plan.
- Discussed “tiny home” issues.
- Prospective owner of property near the S curves on Baker Side Rd. asked about uses for property.

Permit Administrator (Jim Callon):

- 2 building permits were issued in the last month.

Attorney’s Report (Charles Palmer):

- Discussed the status of all ongoing legal cases within the township.

Supervisor’s Report (Larry Perron):

- Discussed a couple of possible issues with properties.
- Discussed Rawlings property- C. Palmer will call owner.
- Discussed Baker Side Rd. speed/passing zone issues. Will get with State Patrol to discuss possible changes.

Payment Approvals:

D. Kucharczyk made a motion and it was supported by J. Callon to approve the payment of the May and June (up to 6/14) bills, payroll and payroll taxes as follows:

May Payments as of 5/31:

May checks for bills: Check#'s 12172-12192, 12204-12210, 12213-12229 and (1) ET totaling \$20866.64

May Payroll checks: Check#'s 12170, 12193-12203, 12211-12212, totaling \$8881.88

May Payroll taxes: US Treasury-\$1946.18 (ET), MI DOT (Ck 12171) \$412 totaling \$2358.18

Total Expenses: \$32106.70

June Payments as of 6/14:

June checks for bills: Check#'s 12234-12239, 12248-12279 totaling \$26435.70

June Payroll checks: Check#'s 12230-12233, 12240-12247 totaling \$8889.55

June Payroll taxes: US Treasury-\$2768.44 (ET), MI DOT \$526.13 (ET) totaling \$3294.57

Total Expenses as of 6/14: \$38619.82

A roll call vote was held and all board members approved, the motion passed to pay the May and June (partial) bills, payroll, and payroll taxes as presented.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Allen Walther, Township Clerk