

SOO TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Soo Township Hall
May 8, 2024

PRESENT

Allen Walther
Krista Broos-Adams
Jim Callon
Don Kucharczyk

ABSENT

Larry Perron (excused)

The May monthly Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jim Callon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Killips and Charles Palmer, and Pam Chipman were in attendance. Guests in attendance were Bev Eavoe and Ely Andary.

Public Comment:

-Mr. Andary asked about what the township was doing in regard to the gravel pit operations and increased truck traffic. J. Callon discussed the issue and gave an update on the townships actions. Mr. Palmer gave a brief synopsis of the ongoing drafts of a Mineral Extraction Policy.

Acceptance of Agenda:

-A Motion was made by D. Kucharczyk and supported by K. Broos-Adams to approve the Agenda as presented for the regular Board Meeting of May 8, 2024. Motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes:

-The April 10, 2024 regular meeting minutes were discussed.

-A Motion was made by J. Callon and supported by A. Walther to approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting minutes of April 10, 2024. Motion carried.

Fire Dept report (Jeff Killips):

-4 fire runs reported for the month.

-Front end work on Truck 402 completed. No date yet on when it will go in for refurbishment.

Assessors Report (Pam Chipman):

- Beginning work on 2025 assessment.
- Discussed State Tax Commission certification of BS&A software use. Form will be submitted for certification.
- Discussed the "Audit Procedures for Granting Real Property Exemption Policy".

-A Motion was made by A. Walther and supported by J. Callon to approve the Audit Procedures for Granting Real Property Exemption Policy. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report (Allen Walther):

- Election forms delivered to the County last month.
- Spring Clean-up scheduled for June 3-7. P. Chipman will get a resident list to GFL.
- Cemetery is open. Very wet, could be a few weeks before we can conduct burials. Still working on the hiring of grass cutters.
- Brought the draft FY2024/25 Payroll to the board for discussion. 3.2% (COLA) across the board. Clerk position granted additional \$1000/yr due to increased duties.

-A Motion was made by A. Walther and supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve the FY2024/25 Payroll as presented. A roll call vote was held, all voted "yes". Motion carried.

-Annual meeting to be held on June 12, 2024 at 5:30pm.

-Recommend the following budget adjustments for current FY:

-Transfer \$1500 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Salaries & Wages-Deputy Clerk (215-713).

-Transfer \$3000 from Contingency Fund (899-957) to Fire Dept-FF Stipend (336-860).

-Transfer \$1000 from Treasurer-Data Processing (253-728) to Clerk-Office Supplies (215-727)

Clerk's Report (continued):

-A Motion was made by J. Callon and supported by D. Kucharczyk to approve the budget adjustments as presented. A roll call vote was held and all voted yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Krista Broos-Adams):

-The tax account balance as of 30 April was \$104.62.

-The General Fund balance as of 30 Apr was \$581536.10.

Planning Commission Report (Jim Callon):

-Discussed Green Energy issues within the township.

-Discussed the issue of "tiny homes" & short term rentals.

-Discussed the amount of money that was brought in to the City and County from Marijuana sales.

Permit Administrator (Jim Callon):

-6 permits issued in April, 2 permits issued so far in May.

Attorney's Report (Charles Palmer):

-Discussed work on drafting of Gravel pit ordinance. Two potential draft ordinance's were given to board members to preview. The Board voted to place this topic on the agenda for public comment at the June regular board meeting. The clerk will make public posting on the township website and Facebook page.

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by K. Broos-Adams to place the topic of a "Mineral Extraction Ordinance" on the agenda for the June regular board meeting. Motion passed.

-Discussed green energy issues and recommended that Soo Twp may want to establish an ordinance to regulate these issues. Planning Commission will move forward on this subject.

-Discussed the status of all ongoing legal cases and property clean up issues within the township.

-J. Callon was called by a woman on behalf of Mr. Dave Caster of 3727 Seymour Rd. requesting for him to connect to the City of SSM water line. His well is no longer functional and he cannot afford to have a new well drilled. He feels this will be a cheaper option. Clerk will draft and send letter to city.

J. Callon made a motion and it was supported by K. Broos-Adams to send a letter to City of SSM granting authorization for Mr. Caster to move forward with the city to connect his home to the city water line. Motion passed.

-Discussed complaints received pertaining to a window tinting business on 4 Mile Rd. A letter will be sent to the individual asserting that a business of this nature is not permitted in residential neighborhoods.

-Discussed broken down vehicles on Sky Blue Lane. Letter to be sent to owner that the area needs to be cleaned up and non-operable vehicles need to be removed.

-Letter's supporting Neebish Island Ferry dispute will go out this coming week.

Supervisor's Report (Larry Perron):

-None

Payment Approvals:

D. Kucharczyk made a motion and it was supported by K. Broos-Adams to approve the payment of the April and May (up to 5/8) bills, payroll and payroll taxes as follows:

Apr Payments as of 4/30:

Apr checks for bills: Check#'s 12819-12858 and (3) ET's totaling \$52769.89

Apr Payroll checks: Check#'s 12808-12818 totaling \$7671.48

Apr Payroll taxes: US Treasury-\$3284.51 (ET on 4/15), MI DOT \$698.56 (ET on 4/08) totaling \$3983.07

Total Expenses as of 4/30: \$64424.44

May Payments as of 5/8:

May checks for bills: Check#'s 12862-12895 and (1) ET's totaling \$13240.05

May Payroll checks: Check#'s 12859-12861, 12896-12906 totaling \$8453.40

May Payroll taxes: US Treasury-\$2543.57 (ET on 5/15), MI DOT \$492.75(ET on 5/08) totaling \$3036.32

Total Expenses as of 5/8: \$24729.77

Late bill: 5/8, check 12907, City of SSM, Ambulance runs, \$5600.00.

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

A. Walther made a motion and it was supported by K. Broos-Adams to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Allen Walther, Township Clerk