

Republic Township Board

April 25, 2019

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Ulrich called the meeting to order @ 7:00pm.... All Board Members were present.

2. SALUTE TO FLAG:

3. WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve by Supervisor Ulrich with the addition of item 9I for additional Township Notary, seconded by Trustee Haslip, to approve, all in favor, motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

03/28/2019 Regular Meeting – Motion to approve by Clerk Brancheau with the correction to item 8A finish the sentence to read to facilitate walkthroughs that will be done in the near future, seconded by Trustee Haslip, all in favor, motion carried

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Casey Honeyeager

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE HASLIP**– Drove the roads over 39 miles and made a list of roads that needed immediate attention and detailed what attention they needed.
- b. **TRUSTEE STANKUS**- Nothing at this time
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing at this time
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** –Took several very educational classes at the MTA conference. Several of them were regarding assessing, others regarding Marihuana. The Fire Hall Bond is being paid off as we speak more than 10 years ahead of schedule, the check is in the mail, we will have funds left over to use to do some repairs and upgrades in the building, a new furnace and some electrical work. Also, the year end required reporting for our water and sewer bonds was sent to the USDA and their response was that no further quarterly reporting would be required.
- e. **DPW** – Nothing at this time
- f. **IOHT** – Doing a fund raiser for the Kilns. Also showed them the floor plan for the Bank Building.
- g. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – Fire Dept has received their new pagers and we have 3 new members.

- h. **PLANNING COMMISSION** – Written report submitted; a public hearing is planned for their next meeting on ordinances, also the May Meeting was moved to the third Monday in May.
- i. **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** – written report submitted/Ordinance work ongoing.
- j. **ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT** – nothing at this time
- k. **SUPERVISOR/ASSESSOR** – various meetings attended, MTA Conference attended. Continuing assessing work. Major repairs were done to the electrical in this building today.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Old Bank Building Grant**– Had pre bid meeting and will meet here Thursday @ 3:00 pm for bid meeting with interested contractors.
- b. **Sewer Project** – MJO is continuing working with UPPCO on the sewer project. Motion for pay draw Resolution by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, (Resolution attached)

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich Aye - Nay
 Treasurer Koski Aye - Nay
 Clerk Brancheau Aye - Nay
 Trustee Haslip Aye - Nay
 Trustee Stankus Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- c. **Water System**– Matt Treado from UPEA has found that we would fall in the 75% category for grant funds and will continue to work with USDA to explore available funding options.
- d. **Ordinance Review Committee** – Have submitted several completed new Ordinances. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Trustee Haslip to send to the Township Attorney for review,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich Aye - Nay
 Treasurer Koski Aye - Nay
 Clerk Brancheau Aye - Nay
 Trustee Haslip Aye - Nay
 Trustee Stankus Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- e. **Master Plan** – Resolution for Township Board to have the right to approve or reject the Master Plan or amendments to the Master Plan (Resolution attached), motion by Trustee Haslip, seconded by Treasurer Koski,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich Aye - Nay
 Treasurer Koski Aye - Nay
 Clerk Brancheau Aye - Nay
 Trustee Haslip Aye - Nay
 Trustee Stankus Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Recreational Marihuana Opt In/Opt Out**– There was a great deal of discussion, questions were asked and answered. Motion by Trustee Haslip, seconded by Treasurer Koski

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich Aye - X Nay
Treasurer Koski X Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau X Aye - Nay
Trustee Haslip X Aye - Nay
Trustee Stankus Aye - X Nay

Majority in favor, Motion is carried.

- b. Summer Help**– Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Supervisor Ulrich hire Logan Hanninen, Jay Fetters Jr., Rachel Kamminen and TailyN Raisenen to begin the first Monday after school lets out.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich X Aye - Nay
Treasurer Koski X Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau X Aye - Nay
Trustee Haslip X Aye - Nay
Trustee Stankus X Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- c. Planning Commission**– To add Samantha Suomi to the Planning Commission, motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor motion carried
- d. Use of Land M-95 Bridge** – Need to provide signed letter to the Contractors, Associated Constructors to allow them to place their equipment on Township Owned Land while repairs are being made to the M-95 Bridge. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.
- e. Sagola Township Part Time Work** – Sagola Township has asked to use one of our Water/Sewer Licensed workers part time on an as needed basis. There was discussion about whether or not this was feasible. It is a complicated issue with insurance costs, vehicle costs, worker’s compensation issues etc. Supervisor Ulrich asked the Board Members if they were opposed to them being independent contractors if they so chose to do that on their own time, Treasurer Koski stated that the Board has no control over that issue and is entirely up to the employee and not a discussion for the Board. Trustee Haslip stated that we could hire another person here to train them for them, with Sagola paying the bill. The short answer is no.
- f. MCSWMA Recycling** – They wish to go to a single stream recycling program which would force the townships to pay additional fees assessed per household. What they are asking for is \$9.00 per household. There is still no business plan in place, they have not explored grant funding. Motion by Trustee Haslip, seconded by Treasurer Koski to Opt Out of this program, all in favor, motion carried. A letter should be drafted and sent by the Supervisor.

- g. Spring Clean Up** – Are we going to offer a free day as in the past? Treasurer Koski said that if we do it should wait until the fall when we have the chance to remove the very large metal pile that is currently there. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to ask the Office Manager to send out requests for bids on the scrap metal pile to get that taken care of as quickly as possible, seconded by Trustee Haslip, all in favor motion carried.
- h. Assessor Reporting Requirements** – The Treasurer sent out an email regarding these requirements and also provided handouts to all Board Members that were received from the classes attended at the MTA Conference. These outline exactly what the reporting requirements are and what Board Members should be expecting from their assessors, the Treasurer wishes to have these placed in the Policy and Procedures Manual to make them permanent requirements. These include completed AMAR Review Sheet, an ECF Analysis (Economic Factors), and the Land Value Analysis. By 2021 the Assessors Office will be much more transparent (open to the public), these must be placed on the website and many other changes. Assessor Ulrich asked the Treasurer if she was aware of how complex the AMAR Review sheet is, she replied in the affirmative, especially if the role is “out of whack” and pointed out that with the concerns that the Equalization Director spoke about in the Mining Journal that it is more imperative than ever to have accountability. Treasurer Koski reminded the Board that it is ultimately the Board who is held responsible for the Assessors work. Assessor Ulrich asked who besides the Board would be looking at these reports. The Treasurer replied that it would be public knowledge. It would be FOIAable. It is public record; the citizenry has a right to this information and should have the chance to become more educated as to how it all works. There were more than 50 people at this year’s Board of Review, the costs were over \$4000.00, how do we make up that shortfall? The Board of Review worked 38 hours in the month of March alone, it is concerning. Assessor Ulrich asked if the Land Value Analysis was the Land Value Maps, The Treasurer replied she wasn’t certain, as she is learning too, she stated that he should know that, Clerk Brancheau pointed out that he is the Assessor. Assessor Ulrich asked Mr. Gary Johnson who was in the audience and the former Assessor what he knew. Mr. Johnson stated that these are tables created from the sales in the area. They used to have these in BS&A, he was uncertain if that was still available. The Land Value Map is simply a compilation of everything in there. Trustee Stankus asked about the Field Analysis Report that is available on BS&A that can be printed every month. Treasurer Koski talked about this very subject has been discussed in the class that Assessors go out and do all of their field work and then don’t enter anything until months later and is not recommended. Assessor Ulrich stated that it is what he does so he can get his field work done during better weather. Trustee Stankus asked how much of a burden would that put on him, the assessor? Assessor Ulrich stated that it would to a certain extent as it would limit his time in the field during the warmer months. Treasurer Koski said that if you don’t do any data entry that month then we don’t get a report, if you did do data entry then we get a report, it’s that simple. Motion by Treasurer Koski to implement these changes, an annual report to include those items previously stated and a monthly report that

is available from the BS&A software and that these requirements be placed in the Policy and Procedures Manual, she stated she would wave the AMAR that she had initially asked for to be presented next month and allow it to be done next April, Trustee Stankus stated that the Assessor gave an oral report every month and it would be in the minutes, Treasurer Koski states she wants a written report, Clerk Brancheau stated that she had been asking for written reports for a long time and never received one, Trustee Stankus asked for Assessor Ulrich's input, Assessor Ulrich stated he had no problem with the monthly report. The motion was then seconded by Clerk Brancheau

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Haslip **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- i. **Additional Township Notary** – Supervisor Ulrich stated that with the Credit Union's imminent closure there would be fewer notaries available for township residents. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to authorize the Office Manager to become a notary, seconded by Treasurer Koski

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Haslip **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

10. **PAYMENT OF BILLS** – Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to pay bills as presented

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Haslip **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Frank Haslip
James Brennan
Casey Honeyeager
Carol Nicholas
David Grace

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Trustee Stankus to adjourn the meeting @ 8:35 pm, all in favor, motion carried.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk

Date

Approved