

Final Minutes for February 24, 2011 of the Republic Township Board regular meeting.
Minutes are subject to review and approval by the Township Board.
Board Members present: Gary, Faye, Steve by Skype, Tom and Paula

1. Called to Order by the Supervisor at 7:00 P.M.
2. Salute to the Flag was given.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved after a motion by Faye seconded by Tom with the additions of 7D DPW Work Force, 8D LSCP Presentation to be delayed, 9G Minutes from other Boards, 9H Civil Infraction Ordinance Enforcement Officer appointed. All were in favor to accept the Agenda.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 20, 2010 Regular Board Meeting, Faye noted 7C was incorrect and should be changed to Steve Powers. 7F should note that Jim Brennan should be added. February 7, 2010 Special Election meeting minutes were approved. February 15, 2010 special meeting minutes were approved. Faye made the motion and Paula supported. Motion carried
5. PAYMENT OF BILLS: Bills were approved as presented. Faye motioned and supported by Tom. Motion carried
6. PUBLIC COMMENT: A comment was made about chlorine in the water. Gary said he would inform DPW. A comment was made about the Wisconsin Teachers social issue, added to 9I. Bill DeGenaro wanted an item added to new business to elect a commission to address the Governor's financial stance on the state's budget and the impact on local government, item 9J to be added to the Agenda.
7. REPORTS:
 - A. TRUSTEE STEVE reported he went to a conference in respects to entrepreneurial-ship in your township and the barriers associated with government. Steve also reported on revenue sharing issues within the current legislature.
 - B. TRUSTEE TOM reported that the Planning Commission is working on ordinance organization and a zoning map by lots for ease of use.
 - C. CLERK/TREASURER: Treasurer commented on a conference she attended to encourage school children to become more involved in Township Government and would like Board Members to be actively involved as well.

- D. DPW/Fire/Ambulance: Paula requested that a 4th DPW crew member be hired for the purpose of; on-call and part-time basis to fulfill current understaffed workforce in the event of vacations, sick time, emergencies, etc. A notice will be posted at the Township Hall. Faye made the motion to hire this individual, supported by Paula. Motion carried. Gary reported that the #1 Fire Truck needs the instrument cluster replaced. Gary noted that this will happen after April 1st. Gary also reported that he had heard Kennecott is very interested in a west end Ambulance service situated near M-95. Gary notified Kennecott that our Township would be interested in working together to provide service. Gary also spoke with a chairman of the current Governor's budget administration regarding a credit for consolidation of services and believes we would qualify for this credit of revenue sharing. It may be an opportunity for some of our EMT to work fulltime. At this point this issue is in the information and preliminary data gathering stage. Paula reported that Life-Quest has all the recent Ambulance runs and we are waiting to see what they can do for us.
- E. WEB TECH: Fred's work is and has been greatly appreciated and will be missed considerably. Gary stated Nathan Lyle might be an alternative solution.
- F. ASSESSING/SUPERVISOR reported the current values of properties increased by 7% in our area. Gary presented a report on the values of the different zoning classifications and stated it would be updated when his tax roll is returned by Marquette County. Gary also informed the board that a special meeting with the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission and Republic Township Board is set for March 8, 2011, at 7 p.m.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. WATER LINE GRANT: There are no new developments with the Grant however UPEA presented a bill in the amount of \$1328.00. When the Grant does go into effect the funds will be withdrawn for these charges from Grant monies. Faye made the motion to pay the bill, supported by Paula. Motion carried. Gary stated that he wanted the board to authorize the supervisor to proceed/sign the deed for the easement. Steve made the motion, supported by Faye. Paula requested that Faye's name be added to the final deed documents for review before funds are disbursed by Faye. Steve amended the motion to include Faye and Gary's names on the deed for final signature. Motion carried.
- B. LO/EVERGREEN ST. SEWER LINE: This project will start in the spring and be completed before the end of summer.
- C. ALLEY ABANDONMENT: Gary's contacts have not gotten back with him and this is the last time it will be on the Agenda.

- D. LSCP PRESENTATION: John Jilbert requested that this presentation be put on hold until next month. Gary also reported that the CCI wetlands property would possibly be acquired by Republic Township funded 100% by grant monies from the Michigan DNR (Land Acquisition Bank), funds may also be available for upgrades throughout the wetlands for recreation. LSCP will also write a letter of support to Marquette County Commissioners for the proposed TIFA expansion schedule.
- E. VOTE FROM PUBLIC HEARING: Let it be known that a Public Hearing was in fact held on February 24, 2011 to close Grant #MSC206035-ICE.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Land Bank request for utility exemption: Ann Giroux from the Marquette County Land Bank Authority gave a presentation on the utility assessments added to delinquent taxes and the affect of non-collectable assessments that are added to delinquent taxes. Paula made the motion so Faye could write off the uncollectible sewer assessment from property number 52-12-500-035-00. Supported by Tom. Motion carried.
- B. Ann also gave a presentation on an option available through BS & A software to provide on-line access for taxpayers to access property tax information via internet. Other Townships in the county are using this and charging \$2.00 per parcel fee for usage. This would also alleviate phone calls for "look-ups" that are time consuming for the Treasurer, Clerk and respective deputies. Other townships in the region have utilized this service.
- C. TIFA ISSUES: Paula distributed WRIA By-Laws and wanted the Board to be aware of what role the Republic Township Board has in the Michigamme River Basin Water Resources Improvement Authority namely the approval of the MRBWRIA budget. Paula also presented Freedom of Information Requests to Gary and Tom for the following; various months missing minutes from 2010, DNR permits, facts, and findings for application fess paid on various dates, correspondence to or from board members to or from Roger Crimmins and/or his associated companies, UPPCO supporting documentation for the check issued on 10/12/10 in the amount of \$1678.78. Paula stated that the costs incurred by the MRBWRIA to date total \$18708.00. Paula is concerned that these costs should not have happened before a budget has been approved by both boards. Paula stated that the General Fund cannot support this spending. Gary stated that a budget would be forthcoming. Gary said that no monies will be spent without a budget in the future. Gary also stated that Ms. Todd will remain as secretary on the MRBWRIA. Paula made a motion to have all Board Minutes (Planning Commission and MRBWRIA) taped, typed or emailed before their next respective meetings and forwarded to the Clerk's office. Gary motioned for support. The board approved unanimously. Motion carried.

- D. TIFA EXPANSION SCHEDULE: Gary motioned that the Board hold a public hearing date for the expansion schedule of MRBWRIA which is set for March 24, 2011 at 6:00. Supported by Steve. Motion carried. Gary stated that the wait period is 60 days to pass the ordinance which would be May 23, 2011. Then the State Tax commissioner has 45 days to appeal.
- E. SEWER GATE VALVE REPLACEMENT: Gary presented UPEA's proposal for valve replacement. UPEA will put together the specs, bid letting and construction oversight if necessary. If this project is not underway than we will have to pump 4-5 million gallons of sewage every 6 months to Ishpeming. Phase 1 & Phase 2 will cost between \$25,000 – 30,000. Grants may be available. Possible grant matching may cost the Township 33%. Gary motioned the board to proceed with this project with UPEA's support on Phase I. Supported by Paula. Motion carried.
- F. COUNTY ROAD 595 INFORMATION: Tom made a motion to have Gary write a letter of support for the proposed corridor for Kennecott's proposed transportation route. Supported by Faye. Motion carried.
- G. MINUTES FROM OTHER BOARDS: Addressed in item 9C.
- H. CIVIL INFRACTION ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: CUPPAD came across an ordinance where as there was no officer mentioned. Gary motioned that Bill DeGenaro should be the appointed officer for this ordinance. Supported by Paula. Motion carried.
- I. WISCONSIN TEACHERS ISSUE: Harry Miron wanted a motion in support of the teacher's union in Wisconsin. The board felt that is was a social issue and the motion was unsupported.
- J. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TO BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE & INNOVATIVE WITHING TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT: Bill DeGenaro proposed that a committee be formed to collaborate and form ideas to actively pursue incentives from the State's programs currently being proposed. Gary recommended Faye and Paula be appointed to this committee, and Paula asked that Bill DeGenaro be included in this committee. Motioned by Gary, supported by Paula. Motion carried.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Stone
Republic Township Clerk