

# Republic Township Board

## February 27, 2014

### Regular Meeting Minutes

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**2. SALUTE TO FLAG:**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Trustee Feldhusen made the motion to approve the agenda with the exclusion of 9B ZBA, seconded by Trustee Knapp, all in favor, motion carried.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes for January 23, 2014 – Motion by Clerk Brancheau, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, all in favor, motion carried. Minutes for February 5, 2014 special meeting, motion by Trustee Feldhusen, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, all in favor, motion carried, and minutes for February 24, 2014 emergency meeting, motion by Trustee Knapp and seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

**5. PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Treasurer Koski made the motion to pay the bills, Clerk Brancheau seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Faye Mattila**  
**Tom Stankus**

**7. REPORTS:**

- a. **TRUSTEE KNAPP** – Nothing at this time
- b. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**- Nothing at this time
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing at this time
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – Speech
- e. **DPW/ Fire & Ambulance** – For DPW, Supervisor Johnson gave a report on the ongoing unprecedented problems with water line freezes and water line breaks. To date we have spent \$19,936.10 to keep the water flowing. We are doing everything we can to deal with this situation. The Governor has declared a State of Emergency; we have given all this info to Marquette County to forward to the State to help qualify for FEMA assistance. If you have a water meter pit, please leave your water running. We cannot thaw those out because they are plastic, not metal.
- f. **RECYCLING** - Marquette County Solid Waste never thought we would become so involved in recycling. The trailers we now use were not designed for how we are using them. They have suggested we get a much larger roll off bin to handle

our recyclables. We will work on coming up with a long term solution this coming summer. For now we need to stop the recycling as it is costing us too much money.

- g. **ASSESSOR** – Nothing at this time
- h. **SUPERVISOR** – Nothing at this time

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. **Water Line Grant** - In doing their final accounting, Lindberg realized that there were some invoices they neglected to bill us for. So we have a resolution here to get them paid. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to pay these final bills. **Roll call vote 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.** We are hoping to have some additional funds that we can use to get the 5<sup>th</sup> street water line fixed and some road work on 601.
- b. **School Lake/ Munson Park/ Recreation**- Nothing
- c. **Furnace Room Window Replacement** – tabled until weather warms.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Public Comment Rules**– The Republic Township Board refers to the Attorney General’s guidelines for Open Meetings Act issues. The Attorney General’s handbook authorizes the public body to adopt a rule imposing individual time limits for members of the public addressing the public body.

**Therefore the Township Board is requested to adopt the following rule and for it to become effective immediately:**

**The Republic Township Board does hereby continue its policy of allowing a first public comment on the agenda immediately after the payment of bills. Individuals shall be allowed up to three minutes of public comment, on agenda items only, with a total time limit of 15 minutes.**

**Further during the second public comment which is at the end of the meeting, the Republic Township Board limits individuals to three minutes per person to address the public body.**

Motion by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. **ZBA & Planning Commission:** Exclude.
- c. **Smith Mountain Foundation** – The Board of Directors of Smith Mountain Foundation have voted to provide Republic Township with a \$2,500 grant in order to purchase the “Leader Alert System”. This system would allow the Township to notify the citizens at large immediately in real time about any urgent or emergency information. This grant would cover the purchase of the system and the first year’s subscription. Motion by Trustee Feldhusen, seconded by Treasurer Koski to accept this grant and put the system in motion. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. **Emergency Management Coordinator** – We need a new Emergency Management Coordinator, set up a series of order as to how it should be handled in the future. Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, in that order, motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor motion carried.
- e. **Budget & Policy Changes** – At the budget workshop on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Board by consensus agreed to the following changes which I floated by Mike Greutz, who was very happy to hear them. Therefore:

The supervisor is requesting a second to his Resolution for the following:

Whereas, it is the intention of Republic Township to modify its budget to more accurately reflect the actual costs of services within each department, and;

Whereas Republic Township uses Cost Center budgeting, and;

Whereas, the Township auditor has reviewed and approved additional modifications to the Township’s method of tracking and reporting expenses within the Cost Centers;

Be It Therefore Resolved:

- The Township budget shall be adjusted so that Cost shall follow benefit. Charges for services shall be assigned to the appropriate affected Department’s line item
- Effective April 1, 2014, the Office Manager’s duties shall include secretarial assistance to the Ambulance Department.
- Effective April 1, 2014, the Office Manager’s hours shall be 9 to 5, Monday thru Friday. The Office Manager’s pay for time worked shall be apportioned on a percentage basis to the areas of service provided, alphabetically listed as Ambulance Department, thru Zoning Department.
- Sewer Department rates shall remain the same, pending a study by the Engineering firm in preparation for submission of the Sewer system repair grant.
- Solid Waste Department rates shall remain the same, pending a study on the financial impact of the recycling program.
- Water department rates will be reviewed later this year.

Resolution supported by: Treasurer Koski \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call vote Ayes 5 Nays 0

- f. **IOHTA Grant**– The IOHTA committee approved up to a \$25,000 match grant for any or all of the 6 buildings along the trail. Our bank building being one of them. Our building needs wiring & plumbing, they suggested we use this as leverage for other grants in order to get the funds needed to completely redo the building as opposed to patch work. Called Bill Sanders, he has the numbers of most of what is needed. He believes we can get the necessary info in time to get the grant in by April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will get special points for our building as it is the trailhead.

- g. **Art Council** - The Arts Council will be holding its first annual arts festival this year. Supervisor Johnson is requesting that the board grant them the same privileges for the use of Munson Park/Campground as provided to the Sportsman's Club for fishing Derby. Motion made by Trustee Feldhusen, seconded by Treasurer Koski, **roll call vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion carried.**
- h. **Planning Commission/ZBA opening** - Post for the Planning Commission opening, Trustee Knapp shall be on the Planning Commission as the Board representative with Trustee Feldhusen as the alternate. This enables us to utilize Trustee Knapp's expertise while we have it. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen, all in favor, motion carried.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**James Brennan  
Tom Stankus  
Liz Hargas  
Faye Mattila  
Tammy Mattson  
Jon Ison**

**Carol Nicholas  
Kim Isaacson  
Sandy Travis  
Tom Fitzpatrick  
Marilyn Helmila  
Tammy Kaminen**

**Laura Maze  
Tina Anthony**

**11. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting Adjourned by Supervisor Johnson @ 8:10pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

---

Marilyn, Brancheau, Clerk

Date