

Republic Township Board

January 23, 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, seconded by Treasurer Koski with the addition of item 9G/Chicken Coop, all in favor, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for December 19, 2013 – Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried. Minutes for January 7 budget workshop, motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Trustee Feldhusen made the motion to pay the bills, Supervisor Johnson seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Brennan

Carol Kellow – wants minutes from November changed to cross her name from the discussion of the letter from Mr. Thall, as he did not technically name her in his letter.

Marilyn Helmila

7. REPORTS:

- a. TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN** – Community Services had a very successful fund raising drive and the Christmas Baskets for the 80 and older were very nicely done and very much appreciated by the recipients. So thank you to the community.
- b. CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing
- c. TREASURER KOSKI** – Nothing
- d. DPW/ Fire & Ambulance** – will be discussed at the end of the meeting
- e. ASSESSOR** – There is a brand new personal property exemption for businesses that exempts the first \$40,000 of property. I have sent forms to all of the businesses here and have already had two ask for assistance in filling it out. This exemption helps the smaller businesses, especially those here. The sale study is in and the assessment role is almost back to where it should be, which I am pleased with.

- f. **SUPERVISOR** – The Pine street water line has been repaired. During the time it was broken the water service required three pumps to keep up with the demand. We have since found out that in this very spot where we have had several breakages in the past, the line itself was not set on compacted dirt as it should have been, it was laid on to 2X4's instead. Had we known this we could have made this part of the grant, but we didn't know so it will have to be dealt with in future grants. But it is repaired now, the pumps have caught back up and the filtration is back on line.
- 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- a. **Water Line Grant** – Eric Waara is here for his last meeting with us as he begins his new job with the City of Houghton on Feb 2, and to introduce the man who will take his place. His name is Jim Koskiniemi. Eric has had a meeting with Lindberg and others to work out the last few problems with the water line grant. There have been changes in what was at first proposed compared to what was actually done, so a change and balance order for the final payments to some of the contractors is here to be voted on and sent to the USDA. There was discussion between Eric and some of the audience members to clarify some of the fine points. Since Jim will now be taking over, he will tell us what will be passed to Jim to finish off. Eric discussed the water meters and how the system will help the Township set up a proper billing system. The Township needs a year's worth of data from the meters in order to do that so that the billing will be fairer in the future because people will be paying for what they use. **Motion for change order made Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to approve; Roll Call Vote, 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Resolution for \$63,287.92 Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Supervisor Johnson; Roll Call Vote 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.**
 - b. **School Lake/ Munson Park/ Recreation-** Nothing
 - c. **Furnace Room Window Replacement** – Dave Holsworth called to say that at this time it is too cold to install the new furnace room window, we will need to wait until it is warmer.
 - d. **ZBA Membership** – Need a Board Member on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Treasurer Koski volunteered, Clerk Brancheau made the motion, supported by Supervisor Johnson, all in favor, motion carried.
 - e. **Fluoride Grant** – the Grant is available to basically cover the expenses of starting this process, but in light of the information brought to the Board's attention and comments made by Jim Rice of DEQ, the Board should discuss this further before moving on with the grant.
- 9. NEW BUSINESS:**
- a. **Sportsman's Club Derby**– They will have the beer tent and will comply with liquor licenses, free camping from the Sunday before the Derby until the Tuesday after the Derby, the fireworks and half of the Sheriff's fee as usual. Also the usual \$650.00 that the Township pays to the Sportsman's Club to maintain the camping grounds including Moose Rapids. Also the Township should be named as an additional insured on the insurance policy held by the Sportsman's club. Motion made by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to approve this, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. **Water Fee Waiver:** Larry Born purchased Jeff Huls' old place, the house is completely stripped. Mr. Born has asked for a one year construction waiver from the Utility billing to try to get the house in order, if he does not he agrees to start paying after one year. Motion by Trustee Feldhusen, supported by Treasurer Koski to allow one year waiver, all in favor, motion carried
- c. **Zoning Administrator** – Dan Mitchell has applied for the opening of Zoning Administrator. Supervisor Johnson recommends to hire Dan Mitchell, but to hold off until February 11, to allow Dan to hold one last Planning Commission meeting on the 10th and to give us extra time to find someone to fill these other empty Board spaces. We are having trouble finding people to hold these jobs. For example, the office job we posted a notice to get applications in and almost no one has applied after so many making so much noise at Board meetings about not posting jobs. Motion made by Supervisor Johnson to make the hire, supported by Trustee Feldhusen, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Wage Resolution** – Annual raise in pay for hourly employees, Supervisor Johnson made the motion to give the raise, supported by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.
- e. **Closed Session** – Motion by Treasurer Koski, supported by Trustee Feldhusen to go into closed session to have a discussion with the attorney. **Roll Call Vote, 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.** Motion to come out of closed session made by Treasurer Koski, supported by Trustee Feldhusen. **Roll Call vote 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.** Because the roll call votes were not done prior to going into closed session, the Township is entitled to a “do-over” under Township Law to rectify a mistake, therefore the roll call votes were taken after coming back from closed session
- f. **Actions from Closed Session**– Motion to enter into minutes made by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau. After discussion with the Township attorney, the following resolution will now be entered into the minutes:

The Board clarifies its December 19, 2013 resolution waiving the Private Investigator's (PI) privilege to indicate that the intent of the Board was to waive the attorney-client privilege only as to those documents then in the actual possession of the Board as of that date. It was not the intent of the Board to waive the privilege as to the final written report of the Private Investigator which had already been turned over to the Prosecutor for his investigative purposes and no copy of which was in the possession of the Township or used by the Board relative to any decision making. Further it was not the intent of the Board to waive the PI privilege as to any work product of the PI which had never been turned over to the Township and which was not relied upon by the Township relative to its decision making. Finally it was not the intent of the Board to waive the privilege as to any documents or information which might come into existence or the possession of the Township in the future, and the Board expressly reserves the right to assert or re-assert such privilege in the future.

The Appeal of Mr. Nannestad as to “missing pages from the incomplete documents”, “missing interviews”, and copies of the recordings for all of the interviews” is denied, for the reason that such documents were not in the possession of the Township and are protected by the PI privilege, MCAL 338.840, or the PI work product privilege.

As to the Appeal relating to “certain minutes” requested by Nannestad, which relate to the retention of the PI, the Appeal is denied because all copies of all minutes relating to the retention of the PI have already been provided and no other minutes exist in such respect, under that name or any other name.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 AYES
 0 NAYS**

- g. Chicken Coop** – Liz Hangas spoke about how things are going at the Chicken Coop. She and all the folks are doing well there, and she felt it imperative to dispel the rumor that they are selling dope out the back door, that is completely untrue! They have 32 people working there now, their Christmas season was very successful, and the response has been excellent. There are several issues that need to be worked out between them and the Board such as water heater, the floors etc. They are willing to make room for the Welcome center and will staff it if needed. And would like to make changes to the old UP Architects sign that is in the back of the store to use it for the benefit of all of downtown.
- h. EMS Coordinator Pay** – Don Tapio told us that he spends 600 – 800 hours a year to do this job. (There were 7 EMS Personnel Present). He understands the disappointment of the residents that they are unable to respond very much in the evenings because most of them work in the evenings. He is also very appreciative of all the assistance he has gotten from Nancy Currie during this last year to help with all of those hours. Don is hoping that this position could somehow become more of a salaried position because of the time involved between the regulations and inspections etc. Treasurer Koski asked that the EMS, please return the Budget worksheets with a priorities list so the Board can try to appropriate funds accordingly.
- i. Special Board meetings** – coming in February there will be two special board meetings. The first on the 10th of February @ 10:00 AM to appoint a new board member and the second on the 11th of February @ 9:30am for a budget work session.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Brennan – re: recreation funds/ball field discussion. Motion made by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Supervisor Johnson to purchase practice balls for the ball field from recreation funds donated for the ball park.

Tom Stankus

Hailie Dyer

Faye Mattila

Jesse Onkalo

Jon Ison

11. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned by Supervisor Johnson @ 9:10pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn, Brancheau, Clerk

Date