

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All board members were present.

2. SALUTE TO FLAG

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Treasurer Tina support by Clerk Marilyn to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Treasurer Tina support by Trustee Tom to approve the minutes dated August 20, 2013. Motion carried.

A motion by Trustee Carol support by Treasurer Tina to approve the minutes dated August 28, 2013. Motion carried.

A motion by Trustee Tom support by Trustee Kellow to approve the minutes dated September 16, 2013. Motion carried.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

A motion by Treasurer Tina support by Trustee Tom to approve the payment of bills.
4 AYES - 1 NAY (Trustee Kellow) Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Shepeard
Tammy Mattson
Hilary Venn
Jessie Onkalo

7. REPORTS:

- A. Trustee Carol – Nothing
- B. Trustee Tom – Planning Commission is going to have a township clean-up for items that have to be brought to the transfer station on October 12, 2013.
- C. Clerk Marilyn – Attended an MTA Budget Training Conference in Marquette on August 29, 2013. Very informational.
- D. Treasurer Tina – Attended an MTA Budget Training Conference in Marquette on August 29, 2013. A lot of information was given especially to new township officials. Summer tax collection ended Sept. 16th.
- E. DPW/FIRE/AMB. – Nothing to report
- F. Assessing/Sup. – Forgot to write up fluoridation resolution, will do for the next meeting.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Water Line Grant
Eric Waara. UPEA was here to update the residents of Republic Township the completion of the water project. There were many questions and he did his best to answer all of them.
Invoices – There is one change order totaling \$5,542.30 which the board has to approve. Motion by Treasurer Tina support by Clerk Marilyn to approve the change order as presented. Motion carried.
A motion by Treasurer Tina support by Clerk Marilyn to approve the payment resolution which is to be paid for by drawdown of funds from Rural Development through the Republic Water Construction Account for \$187,480.18.

ROLL CALL VOTE - 5 AYES - 0 NAYS Motion carried.

- B. School Lake/Munson Park Project – The grant has sent to the DNR. The recreation committee can get free beach sand from Bob Bengtson. Niemi Excavating will deliver the sand for \$50.00 a load.
- C. Oasis Sale – The building should be winterized since we haven't received any offers. Supervisor Gary will talk to Todd Rankinen, Realtor about lowering the price. The board agreed to remove this item from the agenda until it has some activity.
- D. Flaska Parcel – The property owner is questioning the amount of land involved. Gary has to walk the property with Bob LaForge to get the dump GIS dimensions then have the surveyor draw it up.
- E. Heating & Water Tank Work – Supervisor Johnson will put this job out on bids. Bids must be in by 1:00 p.m. on October 15, 2013.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Employee Insurance Resolution –

WHEREAS, the Republic Township Board has provided full coverage Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance to all full time employees; and,

WHEREAS: continual premium increases for insurance which also now include a 8% federal tax on all insurance premiums have driven the yearly fee to an unsustainable level; and

WHEREAS: the Township Board regretfully has to eliminate the health insurance benefit which has been provided to full time employees; and

WHEREAS: the Township Board wishes to ensure the full time employees receive a controlled transition to the Universal Health Care system:

Be it therefore resolved that all full time employees or employees hired that are considered full time staff, that were hired prior to December 31, 2012, shall receive Simply Blue Health insurance coverage, for the calendar year of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Said employees shall also receive guidance in the transition from township health insurance coverage to the Universal Health Care system during the year 2014; and,

Be it further resolved that all full time employees or employees that are considered full time staff that were hired on or after January 1, 2013 shall not be provided health insurance by Republic Township. Said employee(s) shall receive guidance to the Universal Health Care System prior to December 31, 2013 if the employee(s) so choose; and

Be it further resolved that: effective January 1, 2015 Republic Township shall no longer provide health insurance to any township employee.

A motion by Treasurer Tina support by Clerk Marilyn to approve the employee insurance resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE - 5 AYES - 0 NAYS Motion carried.

B. MTA Conference Attendance – The MTA conference will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort, Acme Township on January 28 – 31, 2014. The supervisor, clerk and treasurer will be attending. Motion by Treasurer Tina support by Clerk Marilyn to approve board members attendance at the conference. Motion carried.

C. Dam Gates – The dam gates will be open the first week in October, 2013.

- D. Cooperation Agreement for Recreational Properties – Jim Brennan attended a school board meeting and got their input on the township and the school sharing recreational availability by both parties. A motion by Trustee Tom support by Treasurer Tina share township and school recreational activities with a legal agreement. Motion carried.
- E. Mail Policy – A motion by Treasurer Tina support by Trustee Carol to approve the following Resolution:

MAIL HANDLING RESOLUTION:

Whereas; Republic Township has had a restrictive mail policy, where mail can only be opened by the addressed individual; and,

Whereas: This policy has shown to cause improper response times to legal activities; and,

Whereas: it is Republic Township's intention to provide proper service at all times;

Then be it therefore resolved: that mail addressed to either the Ordinance Enforcement Officer, or the Zoning Administrator shall be date stamped upon receipt. Mail not removed from the mail receptacle within three days shall be opened by the Township Clerk or the Township Supervisor, for action if needed. Said mail shall be delivered to the Ordinance Enforcement Officer, or the Zoning Administrator as soon as possible, afterwards, by the elected official that opened the particular piece of mail.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 AYES - 0 NAYS Motion carried.

- F. Window Repair, Furnace room - The engineering firm has recommended we replace the window in the furnace room with glass block to retain more heat. The Mudmen Masonry Co. has projected the labor cost between \$800 and \$900. A motion by Trustee Carol support by Supervisor Gary to approve hiring Mudmen Masonry to do the job. Motion carried.
- G. Budget Amendments – The budget amendments have been given to the board from Mike Grentz, Auditor and are ready to put in. A motion by Clerk Marilyn support by Treasurer Tina to approve the budget Amendments.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 AYES - 0 NAYS Motion carried.


- H. Chicken Coop – The electrical system at the old bank building does not meet code and they are willing to split the cost of having it upgraded with the township. Motion by Treasurer Tina support by Trustee Carol to have an electrical engineer look over the job and give us an actual price. Motion carried.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Helmila
Keith Perry
Laura Maze
Jim Brennan
Fred Nannestad

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.


Marilyn Brancheau
Clerk