

Republic Township Board

December 19, 2013

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 Clerk Brancheau with the addition of item 9K/snow plowing, all in favor, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes for November 21, 2013 need to be corrected to reflect the correct wording under Assessor Report to say that "Gary Johnson and Republic Township could be sued regarding the Chief Lake Wilderness Camp because of information provided by Carol Kellow". Treasurer Koski made the motion to approve the minutes with the changes, supported by Trustee Feldhusen, all in favor, motion carried. The minutes for the December 3, 2013 meeting should be corrected to reflect that the resolution passed in that workshop cannot be done in a workshop, remove from minutes, Clerk Brancheau made the motion to approve, supported by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Trustee Feldhusen made the motion to pay the bills, Treasurer Koski seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Faye Mattila
Jim Brennan

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE KELLOW** – St. Vincent De Paul was able to provide Christmas gifts to 62 children and many more adults through the generosity of many donations from private individuals. Everyone made pillow cases and all got a new pillow. And the Christmas baskets were given out on the 13th.
- b. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN** – Community Services distributed their 80 & older baskets today. There are many activities that people need to be aware of and become involved in: The dinner for those 75 & older at the VFW, the Band Concert at the school. Also, the Phone at the EMS Hall is still out, we have the part to fix it, let's get it fixed.
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing

- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – Will be working on Monday December 30th from 9-5 to collect taxes per State statute, and everyone, Merry Christmas
- e. **DPW/ Fire & Ambulance** – Nothing
- f. **ASSESSOR** – Nothing
- g. **SUPERVISOR** – The County Road Commission has approved the emergency snow plow waiver for Mrs. Baumann on Fence River Road. Eric Waara has been hired at the Houghton City Manager and we will be assigned to a new Engineer. Also Steve Koski made it through his first interview and is one of 3 finalists for a job at a legal firm specializing in Township representation, something that Steve has had a great deal of experience with having been on our Board. He should get notification soon. Terry Knapp will officially be finished as Zoning Administrator at the end of the month, anyone who is interested, please let the office know by handing in a written request to be considered

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Water Line Grant** – The Water grant is for the most part finished, we are under the grant amounts. There are a few small discrepancies with some of the figures with UPEA and a meeting has been requested about the water line where the insulation was broken, they repaired it, but we still got a frozen water line out of it, and we have to sit down on that one.
- b. **School Lake/ Munson Park/ Recreation-** we received notification that the grant has been approved for \$172,200 to build the campground, we are very grateful to Dan Mitchell and many others, the score had been raised to the point we were number 10 on the list and we did get funded. It speaks to the community that we were able to get the additional requirements that quickly. Tom Feldhusen mentioned that the Recreation Committee did a lot of work also.
- c. **Metal Pile Bids** – Supervisor Johnson asked that the bids be delayed on the metal piles until spring, the piles got covered in snow so pictures could not be taken. Trustee Kellow made the motion to delay, support by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Auditorium Heaters** – We finally have a set of heaters that work. For those that questioned why they were replaced, it was because the electrician could no longer get parts for the old heaters because they were obsolete. This new system also has constant water circulation that will prevent freezing lines. This also has many auto settings to prevent the system from running when it isn't necessary
- e. **Furnace Room window replacement** – Dave Holsworth called to say that the glass block had been ordered and our crew will pick them up when they come in to replace the old window in the furnace room.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Planning Commission openings** – These positions are filled by the Supervisor with the agreement of the Board. Three names are in for consideration, Tom Fitzpatrick, John Kraft and Tom Sandblom. Supervisor nominated Tom F, and John K. supported by Clerk Brancheau to put the motion to the floor. John Kraft has experience in grant writing and would be very good for the commission. All

in favor, motion carried. Trustee Feldhusen would like a letter commending Tom Sandblom for all of the effort he has given to the Township in this capacity

- b. Board Openings:** Letter of resignation from Tom Fitzpatrick for Board of Review, Supervisor Johnson would like to nominate Tammy Kaminen, the current alternate to take his place. Seconded by Trustee Feldhusen, all in favor, motion carried.
- c. TIFA Membership** – It was becoming difficult to determine who still had what amount of time left in their term, Chuck Hurst is up next year, Laura Maze, appointed February 2013, Tina Anthony and Todd Rankinen appointed April, 2013. The other two active members John Jilbert and Norine Maki, Supervisor Johnson is asking the Board to renew their terms and appoint Tom Fitzpatrick as an alternate, Supervisor Johnson made the motion. There was discussion between Supervisor Johnson and Jim Brennan as to the authority of the Board to make these appointments. The TIFA Board does not have the authority to set their own members. Supervisor Johnson asked the Board to make these approvals as a technicality in the event there is no problem with the Township Board doing so. Treasurer Koski made the motion, supported by Trustee Feldhusen on the technicality. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. Fluoride Addition** – Need Board authorization to send the Fluoride equipment purchases out for bids, as these bids have to go with the application, we also have to have a resolution for support. Treasurer Koski made the motion to go out for bids, supported by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried
- e. Resolution of support** – Resolution of support for Fluoridation, Trustee Feldhusen made the motion, supported by Treasurer Koski, **Roll Call Vote, 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.**
- f. Authorization to apply for Fluoridation Grant** – The cost is looking to be in the area of \$25,000 to \$29,000, with the Grant being \$25,000 based on what we were told, Treasurer Koski made the motion, supported by Supervisor Johnson, all in favor, motion carried.
- g. Re-Affirm Resolution** – Direct the Clerk to retype the Resolution to make the changes to the water billing effective January 1, 2014. The Resolution reads as follows: The Township Board Resolves to amend the rate structure Addendum beginning January 1, 2014 to include having the water maintenance fee on all structures with the exceptions listed below and to make the listed changes to the current rate structure for structures not currently being billed. Also all water customers will receive a notice that all bills will go to the owners of the property, not the tenants. Clerk Brancheau made the motion to approve the resolution, supported by Trustee Feldhusen. **Roll Call Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.**

SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS:

- Vacant Lots – No charge
- Vandalized Pipes – No charge
- Turn On/Turn Off Charges – Only delinquent accounts
- Churches – Will be charged
- Non-Profits – Will be charged
- Rentals- Will be put in Owner's Name

- h. Cameras** – Range Telecommunications will install a camera and a microphone in the hall to record the meetings that could be written to disk for \$450.00, and \$2500.00 for the EMS building for the exterior doors. Trustee Feldhusen made the motion, supported by Treasurer Koski to table these until the New Budget year, March 2014. All in favor, motion carried.
- i. Investigative Consultants Reports** – This investigation was triggered by the public because of the expenses incurred by legal fees. Those who initiated the lawsuits and their supporters may have crossed a line between First Amendment Rights and harassment of the Board. Supervisor Johnson recommended that the work done by Investigative Consultants be release to anyone who makes a FOIA request. Trustee Kellow Made the motion, supported by Supervisor Johnson, all in favor, motion carried.
- j. Budget Workshop** – Tuesday January 7, 2014 @ 9:00 am for first budget workshop, notice will be posted for the meeting.
- k. Resignation** – Effective December 31, 2013 Trustee Carol Kellow will be resigning from the Republic Township Board. Motion to accept resignation with regret, made by Trustee Feldhusen, supported by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried. Notice will be posted for Board Member replacement.
- l. Snow Plow Petition** – Trustee Kellow made the motion to support the petition for having the DPW come in early to get the plowing done before the business day starts, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Brennan to approve Tracey McNeil to the Recreation Committee, board so recognized. He also disagreed with the release of the Investigation documents.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned by Supervisor Johnson @ 8:15pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn, Brancheau, Clerk

Date