

Republic Township Board

October 26, 2017

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. SALUTE TO FLAG:

3. WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to approve, all in favor, motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

09/28/2017 Regular meeting – Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried.

10/23/2017 Special Meeting – Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to approve with the removal of “Salute to Flag”, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Casey Honeyaeger

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**– Veteran’s Memorial Dedication went very well.
- b. **TRUSTEE STANKUS**- Nothing at this time
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Election coming November 7th, and a job well done on the Veteran’s Memorial
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – Nothing at this time
- e. **DPW** – Nothing at this time
- f. **IOHT** – Meeting last night, there is a \$25,000 ear mark for Republic in the 2018 budget, also a couple of benches, a couple of bike racks and a bike repair station with landscaping allotted in the budget.
- g. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – Nothing at this time
- h. **PLANNING COMMISSION** – Nothing at this time.
- i. **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** – 2 more permits have been issued for new buildings and 3 non-compliance issues that I recommend turning over to the Ordinance Enforcement.
- j. **ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT** – Last month we discussed the pavilion down on Fence River road that had collapsed. We received a phone call in response to a letter that was sent to the owners. They are aware of this; it came down due to the

storm in April of this year. Family members have been instructed to remove any and all belongings before winter sets in and they plan to come up in the spring to complete the removal and proper disposal of the pavilion.

- k. **SUPERVISOR/ASSESSOR** – Attended meeting with Jack Bergman in Marquette, also the Veterans' Memorial ceremony, the Great Lakes Room Breakfast at NMU, a wellhead protection meeting and MCTA meeting last night. As far as Assessor, 70 properties this last month, will continue as long as the weather holds, after that I will be entering information in the computer.

The Clerk then asked, "And then will we get a report?" The Assessor responded that he had just provided a report. The Clerk asked from whom did she get the report and the Assessor responded, "From me." The Clerk then stated that she wanted a written report, "I have requested one 4 or 5 times now, but you just ignore me." The Assessor asked what was the difficulty with a voice report. The Clerk said she wanted a list of all the properties he had inspected and the Assessor responded that he was not going to list every property that he had been to. The Treasurer then began to explain that once all of that information was put into BSA that the Board was entitled to a report printed from BSA that shows all of the entries and changes you've made to those properties. The Treasurer continued that she had personally received various complaints from homeowners that they had received their letter, but that there had never been a follow up phone call, nor a knock on their front door when you've arrived there, just making you aware that there are property owners who have verbally complained to the Clerk and myself. The Assessor then said that he had visited over 200 homes and that if no one was home he left a card on the door unless they were seasonal people and leaving the card would be an indicator that no one was there. I have knocked on every door prior to inspecting, if they don't want to answer the door that is their problem. The complaints need to be brought to me with the names. The Treasurer then stated that she was telling him about them right now. The Assessor repeated that he needs the names of the people, the Treasurer responded that she did not have to divulge the people's names, that these people had come to her and one story in particular that you had gone inside the fence in the back yard of an individual who when he went to let his German Shepherd out and discovered you back there and he was home and you never knocked on the door. The Assessor stated that that was not a true statement. He did knock on the door and hung a tag on the door, his dog did not wake up, no one knows why, but I did knock on the door and if you are calling me a liar... The Treasurer stated that she was not calling him a liar, but merely informing him of what she was told, that there was no need to get defensive, that she was just bringing it to his attention, the Assessor stated that he was doing what the State Tax Commission recommends and they do not recommend a follow up phone call. Trustee Stankus asked Clerk Brancheau if other townships required these reports, Clerk Brancheau responded that she didn't know, she had not conducted a survey but regardless it is in the personnel manual that these reports can be requested and shall be provided on request. She continued that they are the board and he is their employee, Trustee Stankus responded that he just gave you a report. She stated that we can find out what

he's doing, what is wrong with that? Is there something to hide? Trustee Stankus asked about the other assessor, did he provide reports. Clerk Brancheau stated that he had reports available, but we told you before that we didn't know we were supposed to be asking for them, I'm just doing my job. Trustee Stankus said that he thought they were just giving the assessor a bad time. Clerk Brancheau stated that he was allowed to think whatever he wants. The Assessor then asked if the Clerk was saying that this was in the policies and personnel manual and that it calls for a written report, the Clerk stated it calls for a report every month. There was disagreement regarding a written report. Treasurer Koski went on to say that it was just that many residents are not used to how he was doing things which is why people were inquiring why you were at their property, why you were measuring driveways, lots of people are asking questions, I'm just making you aware of it, that's all I'm trying to do, John. The Assessor then stated that he was doing his job the way he understood he was supposed to. The Clerk stated "I don't think so."

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Sewer Grant**– The Bid specifications have been altered to separate the buildings from the rest of the work, the USDA has approved that and UPEA expects to resubmit those documents for bidding again next week.
- b. Old Bank Building Grant**– The architects expect to submit the paperwork for the design and scope by next week.
- c. Rail Line Agreement** – A final agreement has been submitted to us, in speaking with the Humboldt Township Supervisor, he would like to have a joint meeting in December. Prior to that joint meeting we must approve this final Intergovernmental Rail Agreement. When does the Board wish to approve? The November Board meeting was agreed upon to allow time for review
- d. Water Rates/Water Ordinance** – The Water Ordinance would require amendments in order to implement a new rate scale for the meters, someone other than the Supervisor needs to review this so that we may proceed with using the meters. Planning Commission Chair stated that the PC would be willing to do the review if the board so desired. The question was asked if the engineers had provided a rate to use. The response was yes, but there are many other issues that have to be addressed that have not yet been considered. It was stated by an audience member that this is a police ordinance, not a zoning ordinance, so the board is the one who needs to do the review. If that is the case then this needs to wait until budget time because there are many issues that need to be taken into consideration. This is not as simple as everyone seems to think. Trustee Stankus questioned why this needed to go to a lawyer. The response was legal review is absolutely necessary to be sure everything is according to the law, otherwise it can be called into question in court. Once again the Supervisor asked for another Board member to do the review other than him. Supervisor Ulrich then asked Trustee Stankus if he would do the review, Trustee Stankus responded that since he was not on the board at the time this original ordinance was written and was not sufficiently informed of how the water rates work, that he would not take that on. Supervisor Ulrich then asked Treasurer Koski, she replied no, she would not

and that she felt the entire board should be involved to discuss this at budget time. Supervisor Ulrich then asked if the Treasurer intended to use an entire budget session towards this. The Treasurer responded yes, that the entire board should have a copy of the ordinance in front of them when the discussion takes place; that this needed to be a board effort. There are too many variables for one person to make these decisions.

- e. **Northern Lights Campground** – Supervisor Ulrich received a package today from Sanders & Czapski for us to finish the paperwork and Supervisor Ulrich stated that he would be taking care of that in the next few days.
- f. **Veterans Memorial Bill Payment**– Letter received from Sterling Schultz, letter was read, basically asking for the Township to pay the few invoices that were currently outstanding due to the depletion of donated funds. Since this is actually a renovation/enhancement of Township Property, it should not be considered a donation. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to pay the invoices, seconded by Treasurer Koski,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Medical Marijuana Issue**– The MCTA has recommended that the Townships not address this issue, however with the ELF facility being transformed into a marijuana growing facility, Humboldt Township is currently addressing the issue on their end. This facility is fenced and will have guards. There was discussion regarding what revenues could be generated, steps that have to be taken in the process to allow this, etc. Motion made by Trustee Stankus to send this to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendations, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Fire Truck AED's** – The two AED's on the Fire Trucks are out of date, and need replacing. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to purchase two new AED's, seconded by Treasurer Koski,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- c. **Property @ 229 Hemlock St** – The County is offering ownership of the property to the Township. The house is in very bad shape and LandBank has offered to pay to tear it down. Motion to reject the property by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by

Treasurer Koski. Resolution will be signed and made part of the permanent record.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich X Aye - Nay
Treasurer Koski X Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau X Aye - Nay
Trustee Feldhusen X Aye - Nay
Trustee Stankus X Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- d. New DPW Computer** – They need a new computer as the one they have is too old to be compatible with new reporting requirements. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to purchase new computer up to a \$750.00 maximum

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich X Aye - Nay
Treasurer Koski X Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau X Aye - Nay
Trustee Feldhusen X Aye - Nay
Trustee Stankus X Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- 10. PAYMENT OF BILLS** – Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Trustee Stankus

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich X Aye - Nay
Treasurer Koski X Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau X Aye - Nay
Trustee Feldhusen X Aye - Nay
Trustee Stankus X Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Patti Hiber
Jim Brennan
Olga Williams

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Ulrich adjourned the meeting @ 8:00 pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk

Date