

Republic Township Board
January 28, 2016
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:

Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to approve with the addition of 9I, all in favor, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

12/17/15 Regular Meeting – Motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski; all in favor, motion carried.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Brennan

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE KNAPP** – Nothing at this time.
- b. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**- Nothing at this time
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – AV Ballots are here, so please request them as soon as possible.
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – Nothing at this time
- e. **ASSESSOR** – Nothing at this time
- f. **SUPERVISOR** – Supervisor Johnson explained the details of the remodel on the garage/fire bay of the town hall. Prints of the plans were available for inspection.
- g. **DPW** – Nothing at this time
- h. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – To be discussed under 9H.
- i. **OFFICE MANAGER’S REPORT** – Was read into the minutes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Mine Rail Line** - We are still trying to get everyone together to have another meeting regarding progress and tasks to still be done.
- b. **Sewer Grant**– Still working to provide documents to Duane Reid. This takes time as he continuously wants more documents.
- c. **School Lake/Munson Park Grant** – Waiting on the engineer.

- d. **Insurance Issues for Employees** - Policy was read into the minutes and was reaffirmed; motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor motion carried. The wording of the policy is as follows:

The Republic Township Board made a commitment to fund the premium for the level two Obamacare plan for the employees who had been covered by our Blue Cross program. It is the intention of this Board to continue that level of commitment. If an employee wishes to change to a different insurance company, or change to a different insurance coverage, the Board will contribute to the employees premium up to, but not to exceed the premium required for the Plan B Obamacare coverage for that employee. If the employee chooses coverage less than the Level B Obamacare plan, the township shall only pay the required premium and will not remit the remainder of the budgeted premium, to the employee.

Motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

- e. **Remodeling Expense:** Miller Products provided the lowest bid for the materials and Dave Holsworth is the one we wish to do the actual work. Motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski, to approve both purchases, all in favor, motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Face Book Issues**– Regarding the letter received by the Board from Ms. Kellow on the argument which occurred on the privately owned Recreation Committee Face Book page which is owned by Treasurer Koski. The Township Board will not become involved in a privately owned Face Book page. The owner of that page may do what they wish; it has nothing to do with the Township.
- b. **Planning Commission Resignation**– Tara Williams has written a letter to the Board resigning from her position on the Planning Commission. The reason she cites is the unusual demands her job will place on her in the coming months. Supervisor Johnson directed the Planning Commission to think about amending their by-laws to allow for absences for work when missing three meetings. Motion to accept resignation with regret by Clerk Brancheau, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen, all in favor, motion carried. Trustee Feldhusen felt that there are many people in the community who could work on the Planning Commission and we should thank Tara for all she's done and continue as we always have. Mr. Brennan spoke up and assured Supervisor Johnson that there were already allowances in the by-laws for excused absences such as work and no further action really needed to be taken on this subject. Supervisor Johnson then withdrew his comments on the matter.
- c. **Recreation Committee New Appointees**– The Board has received two letters of interest for membership on the Recreation Committee. The First person is Mr. Jim Brennan. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen, all in

favor, motion carried. The second person is Kim Isaacson, motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor motion carried.

- d. **FOIA Appeals** - Ms. Kellow has again appealed for the prints of the garage remodel. We didn't have them, plain and simple. They have just come in today and are on display here for anyone who wishes to see them. Motion to deny her appeal by Clerk Brancheau, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried. The second appeal is from Ms. Faye Mattila. After much discussion it was determined that perhaps more documents would be helpful. It was agreed to send a copy of the March 26, 2015 regular minutes and a copy of the budget that was voted on. Motion to approve Ms. Mattila's FOIA Appeal by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Trustee Knapp. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. **Regional Fire Department** – The Township has received communications from Tom Prophet, Supervisor of Humboldt Township that there have been discussions amongst other Townships for a regional fire department. Trustee Feldhusen stated that the Planning Commission was already looking into this. The Board agreed to let the Planning Commission handle this.
- f. **Attorney Firm** – Tabled until after the November Election.
- g. **Zach Kangas/EMS** - Zach has expressed interest in becoming an EMT but would like to take the class at NMU where he is a student. Once he is licensed he would be available summers, holidays and weekends. Motion to approve and to reimburse after he is licensed by Treasurer Koski seconded by Trustee Feldhusen.
- h. **EMS Coordinator** – We need to determine a salary for the ad we wish to place for a new EMS Coordinator. Motion to say that the pay is negotiable by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen, all in favor motion carried. During the discussion Ms. Charlene Tapio expressed interest in helping out with recruiting for the EMS and Fire Dept. The Board granted their permission for her to assist.
- i. **Recyclables** - To date we have sent in 43 tubs of recyclables. Fortunately for us, there have been no rejections, but for the moment, there is hardly any money in it.
- j. **Sewer Rates** – Unfortunately Duane Reid from the USDA has demanded that we raise our sewer rates to \$41.00. We had tried to get away with \$40.50 which is where it is now, but it isn't enough. Motion to **RELUCTANTLY** raise the sewer rate to \$41.00 by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Trustee Knapp, all in favor, motion carried.
- k. **Budget Amendments** – Treasurer Koski has all the calculations for necessary budget amendments, motion to accept by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Johnson X Aye - Nay
Treasurer Koski X Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau X Aye - Nay
Trustee Feldhusen X Aye - Nay
Trustee Knapp X Aye - Nay
5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Motion Passes

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Keith Perry Tara Williams

Jim Brennan

Fred Nannestad – Question about attending PC classes in Traverse City; motion by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

Kim Isaacson

Steve Kellow

Ikey Todd

Marilyn Helmila

Larry Wuokko

Faye Mattila

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Johnson adjourned the meeting @ 8:15 pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk

Date

Approved