

Republic Township Board
July 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 Clerk Brancheau, seconded by Treasurer Koski to approve, all in favor, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

06/23/2016 Regular Meeting – Motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.

07/07/2016 Special Meeting – Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE KNAPP** – Nothing at this time.
- b. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**- Great Job on the Fishing Derby.
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing at this time
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – Summer Tax Deferment Applications are available, also the audit was completed in 4 days this year with high marks from our auditors. We also received a letter from the USDA regarding our quarterly reports for the water grant/bond; they felt that at this time we no longer need to send the reports as everything is looking very good. Just a note that people are paying their bills, some on payment plans and if someone doesn't make a payment after 3 months, their water is shut off and any balances get sent to the county as a tax lien on November 1stAlso, an account has been opened for the Veterans Memorial we would like to construct and donations may be made at TruNorth for that account. And Nancy, I want to thank you for your service on our EMS. You have been very much appreciated and will be missed.
- e. **ASSESSOR** – Nothing at this time
- f. **SUPERVISOR** – Work has officially begun on the Northern Lights Campground, and yes there will be a living hedge to block this from view. I

would also like to thank Nancy for all her work and sacrifice for our service. This community owes you a debt of gratitude, and we all thank you.

- g. **DPW** – Nothing at this time
- h. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – Nothing at this time.
- i. **OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT** – Nothing at this time.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Mine Rail Line** - Meeting has to be scheduled, probably sometime in the middle to end of August.
- b. **Sewer Grant**– Has passed all the hurdles so we will be moving forward with that.
- c. **Northern Lights Campground Grant** – Construction has begun, the contractors are supposed to be here tomorrow to continue. They will be allowing us to make up the \$50,000 shortfall with workforce so we shouldn't have to come up with so much extra cash.
- d. **Veteran's Memorial** – A short time ago, Sterling Schultz approached me to ask if the Township would be interested in creating a Veteran's Memorial for those who have died in combat. We thought it was a good idea, the Board supports it, and we got some quotes on the cost. The base would cost \$6,790 and then a stone would be on top of that with the names of the veterans. The VFW suggested that we take the one out of the cemetery and put it next to the Heritage Garden, which is where we would have it placed anyway. We would want it to be expandable to be able to add names to it from time to time. So we are working on a fund raiser and have opened an account for funds.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Post Office Lease**– The lease is due for renewal. The board is asking Trustee Knapp to negotiate with the USPS for a new lease. Motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski, to reject the lease that has been presented to the Board, all in favor, motion carried.
- b. **Request for a utility waiver** – from Jennifer Tapio and Mr. Sears to defer the water charges on their homes while it is undergoing renovation. There was discussion regarding the requirements to be sure they met the requirements. Motion to approve waiver of O&M until meters are operational, then the waiver gets recalculated by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried.
- c. **DEQ Issue** – Regarding Drew Greipentrog having been accused of dumping raw sewage into the Michigamme River. Two questions were asked of Keith Perry, the accuser. His answers were of the affirmative. Supervisor Johnson then asked the board for approval to hire Mr. Glen Smith, Attorney At Law to clear the name of Drew Greipentrog and by association Republic Township by using whatever legal means necessary. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Knapp, all in favor, motion carried. Supervisor Johnson then gave a brief explanation as to why this is being done.
- d. **Street Light issue**– the one at Mazie's house that the Township thought we were already paying for has been being billed to Mazie for many years. Motion by

Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to move the bills back to the Township, all in favor, motion carried.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Brennan

Laura Maze

Nancy Currie

Faye Mattila

Deputy Michael Klein

Deputy Lowell Larson

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Johnson adjourned the meeting @ 7:40 pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk

Date

Approved