

**Republic Township Board
August 25, 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 Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski to approve, all in favor, motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

07/28/2016 Regular Meeting – Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen, with the correction in 7D to change “fell” to “felt” all in favor, motion carried.

08/17/2016 Special 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, Clerk Brancheau seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Jim Brennan
Nancy Forsberg**

Presentation by Danielle from the Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce

Presentation by WE Energies regarding Franchise going through Republic Township. Motion by Trustee Feldhusen to accept the Franchise, seconded by Treasurer Koski,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Johnson Aye - Nay
Treasurer Koski Aye - Nay
Clerk Brancheau Aye - Nay
Trustee Feldhusen Aye - Nay
Trustee Knapp Aye - Nay
All in favor, Motion is carried.

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE KNAPP** – Nothing at this time.
- b. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**- Great Job on the Evergreen St., the front door being painted on the building, wanted to mention how nice the new water tower looks since there haven't been any positive comments on that. And last to thank Bill DeGenero for his years of service as our Ordinance Enforcement Officer.
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Love the blacktopping too. And to also thank Bill D. for his service, we will miss him.
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – I also wish to thank Bill D for his service and to say how nice it was to work with you and getting to know you, it has been a pleasure.
- e. **ASSESSOR** – Nothing at this time
- f. **SUPERVISOR** – We received a nice letter from the DEQ regarding our Transfer Station that has been inspected for the first time ever. They made note that our transfer station was in compliance with all the regulations. The health department has a few issues with Moose Rapids regarding the size of it and the lack of garbage pickup. Just letting everyone know that we have this issue that we need to work on and possibly the new Board over the winter.
- g. **DPW** – Nothing at this time
- h. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – Becky Prisk introduced herself to everyone as our new EMS Coordinator. She has graciously agreed to help us as well as work for Champion Township

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Franchise Agreement WE Energies** – Handled earlier during the presentation.
- b. **Sewer Grant**– We have received letter from USDA for the obligation of funds in the amount of grant: \$1,210,000.00. We have also received the engineer's agreement from UPEA. Motion to accept the Engineer's agreement by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski.....

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Johnson **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Knapp **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- c. **Northern Lights Campground Grant** – Making the meter pits, they had to be fabricated. We have received an offer from a company to use their crushed asphalt/granite on one of our campsites for free to see if this material would work for us. Possibly we could use it around the fire hydrants due to it being so porous. Bill Sanders needs approval. Motion by Trustee Knapp to use it around the Fire Hydrants as that would assist in drainage, second by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Veteran's Memorial** – Supervisor Johnson would like to approve Holsworth to do the base for the memorial before winter sets in. Treasurer Koski suggested to table until spring in order to raise more money.

- e. **Post Office Lease** - We've had some conversations; no agreements yet, but they are starting to lean a little to our side.
- f. **Perry Lawsuit** – The initial letter was delivered and Mr. Perry went to the Attorney's Office today (Mr. Glen Smith) and refused to speak to the attorney, but was very rude to the secretaries in the front of the office, Mr. Smith called me, he was very upset, he pays his people to be friendly and not to put up with verbal abuse which there were several ladies there that caught it, and he informed me that the papers will be filed in court within days.
- g. **Mine Rail Actions** – We are trying to get everyone's schedule to set up a meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Replacement of Office Server**– Our backup server is very old, Don Szenina is retiring, he has given us a price of about \$2,000.00 to upgrade, Supervisor Johnson called for a motion to replace this before Don retires. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried. Pasty.net Todd Juntilla has offered to take over for Don, Treasurer Koski was directed to set up a meeting with Todd to see what terms we could come to and bring it back to the next meeting.
- b. **Resignation of William DeGenaro from Ordinance Enforcement Officer** – Letter of resignation from Bill was read, all Board Members expressed their gratitude for Mr. DeGenaro's service and his resignation was accepted with regret. Motion by Trustee Knapp, seconded by Treasurer Koski to table hiring someone at this time, all in favor, motion carried.
- c. **DEQ Issue** – Letter from the DEQ Enforcement Notice stating our non-compliance for our sewer system. The DEQ felt that our system was in such poor condition, the system is failing that they DEQ is not willing to wait. We do not yet have a draft of the enforcement order as they are still calculating the amount of the fine that will be paid by the sewer users, not the Township. The fine is calculated on a sliding scale depending on the size of the system. But it will be somewhere between \$5000.00 and \$15,000.00. In order to meet the fine, Supervisor Johnson suggested keeping the \$3.00 per month on the bill that we are currently using to pay the Township back for its' loans to the system to use that to pay the fine.
- d. **MCRC Paving Contract**– Total of \$88,133.70 for the paving of Evergreen St and part of Willow Drive down to Oak Drive. The job is done. The Road Commission was a bit tardy in getting this contract to us. Nonetheless, Supervisor Johnson asked for a motion to approve the contract. Motion by Treasurer Koski with a budget amendment for that amount in our Capital Improvement Fund, seconded by Clerk Brancheau...

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Johnson Aye - Nay

Treasurer Koski Aye - Nay

Clerk Brancheau Aye - Nay

Trustee Feldhusen Aye - Nay

Trustee Knapp Aye - Nay

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- e. **Fire Department** – Needs 2 new pagers, 2 pagers need repair and 20 pairs of new gloves need to be purchased. The cost of the new pagers would be about \$936.00 and the gloves were quoted @ \$1300.00 for all 20 pairs. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Knapp, all in favor, motion carried.
- f. **PC Minutes** – The Township Board has received a set of minutes from the Planning Commission from their August meeting. These minutes need to be addressed. Supervisor Johnson read a letter addressed to the Planning Commission Chair, copy to be attached to these minutes, and mailed to the PC Chair. Motion by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to send the letter, all in favor, motion carried.
- g. **Bank Building Concessionaire** – Liz Hangas notified the Board that she would be vacating the Old Bank Building. Along these same lines, Merrie Carlock with the DNR who is administering this grant and others for us has become very upset with the constant phone calls hounding her to do certain things. She only does what her assigned authority permits her to do and the constant phone calls are upsetting her to the point she approached her supervisor to discuss the pulling of the original bank building grant where we would need to pay that money back to the DNR. (\$25,000.00). In addition we would be excluded from being able to get any other grants to help repair that building. Supervisor Johnson went on to say that he had spoken to Bill Olson from UPEA and Bill is very down and he confirmed that our information is correct. This means that the current pending grant would be denied. Bill notified Merrie that the current tenant was vacating the building and she inferred that she would look at the application again. So we may end up getting the grant. Until this issue is settled as to whether or not we will be given this grant, Supervisor Johnson suggests that the Board sit tight on the issue until the issue is resolved. Bill Olsen suggests that next summer, the Township hire a mature summer student to be headquartered in the Bank Building to keep it open during business hours and to be able to tend to the Campground as well. This way the Historical Society could put their displays up and it would be looked after. The building can be used for other things, but it cannot be a concessionaire.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Brennan

Fred Nannestad

Derrick Swajanen – Running for District Judge

