

Sanborn Township
 12025 US Hwy 23 South
 Ossineke, MI 49766
 (989) 471-1050

Regular Township Board of Trustees Meeting
September 13, 2023

Supervisor Gauthier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, roll call found the following present, Supervisor: Ken Gauthier, Clerk: Angela Carstens, Treasurer: Mary Eaton, Trustee: Dale Hart Jr., and Trustee: Gary Stephan. Also in attendance, Rich Prittie, Devin Robinette, John Moran, Arthur Olson Jr., Jeff & Joan Marek, Melinda Mills, Marc Knight, Jenny Domrase, Wayne & Charmaine Girard, and Ron Fortin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Eaton motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Recycling Authority under Reports and correcting the next meeting date to 10/9/2023. Stephan supported. Motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES OF August 14, 2023:

Eaton motioned to accept the August 14th meeting minutes as presented. Hart supported. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The financial report as of September 13, 2023, presented by: Treasurer, Eaton is as follows:

AAACU General Account	\$ 316,224.40
AAACU Money Market Account	\$ 512,864.05
TOTAL General Fund	\$ 829,088.45
<u>AAACU Tax Account</u>	<u>\$ 250,960.94</u>
Designated for Water Fund	\$ 6,979.73
Designated for future Fire Equipment	\$ 260,148.69
Designated for Liquor Enforcement	\$ 1,381.62
Admin Fee Collected in 2023	\$ 6,513.00
Designated for Parks & Recreation	\$ 0.00
ARPA Funds	\$ 212,804.66
Summer 2023 Taxes-Levied	\$ 787,862.17
Paid	\$ 658,017.13
DUE	<u>\$ 129,845.04</u>

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE BOARD:

-Citizen concerns and remarks were heard.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Stephan motioned to receive and file the consent agenda, including A) Rep, Jack Bergman, B) Senator, Gary Peters, C) MTA Talking Points & Township Insights, D) Fahey

Schultz-Cemeteries, E) Charter Communications, and F) Richard D. Castie-Consumers Energy. Hart supported. Motion carried.

ROADS:

-Spruce Road, done.

-Dust Control Bill for 2023 was received and came in under the pre-approved budget amount of \$30,500.00. *Stephan motioned to approve and pay the Alpena County Road Commission Bill for 2023 Dust Control in the amount of \$28,329.58. Eaton supported. Motion carried.*

REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION & ZBA:

Chairman Prittie stated that Eric Schmanski from NEMCOG will be attending the next meeting on 9/18/2023 to start on the Ordinance book and the Alpena County Rec. Plan. Possible weekly meetings will follow.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Dale Hart Jr. presented the board with the Fire Report for August 2023. The department had a total of 27 runs during August, of those, 21 calls were medical, 1 building fire: mutual aid to help Hubbard Lake, 1 building fire: mutual aid help Alpena Township, 1 power line down, 1 grass fire, that started from cutting hay, 1 CO detector activation, in need of new batteries, and 1 fire in microwave from over-cooking, and setting off fire alarm. *Stephan motioned to approve the purchase of 1 mobile radio for the brush truck, 1 pager, and 1 portable radio, as Alpena County will pay \$2,500.00 towards the purchase, leaving a balance of \$2,902.45 to be paid by Sanborn Township. Eaton supported. Motion carried.* *Eaton motioned for the hiring of Mitch Aube, for a 6-month probational period, once required classes are passed, he would remain on the fire department. Carstens supported. Motion carried.*

BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT:

John Moran informed the board that B. LeSage was picked up on a warrant for failing to appear in court for blight. B. LeSage apologized to the court, said he would correct violations, and paid fines. Moran asked the board if they had reviewed the one complaint that he presented to Hart on 9/7/2023, and asked Hart to give it to the board. The complaint was a Notice to Correct for L & K, the business of Supervisor Gauthier. Carstens spoke up about several mistakes in the process and procedure of the Notice to Correct that was received by Supervisor Gauthier. Moran refused to listen to Carstens objections of policy and procedure. *Supervisor Gauthier offered Moran the right to go into closed session, as tensions and voices were rising. Moran said to keep the meeting in open session.*

Stephan, having missed the August meeting, recalled ongoing issues that arose during the July meeting, that brought the board to create a more clarified description of duties in a written document that was put together by all board members in a special meeting later in July. This job description (agreement) was approved at the August meeting, to ensure the public & officer have good communication with each other to correct blight violations. Stephan also said that several community members would approach him and ask questions, as they don't understand what they aren't in compliance with. Without communication with the public and the board, there tends to be confusion. After several minutes of heated

discussion, *Eaton motioned to terminate John F. Moran immediately as Blight Enforcement Officer. Stephan supported. Motion carried.*

RECYCLING AUTHORITY:

Eaton attended the August meeting. Key topics were the purchase of a new truck and cutting back hours of operation during winter months. A leader to head the organization is definitely needed, and was also discussed during a Supervisor's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

-PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RETREATS: MTA is offering several retreats for Clerk's, Trustee's, Planning & Zoning, Supervisor's, and Treasurer's. Due to conflicts in dates, no board members will be able to attend.

-MTA-THE ART OF THE AGENDA: MTA offered a lunchtime learning series today, a live one-hour webinar about The Art of the Agenda. No board members were able to watch the live version, but a recorded version is also available.

NEW BUSINESS:

-ASSESSING AUDIT REPORT: Sanborn Township received an audit of Assessing by the State of Michigan. This audit is conducted about once every 5 years. Sanborn Township passed the audit but has some wording to correct in their Poverty Exemption Guidelines. Gauthier and Stephan complimented Hart on his help with the Township in filling the role after the passing of Wayne Liske.

-ELECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWNSHIPS - 9 DAYS OF EARLY VOTING SITE:

Carstens supplied the agreement to the board that will include Sanborn, Maple Ridge, Green, Wellington, Long Rapids, Ossineke, and Wilson Townships for a Joint Municipal Early Voting Site. This will save each township thousands of dollars and will comply with new laws due to Proposal 2. Once the agreement is complete the County will send it to the State. Adjustments can be made, as needed, and must be reported. Pay for workers, coordinator, supplies and equipment have yet to be determined. Carstens presented options to the board for the NEW required Drop Box. *Hart motioned to approve the purchase of Drop Box ASC M450 for a price of \$1,725.00, that is to be reimbursed by the State of Michigan. Stephan supported. Motion carried.* Carstens also suggested an hourly rate for her and Deputy Clerk for added duties due to Proposal 2, the suggestion has been tabled.

-BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:

None.

BILLS:

*Motion by Carstens to approve the pre-authorized bills with check numbers **26307 through 26324** and monthly bills with check numbers **26325 through 26350**. Eaton supported. Motion carried.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS/BOARD CONCERNS:

-Rich Prittie: Sanborn Township Cemetery needs gravel for driveway. Supervisor Gauthier approved the request to repair the driveway.

-Joan Marek: W. Scott Road has some huge potholes that need to be addressed.

-Jenny Domrase: Adams Street also has some potholes that need repair.

-Supervisor Gauthier will call the Alpena County Road commission.

-Jeff Marek: Wants to volunteer his time and the cost of replacing posts at the cemetery, but would need a map of the grounds. Rich Prittie, stated he has a map and will help. Marek also apologized for his outbursts earlier during the meeting regarding blight.

-Ken Gauthier: Thanked John Moran for sending the pictures of his business, says when you're around the same things everyday you tend to overlook them and don't always see what others see.

Adjourn @ 8:40pm. Next meeting: October 9th, 2023 @ 7:00pm.