

ALPENA TOWNSHIP – BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR SESSION – February 26, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

The Alpena Township Board of Trustees met in Regular Session on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alpena Township Offices, 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Nathan Skibbe
Clerk Karie K. Bleau
Treasurer Laura L. Ellery-Somers
Trustee Nate Thomson
Trustee Cash Kroll
Trustee Norm Poli

Absent: Trustee Matt Dunckel

Others present: Attorney Tim Gulden

Media Present: Alpena News - Julie Goldberg
WATZ - Bruce Johnson
WBKB - Kristen Anzuini

PRESENTATIONS:

Huron Humane Society - Natalie Francis of the Huron Humane Society addressed the Board with a power point presentation regarding services that are provided by the organization, the cost of those services and the animal adoption fees. The Huron Humane Society requests \$10,000 from Alpena Township for the 2018/2019 budget cycle.

Sheriff's Office - Undersheriff Terry King addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the TBJH Liaison Officer Contract. Undersheriff King explained the benefits of the Liaison Officer position and explained that Deputy Erik Smith has gone above and beyond in his duties for the students and families of TBJH and will be receiving an accommodation in the near future. Undersheriff King encourages the Board of Trustees to continue the contract that is currently in place. Undersheriff King informed the Board that he has approached other outlining townships to seek funding from other sources to assist in shouldering the cost of the Liaison Officer.

Alpena County Road Commission - No representative was in attendance. The presentation will be tabled. Larry Orcutt, Managing Director of Alpena County Road Commission arrived at 6:50 p.m. Larry Orcutt addressed the Board regarding the condition of the roads in Alpena Township, provided reports for the matching funds that are available and provided recommendations for the road projects that are in need of attention and estimates for the cost of those projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marie Twite of 4165 Truckey Road addressed the Board regarding the rumors that have been in the community about the missing ledger pages and the alleged accusations that have been made that "she stole those documents". She would like a public acknowledgment that she did not take any documents. Mrs. Twite would also like the Board to know that the citizens of the Township do not want the Charter Township and the petition of disagreement was unsuccessful because of the timing limits that were required during the holidays and winter and suggested that the Board

reconsider passing the next resolution. Mrs. Twite also spoke of the discoveries from her recent FOIA request regarding Supervisor Skibbe's improper use of the Township credit card for a car rental in New Orleans, LA. She advised the Board that it appears the Board has violated its own Rules of Governance which are posted on Alpena Township's website.

Russ Rhynard of 315 Par Drive addressed the Board regarding the petition of disagreement for the Charter Township. He related that all of the citizens that were approached by him and the other circulators had resistance to becoming a Charter Township. He asked the Board to reconsider adopting the resolution to become a Charter Township and put the issue on the ballot.

Tom Fradette of Chippewa Drive spoke to the Board regarding a nuisance issue in his neighborhood. Mr. Fradette relayed to the Board that Supervisor Skibbe came to his residence to discuss his issue and witness the excessive noise that is being created by his neighbor. He also suggested the Board adopt a nuisance/noise ordinance to control the noise in the Township, similar to the one that exists in Ossineke Township. He has been unable to get relief from other avenues such as the Sheriff Office.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Kroll to adopt the agenda with the following changes: omit the 1010 Technology presentation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MINUTES APPROVED:

A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Thomson to approve the minutes from January 17, 26, 27 & 31, 2018 and February 12 & 15, 2018 with a correction to the January 26th minutes to change the day of the week from Monday to Friday as the meeting was moved due to inclement weather. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Poli to pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alpena Township - Planning Commission - Minutes - Feb 6 & Feb 12, 2018; N. Poli - Liaison; Personnel Committee - Minutes - Jan 26 & Jan 29, 2018; Charter Exploration Committee - Minutes - Jan 25, 2018; Finance Committee - Minutes - Jan 31, 2018; Policy & Procedure - Minutes - Feb 14, 15, 19 & 23, 2018; Fire Committee - Minutes - Feb 12 & 20, 2018; Alpena Countywide - Electronics Recycling Day - April 28, 2018; Clean-up Day - May 5, 2018; Alpena County Road Commission - Minutes and Road Report; Public Notice - Case #P-01-18 - 1424 M-32 West. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Kroll to receive and file all correspondence. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Clerk Bleau asked the Trustees who are members of the Charter Township Exploration Committee to explain the statement "Given the fact that the Clerk and Treasurer..." statement that is contained within the Charter Township Exploration Committee minutes of January 25, 2018. Supervisor Skibbe referred the question to Susan Skibbe, Secretary of the Charter Township Exploration Committee, who then relayed that the evidence proving that statement was taken from the Clerk's personal Facebook page, which she further stated was printed and

brought to the Jan. 25, 2018 Charter Township Exploration Committee meeting for discussion by the Committee. Clerk Bleau further questioned the rationale of how something that was shared on her personal Facebook page could be interpreted as evidence for a “factual statement” to be put in minutes of a Committee meeting. Supervisor Skibbe disrupted Clerk Bleau’s questioning of the Secretary of the Charter Township Exploration Committee and the meeting moved on without a resolution to the issue.

Treasurer Ellery-Somers questioned Susan Skibbe, Secretary of the Charter Exploration Committee, why minutes from the Committee’s Town Hall meeting on Feb. 5, 2018 were not provided. Skibbe replied that minutes were not taken because it was not a meeting of the Charter Township Exploration Committee. Clerk Bleau further questioned her response as a quorum of the Charter Township Exploration Committee was present as was a quorum of the Board of Trustees. Susan Skibbe, Secretary of the Charter Exploration Committee responded that she would provide a copy of the article in the Alpena News to serve as minutes from the Town Hall meeting of Feb. 5, 2018. Treasurer Ellery-Somers also voiced similar concerns about the content of the Charter Township Exploration Committee minutes and advised the Board that she believes that some of the other committees minutes are lacking in content and proper procedures for official minutes of a committee such as the minutes for some of the committees do not identify who was in attendance and are not signed by the Secretary and/or the Chair of the committee. She suggested that the committees try to produce better, more comprehensive minutes in the future.

Trustee Poli spoke to the progress that is being made on the zoning updates. He related that he is very impressed with Denise Cline from NEMCOG and believes that the updates will take about a year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Charter Township - Resolution. A motion was made by Trustee Kroll and supported by Trustee Thomson to become a Charter Township by resolution as of February 26, 2018. Treasurer Ellery-Somers voiced her concerns regarding the purpose of becoming a Charter Township. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers. Absent: Trustee Dunckel. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Clerk Bleau and supported by Treasurer Ellery-Somers to disband the Charter Exploration Committee. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers. Nays: Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Absent: Trustee Dunckel. Motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer MMTA Class - April 15-20, 2018 - Mt. Pleasant, MI. Treasurer Ellery-Somers requested that the Board approve her request to attend the Michigan Municipal Treasurer’s training conference on April 15-20, 2018 in Mt Pleasant, MI. A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to authorize Treasurer Ellery-Somers to attend the Michigan Municipal Treasurer’s training conference on April 15-20, 2018 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. The Township will pay for mileage and lodging only. Treasurer will seek a scholarship that is available for the class. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Excel Overview Class - March 14 & 21, 2018 - ACC. Treasurer Ellery-Somers requested that the Deputy Treasurer be allowed to attend an Excel class at Alpena Community College. The

class fee is \$55.00. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Treasurer Ellery-Somers to authorize the Deputy Treasurer to attend the class and pay overtime if necessary per the TPOAM contract. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Department Reports/Requests: Assessing, Building, Fire, Water:

Building Dept. - Permit Reports - January, 2018. Permit reports are included in the Board packets. Building Official Bleau offered to answer questions from the Board regarding the permit reports. None of the Board members had questions. Building Official Bleau advised the Board that he is resigning from the Building Official position exclusively effective April 1, 2018. A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Thomson to accept the resignation of Jerry Bleau from the Building Official position exclusively effective April 1, 2018. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Water Dept. - Report - J. Bleau

Letter of Resignation - M. Suszek. DPW Director Bleau advised the Board of the resignation of Meter Reader. A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Kroll to accept the resignation of Marshal Suszek from the Meter Reader position and refer the vacancy to the Personnel Committee for future recommendation. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Bleau asked for direction on how to proceed with the vacancy. Supervisor Skibbe advised him to take it to the Personnel Committee.

Water Review Course S1 and S2 - April 4-5, 2018 - Bloomfield Hills. DPW Director Bleau requested that the Board approve his request to allow his employee, S. Stoppa attend the Water Review Course S1 and S2 on April 4-5, 2018 in Bloomfield Hills, MI to include the class fee, mileage, and lodging. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Treasurer Ellery-Somers to allow S. Stoppa to attend the Water Review Course S1 and S2 on April 4-5, 2018 in Bloomfield Hills, MI and for the Township to pay the class fee, mileage, and lodging. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

2018 MRWA Annual Conference - March 20-23, 2018 - Mt. Pleasant. DPW Director Bleau requested that the Board approve his request to attend the MRWA annual conference on March 20-23, 2018 in Mt. Pleasant, MI to include the class fee, mileage, and lodging. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Poli to allow J. Bleau to attend the MTWA annual conference on March 20-23, 2018 in Mt. Pleasant, MI and for the Township to pay the class fee, mileage, and lodging. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Request to Move Balance - 1234 Golf Course Rd. Greenview Nursing filed bankruptcy in Wisconsin. The new company wants the balance to be put on the taxes of the property owner. DPW Director Bleau discussed this issue with the attorney and was advised that delinquent water bills can only be put on the taxes one time per year in October. Bleau suggests creating a

subaccount and let the balance rest until it can be put on the taxes in October. The new company will not see the delinquent bill until it can be put on the tax bill.

Basic Math for Water Personnel - March 28, 2018 - Clare. DPW Director Bleau requested that the Board approve his request to allow his employee, D. Robinette, to attend the Basic Math for Water Personnel class on March 28, 2018 in Clare, MI to include the class fee, mileage, and lodging. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Poli to allow D. Robinette to attend the Basic Math for Water Personnel class on March 28, 2018 in Clare, MI to include the class fee, mileage, and lodging. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Fire Dept. - Report - D. Robbins

Chief Robbins presented the monthly run report for January 2018 to the Board of Trustees. Robbins requested that he and Captain Honeycutt be allowed to attend a Grant Writing Class at Alpena Community College, the cost of the class is \$90.00 per person. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Kroll to allow Chief Robbins and Captain Honeycutt to attend the Grant Writing Class at ACC for \$90.00 person. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Chief Robbins also requested authorization for himself, Lt. Tolen, Firefighter Caplis, Capt. Hall and Capt. Honeycutt to attend a Certified Instructor class. Robbins explained that with all of the changes and new requirements for training with the State of Michigan, having personnel within our Department that can provide the necessary training will be a great benefit. A motion was made by Trustee Thomson and supported by Trustee Kroll to allow Chief Robbins, Lt. Tolen, Firefighter Caplis, Capt. Hall, and Capt. Honeycutt to attend the Certified Instructor Class for \$85.00 per person. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Chief Robbins wanted to make the Board aware that he is the Alpena County Training Chair and he has been asked to be the Liaison to Alpena Community College to work on reinstating the college to be the Regional Training Facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Don Speers of 10790 Roberts Road spoke of his support of law enforcement and encouraged the Board to continue supporting the TBJH Liaison officer.

Russ Rhynard of 315 Par Drive commented that despite he may not agree with the Board, he does respect the Board members and cited his ongoing concern if the purpose of becoming a Charter Township was to shift more responsibility to the Supervisor. He voiced his concern regarding the conduct of some of the Committee members relative to some of the Board that opposed. He also voiced concern regarding the original resolution to become a Charter Township being put in Correspondence in Nov. 2018 and made mention of a comment made by Susan Skibbe at the Town Hall meeting regarding her creating the agenda for the Board.

Marie Twite of 4165 Truckey Road again asked the Board to read and examine the Rules of Governance that have been adopted and are posted on the website as she does not believe that those rules are being followed.

Jane Speer of 10790 Roberts Road sought permission to post a meeting for the Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society that is being held at the Township Office in March. Supervisor Skibbe granted her request.

Susan Skibbe of 130 Channel Road #2 stated that she does not create agendas for the Board and only acts as the Secretary for the Charter Exploration Committee. She made a further attempt to defend the way in which the Charter Committee presented the resolution to the Board.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to move into closed session to discuss the water litigation. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION:

A motion was made by Trustee Poli and supported by Trustee Thomson to move into open session. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Kroll and supported by Trustee Poli to approve Attorney Fahey's recommendation as to his approach to settlement, trial and the posting of a meeting for the court proceedings. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Trustee Kroll, Trustee Poli, Trustee Thomson, Clerk Bleau, Treasurer Ellery-Somers, Supervisor Skibbe. Nays: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Treasurer Ellery-Somers and supported by Trustee Poli to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Karie K. Bleau
Alpena Township Clerk