

## MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 20, 2024

Board Members: Supervisor Michael Szukhent, Clerk Sandy Raffin, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Trustee Richard Deska, Treasurer John Righi. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Doug Baum, Zoning Administrator Jeff McDonald, Financial Processor Laura Schrader, Recording Secretary Julie Marcotte and Tyler Watters, 223 residents were present.

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Mike Szukhent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance taken.

Raffin made a **motion** to approve the set agenda for Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Tyler Watters presented the Albert Township 2023 Audit Report. Righi made a **motion** to accept the Auditors Report, which has been received and filed. Motion seconded by Raffin; motion carried with 5 yea votes. Righi thanked Financial Processor, Laura Schrader, for a job well done and pointing to her instrumental role in a successful audit. }

### Public Comment:

Szukhent made a brief statement regarding the status of a recent purchase involving the Redwood Motor Lodge. A letter has been forwarded to the attorney(s) representing the current owners of the Redwood Motor Lodge from Albert the Township attorney(s), a response must be provided within 5 days.

The following residents made comment regarding the current situation and potential use: "Big Ed," Paul Griffin, Bob Monroe, Larry Cardell, Brandi Nihranz, Elaine Tuttle, Barbara Ann Burns, Maria Wyatt, Michelle LaRose, Tommee Render made comments and requested a scheduled Public Meeting, including all Township Departments and Health Department, in a larger venue. Further comments were made by Diane Winstead, Sandy Salazar, Michelle Baker, Kevin Baker who also pointed out that if indeed the motel is being used for Migrant Worker Housing, the State of Michigan must license that through M-DARD, which also has regulatory requirements. Additional commentators were Wendy Render, Larry Gardel, Ed Vineo, Aaron Rivard, Vickie Brown, Steve Witte, and Owen Smith. One letter of concern was received and filed. Residents expressed concern that the Township would provide updates following the 5-day response time, as provided in the letter forwarded between attorneys.

McDonald made a **motion** to approve the Minutes of July 16, 2024, seconded by Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Raffin made a **motion** to approve the bills and additions in the amount of \$71,964.51 from 7-17 through 8-20-2024. Raffin pointed out that expenses were slightly higher due to the recent election and new lighting that was placed in the Township Offices, the maintenance garage is in the process of

having the lighting updated. Szukhent pointed out that we could get reimbursement from PIE&G for the lighting update. Righi seconded, motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Raffin made a **motion** to approve payroll in the amount of \$50,613.41, including the Fire Department, from 7-17 through 8-20-2024, again additional costs are reflected due to the recent election, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Treasurer's Report: received and filed. Righi discussed the fact the Township needs to determine if funding for the ATFD/Ambulance will continue through a Special Assessment. A historical report for the last 6 years was provided and filed. Discussion will need to be on the agenda at the next meeting and then a Public Hearing to be scheduled so that the Special Assessment can be added to the Tax Bill in December. Righi also wished to announce that Shannon LaPointe has been named Deputy Treasurer, training started last week. Righi made a **motion** that Shannon LaPointe be added as a signer on any and all accounts at Community Financial Credit Union and Nicolet National Bank, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Clerk's Report: Raffin extended a reminder regarding tire recycling which is scheduled for 9/14/2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., cost will be \$1.00/per tire, no limit on number of tires a resident can bring in for recycling.

Staff Reports:

- a) Zoning – received and filed
- b) Fire/EMS--received and filed--Doug Baum reported that this past weekend the ATFD hosted Project Connect which provided both food and resource information to participants, there was a very good turnout and response.
- c) Maintenance--received and filed
- d) Financial Processor--Audit was reported by Tyler Watters

Road Commission Report: None provided

Board Comments: Szukhent stated that in response to concerns raised during Public Comment; the Township is not looking at changing or amending any of the Ordinances which would ease, or make possible, the use of the Redwood. Timelines will be determined somewhat by the legal system; our attorney will instruct us on next best steps once the respondents 5-day reply period has lapsed. Szukhent stated that he is familiar with H-2B Visas and committed to contacting M-DARD in the morning to determine what the parameters are. The County Building Inspector will make a visit to the property to look at what is going on, if entrance is denied he will get a Court Order.

Szukhent declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Julie Marcotte  
Recording Secretary