

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 15, 2024

Board Members: Supervisor Michael Szukhent, Clerk Sandy Raffin, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Trustee Richard Deska, Treasurer John Righi. Also in attendance were Dale Edwards and Glen Garwood, Albert Township Fire Department, Recording Secretary Julie Marcotte, Tribune Reporter Yvonne Swager, 11 residents were present.

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

Attendance was taken.

Agenda

Raffin made a **motion** to approve the agenda for the Tuesday, October 15th Board meeting, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Public Comment

Szukhent opened the public comment with an update regarding litigation involving both the Redwood Motor Lodge and the snack shop/Marina near the beach. A court date is scheduled for October 18th for both cases. However, due to scheduling conflicts with the attorneys, an adjournment and new court date is being requested.

Robert Harper, 3361 Woodruff Rd. Lewiston, MI. wished to clarify the beach/marina case which Szukhent clarified detailing the Zoning conflict.

Greg Bator, 1129 Fleming Lewiston, MI. expressed concern regarding a complaint he filed with the Township regarding 1609 Fleming which has taken nearly a year to resolve. Greg has ongoing concerns with the 6ft. walkway to the lake, that the homeowners were permitted to leave in place, which is in conflict the ordinance that allows no more than a 4 ft. walkway to the lake. Greg states he submitted to the Township, correspondence regarding his concern and has received no response.

Cheryl McCormick, 6751 Island Dr. Atlanta, MI wished to speak in opposition of any unilateral granting of the 6 ft. vs. 4 ft. sidewalk which impacts both possible erosion and water quality.

No other public comment.

Disposal of Real Estate

Parcel #001-330-000-019-01 has been returned for the Township for unpaid taxes. For all intents and purposes this is an unbuildable parcel, it is a 50 ft. lot on S. Co. Rd. 489. The neighbor who adjoins this property has made an offer to purchase for \$500.00. Righi made a **motion**

to accept Sam Schoff's offer to purchase parcel #001-330-000-019-01 for \$500.00 and waive the \$125.00 land combination fee and pay for deed preparation, seconded by Deska. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Approve Minutes

McDonald made a **motion** to accept the Minutes from September 17th as submitted, seconded by Raffin. Motion carried with 4 yea votes, Szukhent abstained as he was not present for that meeting. October 3, 2024 Minutes need to be corrected to reflect Treasurer John Righi and Trustee Dick Deska. Raffin made a **motion** to accept the revised Minutes for the Special Hearing on October 3rd, seconded by Deska. Motion carried with 3 yea votes, Szukhent and McDonald were not present for the Hearing.

Approve Bills

Raffin made a **motion** to accept the bills and additions in the amount of \$132,073.29 from Sept 18th-Oct. 15th 2024, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes. Raffin made a **motion** to approve payroll in the amount of \$51,577.94 from Sept 18th-Oct. 15th. 2024, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Treasurers Report

Received and filed. Righi reported that we will be returning to DTE for natural gas delivery. There was quite a difference in CCF cost after the current supplier, Kratos, raised their cost. Raffin made a **motion** to accept the Treasurers report for September, presented on October 15th, seconded by McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Clerks Report

Raffin reported on pending projects, including park and cemetery cleanup, which are all current.

Staff Reports:

- a) Zoning Report: Received and filed. Next Planning Commission will be 10/23/24.
- b) Fire/EMS: Received and filed. Dale Edwards presented a proposal for a new refrigerator at a cost of \$999.00 for the fire hall, which includes delivery. There are smaller units available which are more expensive. Righi made a **motion** to purchase an Argus LC-600 17 CU. Ft. 2-door refrigerator for \$999.00, seconded by Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes. Glen Garwood addressed the status of purchasing a new ambulance and why it is necessary. Three separate cost proposals as have been submitted and received, as well as specifications for each rig. The unit that the Fire Department favors is a stock unit that is in production and can be delivered in a reasonable amount of time, March-April 2025. This item will be tabled so specs and proposals can be reviewed and Treasurer Righi can review the budget. A Special Meeting, will be held on Monday October 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. so that if approved, the Fire Department can proceed with purchase.
- c) Maintenance Report: Received and filed.

Road Commission

No Report

Board Comments

Raffin addressed Greg Bator's concerns regarding a complaint/ correspondence that he states was delivered to the Township Office. Raffin advised Mr. Bator that she did not receive the letter he referenced. Szukhent gave an update on recent events he attended involving NEMCOG and Pure Michigan, information regarding grant opportunities through MEDC was shared. The DDA received a donation from the widow of David Capotens for a clock to be placed downtown. Location TBD.

McDonald made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m...

Respectfully,
Julie Marcotte
Recording Secretary