

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 21, 2024

Supervisor Michael Szukhent called the Albert Township Special Board Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m... In attendance were Clerk Sandy Raffin, Treasurer John Righi, Trustee Dick Deska, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Fire Chief Doug Baum, Al Lemcool and Glen Garwood from the Albert Township Fire Department, Recording Secretary Julie Marcotte were present. One resident was in attendance.

Szukhent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Staff member Jeff McDonald was excused.

Approve Agenda: Szukhent would like to add the Ford Heavy Duty F-250 and necessary repairs to the agenda. McDonald made a **motion** to add the Ford Heavy Duty F-250, as 7a to the agenda, seconded by Deska. Motion carried with 5 yea votes. McDonald made a **motion** to approve the corrected agenda, seconded by Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Public Comment: None

Purchase of New Ambulance: After presenting 3 separate proposals for a new ambulance, the Fire Department is seeking approval to purchase the 4X4 Horton ambulance which meets all the Departments safety concerns which include rear air-bags for the patient and attendant compartment which increases their safety quite a bit. This rig also comes with a better warranty. The bid does not include pricing for graphics, this can be done locally at New Century Sign over in Gaylord, the approximate cost would be about \$5,000.00. This rig also includes the electrical wiring and brackets for the power cot system. The rails etc., which attach to the cot and are used to lower or lift the wheels, will come out of the old ambulance, and placed in the new, a savings of approximately \$70,000. The current ambulance, which will become the secondary ambulance, will not have that feature any longer but is used much less frequently. McDonald made a **motion** that the Township purchase a new 2024 Horton Ambulance in the amount of \$334,069.00 along with the expense included with the cost of graphics and the installation of the lift, seconded by Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes. Roll call vote taken.

Purchase of Fire Department Lawnmower: Baum, presented a bid for several different ZT lawnmowers to replace the current lawnmower which is a 1984 Craftsman and the deck is nearly worn through. Baum states he would prefer to purchase an American Made product locally vs. purchasing an imported product from a big box store. Nick, from our local business, states they would take care of the mower and service it as long as the Township owns it. This item will be tabled and Baum has agreed to obtain additional quotes for consideration and comparison.

Approval of Holiday "Standby Pay": The Fire Department would like to establish a "standby" pay structure for employees, both firefighting and ambulance runs, specifically during significant family Holidays. In the past the department did have a pay structure established for "standby" ambulance personal, however that pay was significantly higher than what is being

envisioned in this alternate model. The department will do some research on what various other departments have established and will present that to the Township Board for consideration. This item will be tabled until a draft policy can be submitted.

Township Well and recommendations and cost: Hart Well Drilling has submitted a quote for installing a “soft start,” which is an electronic board that regulates the pressure and starts the pumping off slowly, to remedy the current situation whereby when the well kicks on, the pressure of both pumps is so intense that PVC piping has twice needed replacement. Rowe Engineering also came out and evaluated the situation and had discussions with both Supervisor Szukhent and the Maintenance Supervisor, Jamie Winkleman. The recommendation was to proceed. Rowe Engineering did this pro-bono so he did not submit a formal quote as to avoid billing. Hart Well Drilling estimate did not include the electrical work that will also need to be included, it only includes the plumbing cost. The current bid was dated 07/31/2024, Raffin will ensure that price will still be honored. McDonald made a **motion** that we have Hart Well Drilling repair, on this bid of \$13,077.00 and include on that **motion** that we have our electrician, Dan Anderson with assistance from Don Raffin, for the electrical, for a total not to exceed \$20,000, seconded by Righi. Motion carried with 5 yea votes. Roll call vote taken

Montmorency County Emergency Manager: Baum reported that the Montmorency County Emergency Manager is resigning and the County has been unsuccessful in finding a replacement. Doug Baum is seeking approval from the Board to draft a Proposal to provide Emergency Management for the County. This is like what Otsego County does, they have their EMS and Rescue division of the County take care of Emergency Management under their department. One way that this could benefit the Township is the knowledge that Emergency Managers possess relative to grants etc.... that are available. The Board provided their approval for Baum to proceed with reviewing numbers and developing a proposal. Baum would ideally like to present the proposal to Montmorency County at their next Board Meeting and wishes to return to Albert Township Board prior for agreement. The Board agreed they would schedule a Special Meeting if necessary, so that the bid could be submitted.

Ford F-250: 2019 Ford F-250, needs repair, this vehicle was taken to Serra Ford for repairs however it is no longer under warranty. The quote for repairs, including front end work, is \$1,667.23, the Township would like the repairs to be made locally. McDonald made a **motion** to take the truck to Stephens and not exceed the Serra bid of \$1,667.23, seconded by Raffin. Discussion followed confirming that the Serra quote was a total repair estimate. Motion carried with 5 yea votes. Roll call vote taken.

McDonald made a **motion** to adjourn at 4:05 p.m... motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Respectfully,

Julie Marcotte
Recording Secretary