

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
February 28th, 2015

The regular Elm River Township monthly board meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Supervisor Hagan. Member present were Treasurer Lisa Saatio, Trustee John, Kelly, Trustee Richard Trudgeon, and Supervisor Shawn Hagan. Absent Clerk Robert Sibilsky.

Shawn Hagan thanked Sherri Brandt for stepping in to be Deputy Clerk.

AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion to approve Trudgeon/Saatio, all voted aye.

MINUTES OF January 26, 2015 MEETING: The minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting were read and approved, with the question from John if it is legal for the reduction of pay of \$40.00, \$20.00, and \$20.00 for February and March. Motion to approve: Saatio/Trudgeon, all voted aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Saatio gave the report with bank balances as follows: River Valley Bank \$30,982.69, Superior National Tax \$28,785.28, Superior National General \$17,342.43, MI Class Acct \$14,545.61. Paying bills in the amount of \$20,918.36, and payroll of \$2,180.63. The audit is still in progress. Motion to approve: RichardTrudgeon/Hagan, all voted aye.

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT: Giving the audit is progressing, will have it next month. Motion to approve: Trudgeon/Kelly, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: John Botto not in attendance. Everyone should have received their tax assessments. Board of Review organization meeting March 3rd, 2015 at 6 p.m. and will present the tax roll at that time.

CORRESPONDENCE: Houghton County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association meeting that was February 26, 2015 no one attended. Letter from the DEQ regarding Donken-Tapiola Road Washout, North Branch of Bear Creek. They are planning to put a steel bridge in. No other correspondence from the rest of the board.

OLD BUSINESS: Payroll process appears to be switched over to Rukkila to ensure that proper withholdings take place, but also those withholdings get processed and off to the state and feds in a timely fashion. In conjunction with payroll there is a direct deposit sheet if you want to do that; otherwise they will cut you a paper check.

*Garbage pickup is another big topic, that contract is a five (5) year contract with Waste Management is to expire in April. Shawn contacted them and they reviewed our current contract and are more than happy to re up that for a 3, 5, or 7 year term. It still comes out to \$37,000 a year which would include escalators for annual fees and fuel surcharges for diesel anything over \$4.00 a gallon in twenty five cent increments. Option 2 that they threw at us, that I told them is of great concern to the board was to do something different for the summer months. Keep the summer months the same with weekly pick ups every

Monday from June to October 31st, and then come November 1st to May they would go to a four (4) dumpster pick up service. They would spot four (4) dumpsters, here they propose at the town hall and they would make the weekly pick ups, and be on their way. And doing that combination of curb side pick up in the summer and dumpster pick up in the winter would save they have as \$1,400.00 it is actually \$14,000.00 savings. I spoke to John Kelly about it a little bit but we still have some follow-up conversations to get a little closer to something, but option 2 does look promising. I have spoke to two (2) others Jeff Veum, our janitor here and bounded the idea off of him. Being he is laid off during the winter months to take on the additional work of the curbside pick up with a pickup truck we would have to make sure it is bagged up and not in boxes where it would blow out of the truck. The other person I contacted was Greg the garbage guy he is up in Atlantic Mine and he got his own service, he is a one man show. He had a pickup truck with a gooseneck tilt bed trailer and he currently services Copper City, they got 72 pick ups that the village has contracted with him to take care of on a weekly basis. He charges them a fee per week or month Shawn was not sure of this. He also contracts to individuals for pick ups; he charges a \$3.00 fee for pick ups and \$1, \$2, or \$3.00 fee per bag depending on the size of the bag, which he bills directly to the residents. He needed to know that there are 70 in the winter months and it is 40 miles round trip to get to all the stops, Shawn did that Monday to figure that out and it took 2 hours. We balloon up to 200 in the summer months, which gave him a little hesitation and he said he wasn't sure he could handle that. My concern is that you are a one man operation, what happens if you get sick or go out of town. John Kelly states maybe have a two day service, for a follow if we can meet with him early next week and spell out some more questions for him. It is going to be a big switch as people come back for the summer. He stated that you have Waste Management now I am sure I can beat their prices, and he goes to Houghton County Transfer. We have three (3) options status quo, staying with Waste Management but modifying it to have dumpster in the off season. I see issues with that, garbage around the dumpster and outsiders using them. It is one of our higher line items in our expenses, \$3,557.34. We will have a decision and have a motion on the floor next month.

NEW BUSINESS: Part of March Board of Review and going through the tax roll process, we have the Poverty Exemption that needs to be updated so we got the Poverty Exemption Guidelines which is the same as prior years with the exception to it is the new table associated with it. Poverty Guidelines have gone up slightly, a family unit of one is \$11,670 gross income if you exceed that you do not qualify for the exemption. You must provide all the required information to the board to see if you qualify for the exemption. The applicant's asset level, excluding the principal residence, but would include vehicles, boats, and etc extra pieces of property, may not exceed \$25,000. To approve this resolution we would need a roll call vote. The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member John Kelly and supported by Board Member Shawn Hagan. Upon roll call vote the following voted "aye: Saatio/Kelly/Hagan/Trudgeon. Nay: none
Adopting the Poverty Exemption Guidelines Resolution for Elm River Township, Houghton County, Michigan.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No Action

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Richard Trudgeon indicated the truck has been acting up. They are trying to get someone up here to look at it. Every time the new truck is taken out it freezes up when the temperature is below zero. John contacted Pomasl and he hasn't gotten a return call. There is no hot water getting to it, and we reviewed past calls when it was below zero it froze up. Not sure who will do the work us or Pomasl, but it will be taken care of one way or another shortly.

ROAD & LIGHTS COMMITTEE UPDATE: Roads are ice covered and starting to show signs of frost.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$20,918.36 in monthly bills, Motion to accept: Hagan/Trudgeon, all voted aye. Amended to include \$2,180.63 in payroll, all voted aye.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Debbie Maki presented a FIOA request. Richard Krupp said he doesn't know if he was at fault because he didn't received any notice of the training in Houghton for the Board of Review. Joe Siller regarding the garbage where are they going to put the dumpster? Per Shawn they have listed the Town Hall. Mary Kieranen knew the contractor. She indicated the contractor is a one man show. Shawn said that Greg from Atlantic Mine is all he knew. I have his phone so we will follow back up with him.

BOARD COMMENTS: Tuesday is the organization meeting and John will present the BOR with the tax roll. It will more or less be them reviewing and getting questions answered by John. And the actually hearings will be the following week on the 9th and 10th, noon to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., 9 a.m. to noon and than 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 30th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn 11:05 a.m. Saatio/Trudgeon, all voted aye.

Sherri Brandt, Deputy Clerk

Shawn Hagan, Supervisor