

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
APRIL 21, 2016

The regular Elm River Township monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Reynolds. Members present: Supervisor Reynolds, Treasurer Reynolds, Trustee Trudgeon, and Clerk Brandt. Trustee Kelly absent.

AGENDA: Approval of the agenda by C Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all vote aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE March 17, 2016 REGULAR MEETING: Motion to approve: R Trudgeon/J Reynolds, all vote aye.

TREASURERS REPORT: Balances are off the statements dated March 31, 2016, Superior National Bank General Account \$223,053.46, Superior National Bank Tax Account \$99,877.29. Motion to approve: S Brandt/R Trudgeon, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: *John Botto: BOR all went well, I think we had seven issues; all reports have been file with Houghton County Equalization and state. I haven't heard anything bad back, but we do have to get the 4037 signed. Earl Grandchamp has been to Equalization and gone over our township records and we are good so far. I have not heard anything from AMAR, so I assume we are alright there. I am sure they are going to be back. I am working in Allouez Township and everybody in the Keweenaw is being hit with the AMAR this year. *J Reynolds: I have a few things, regarding the lack of the Land Value Maps, we are not hiring (Coleman Engineering) to do them, it is my understanding that it is up to you to provide them. J Botto: I will try and get them done, I don't know how we are going to get them. J Reynolds: documented land value determinations also. J Botto: that is all in BS&A, we still have to get the maps. That thing with Coleman was a lot more than what we needed. J Reynolds: The economic condition factor determination? J Botto: Yes which we have. *Joe S. don't they have copies of all that down at the courthouse? The land value it is all still Houghton County. J Botto: They do not have townships information there, land value maps tell you what each piece of property is worth. They would be color coded for each value. *J Reynolds: so that is something you are going to take care of before we get another letter? What was it about the 4035a taxable value calculation worksheet? J Botto I saw the letter and I have no idea what they are talking about; we did all the 4035's properly. J Reynolds: the true cash value on the assessment roll does not agree with the cash value on the record card? J Botto: once again I disagree with that; I would like them to show me the ones that don't agree. I print new record cards every year; we have the value on the card that goes on our tax roll. May 13th I will be attending a session with Tim Schnell from the state tax commission. They will be holding an education session in Escanaba. It is going to deal with ECF's if you don't have enough valid sales. *C Reynolds: when you do your assessments that just went out to everybody, the assessment change notices, do you ever combine them if one person has five parcels into one envelope? J Botto: No. C Reynolds, you need to start doing that. *J Botto: no you need to start doing that, that's not my job. I am not going to pick thru to save \$2.50 I am not going to do it. J. Reynolds: John that is

your job. C Reynolds: I go thru and put all the tax bills together, there isn't a lot but it saves the township money. J Botto: For what I am getting paid I am not going to do it, I am not asking for a raise I have been here for three years. Start paying me more and I will start doing more. *J Reynolds: remember John we have no contract with you, you can be replaced. J. Reynolds: going back to the letters we need this stuff done. J Botto: that is fine. It will be done.

CORRESPONDENCE: *We received a foreclosure notice on a parcel in the township; it is up on M 26 they are asking us if we would like to purchase it. Motion made to not purchase: J Reynolds/S Brandt all in favor aye. *Received a statement for audit services \$27,025 service date 2014, 235 hours at \$115 an hour. I have a letter into the state to try and see if we can get some kind of break. Considering how much we take in every year compared to the cost of these audits. Until we understand our finances of course we can't pay this bill. **We received a letter of resignation from Trustee John Kelly effective today. Motion made to accept J Kelly's resignation: J Reynolds/C Reynolds, all in favor aye. *Brad from WUPPDR is going to have an energy use survey, and wanted to know if it could be put in the winter tax bills. It is a short survey and most people don't fill them out because they don't want to spend the money on a stamp to send it back and there is an option to go online and fill it out. I agreed that if you want you can drop the surveys off in the box township box and we can collect them.

OLD BUSINESS: *The audit report-We were hoping to have Brenda here tonight to go thru our final numbers and fix our computer system. She is behind a bit so she said another week/week and half. *C Reynolds: she could have come tonight but it wouldn't be for the audit findings, so why have her come. When we have the report from the state we are going to have her come to the next meeting or have a special meeting. *J Reynolds: I would like to have a special meeting. *C Reynolds: she did make it sound like it would be a week or two after our meeting tonight. I did tell her we would do a special meeting and she was fine with that. *J Reynolds: we really need that and she understands that. **Fire truck- C Reynolds I have gone thru the reports from the county and based on our tax database here I don't know if the numbers are right. Kathy went thru and printed from 2006 when we actually started the millage for the truck until current. I have done totals but am not 100% sure and not even sure the totals are right they are from the county and match to what we received in the deposit, I don't know that. So what I have written up and I actually went and pulled all the 1098's statements for the fire truck, so I have those together. I am waiting to hear back from Brenda and we will know what they are looking at this, and hopefully get together with her in the next couple of days. We do have a deadline for the millage if we have to adjust it. I do have numbers but I don't want to give them out.

NEW BUSINESS: *Garbage-so how is going with the garbage? He is going to be coming earlier. In efforts to save some money, the plan is to have him do May every other week. Starting every week the first Monday in June. Motion made to have garbage picked up every other week in May and resume every week the first Monday of June: J Reynolds/C Reynolds, all in favor aye. *Rich Pirhonen met with MDOT and he might have some insight on the trail across from the Fire Hall.

****Rich:** The plan is going to be between My Trail, the DNR, and the Superior Snowmobile Club moving the trail back to the original location. What it entails, the mill will have to move all the sand from the trail. The DNR will grade, add topsoil and plan the cleanup. Pushing the sawdust in the old roadway and plant trees, we can plant from the 30 foot line, which is the white fog line. That would bring us to about the middle of the trail, and that would give us about a 25 foot area to plant the trees. With the grant money we are going to have a fence put up on the inside to keep the ORV's and snowmobiles off until the trees get a chance to grow. I have been searching for monies for the trees that are taller, but no one seems to have any available right now. My Trail grant money will be used to stabilize the old railway with gravel to the corner, once it settles and we put the oil on it should be good for the summer. I talked to the mill and they were talking about putting a culvert from the mill to the ditch right here to alleviate the water from the road. Everything is progressing. I have had four contractors come and talk to me about the project and we will also stabilize four sections south of the bridge on the trail with gravel. The bid will be awarded April 30th, so this is going to be as quick as we can. Hopefully we can have it by June so when the truck with chloride comes thru we will be able to stabilize it. It looks like it should be good. We aren't getting any berm money; we can't find any money for that. I would like to see some five foot trees right off the bat but can't locate any. ***C Reynolds:** how tall is the fence going to be? ***Rich:** it is going to be a four foot fence; it is going to be that plastic utility fence you see at construction sites, heavier woven. We will have to put snowmobile signs on it, once we get the backhoe over there and get some trees growing and stabilize with some grass and three or four years we will have the pines. I talked to MDOT they were going to put me in touch with any fellow from MDOT whether or not they might have some trees. I do have a layout for the board for what we are actually doing here. Hopefully everything goes along good and we have it done by June. *** J Reynolds:** thanks Rich. ***Rich** if I know anything more I will let you know and if we can find trees somewhere.

****We** have the millage renewals with the upcoming election. The renewal of the General Fund millage and General Service's millage, both are up this year. First the General Service's millage there are no increases it is the same renewal. Motion made for the Resolution to Adopt Millage Ballot Language by J Reynolds/C Reynolds. Roll call vote Supervisor Reynolds, Treasurer Reynolds, Trustee Trudgeon, and Clerk Brandt all vote yes, no opposing votes.

The renewal of the General Fund millage, motion made for the Resolution to Adopt Millage Ballot Language by J Reynolds/C Reynolds. Roll call vote Supervisor Reynolds, Treasurer Reynolds, Trustee Trudgeon, and Clerk Brandt all vote yes, no opposing votes.

****Motion** made for Monday April 25th at 6:30 pm a special meeting to appointing a new Trustee, seconded by R Trudgeon, all in favor aye. If anybody is interested, submit a letter of interest, we don't have to interview and we don't have to list it in the paper. Word of mouth so spread it around, we have a list of people that showed an interest before so we will make them aware of it. I want to get this going, and it will be until November. I will put a notice on the door for the special meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mike S: It wasn't in the minutes last time; we had two firefighters complete their firefighter one training, Jeremiah Pantti and Moria Doverspike. Our next work bee we will change our rescue rig from snow to wheels. The only other thing is working on the purchases for our DNR grant, with the grant to purchase four new radios, and also a portable pump. The grant is a 50/50 grant with the grant value at \$3,200; we have to secure bids on the pump because it is over \$2,500, the radios we don't have to submit bids on because that is under the value so we are in the process of working on that. Been working on getting a grant for six years and we finally got it. *J Reynolds: only thing I have is the fire department was approached to thoroughly clean the saw mill, we agreed to do it, we have been doing that for quite a few years.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: C Reynolds: the bills we are paying tonight is \$3,691.01, in those bills is (the third page of the printout) \$182.00 for Keweenaw Fire Sales & Service, it is for our fire extinguishers inspections and hydro testing to be done. This bill is from last year and it was not paid, so we have \$55 on late charges. *C Reynolds: just so everyone is aware, that is why that page is by itself because that bill just came in today and we didn't want to incur another \$5 fee. *C Reynolds: our payroll tonight is \$2,795 and also there is no UPPCO bill on here. The reason being they have a new system, new website, new invoice, and new all of the above and I had a nightmare with ours at home and had issues with the bills here. *Joe S: the whole thing is screwed up when they transferred from WPS to this new company it was not done properly. *C Reynolds they are all new accounts numbers, so if you give the number from a bill it is not going to work, we are going to have to wait. *Mary K I pay might with paper and it gets shipped to Arizona. Motion made to pay the bills J Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all in favor aye.

CITIZENS COMMENT: **Rick G: 1st I will wait and talk to Brenda on the salaries. 2nd If I make a verbal commitment for trustee, will you still need a letter? *J Reynolds: Yes. **Joe S: With the financial situation in the township, I would like to thank Cheryl for trying to saving money on these envelopes, and I would volunteer my time to help stuff these envelopes. If it is agreeable, because any money we can save is going to help all the taxpayers. *C Reynolds: you would have to get together with John when those go out. The tax bills themselves, we will have to stuff the survey. **Mary K: you can put me down too for any help. **Joe S: I could pick up mine because we have a few and that would even save the postage, if it allowable.

BOARD COMMENTS: **S Brandt: make sure your garages are locked, our garage got broken into. **C Reynolds: any updates on that guardrail by Koski's? *Rich P: there was some complaining about the cost of extending the guardrail. **Mike S: all they have to do is drop one load of rock in the hole. **Rich P: yes but that is a county road. **J Reynolds: it was once and somebody took a loader and took it out. It is hard for us as a township to enforce that without a constable, you would think county would have helped us out. **Mike S: you would think they could have dropped a truckload of gravel in the whole it is only six feet wide. **J Reynolds: I will give Aaron Johnson a call, he was easy to talk too, and see if he has any ideas. **C Reynolds: I can't take treasurer phone calls at work about tax bills, I need to say that because I can't take them on my full time

job. I had a voicemail so that is why I am bringing it up at the meeting; my cell number is on every tax bill I will call you back on my lunch or when I am done with work.

**J Reynolds: I just want to reassure everybody here, we are learning a lot about the things that were not done correctly in this office. All activities are being done correctly and on time according to the state. We are spending the time to follow thru with everything. In the effort to save money we are all trying our hardest to squeeze it out of this or that; we are defiantly going to need it. Just wanted to assure everybody that this board is really trying to fix things. **C Reynolds: I am not done (laughter again) we paid our payroll tax and we didn't put it in for the bills paid. Talking about paying on time we did make the payroll tax payment which is quarterly to the state and IRS. We will have for the next meeting, just so everybody knows that they had been paid and that was an issue before.

**Next meeting is May 19, 2016 at 6:30 pm, motion to adjourn S Brandt/R Trudgeon at 7:15 pm all in favor aye.