

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
June 16, 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, Trustee Saari, and Clerk Brandt.

AGENDA: Approval of the agenda by C Reynolds/S Brandt, all vote aye

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING TO APPOINT A TRUSTEE:

Motion to approve J Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all vote aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION REGARDING THE FIRE TRUCK: D Saari/J Reynolds, all vote aye.

TREASURERS REPORT: Balances are off the statements dated May 31, 2016, Superior National Bank General Account \$200,406.39, Superior National Bank Tax Account \$99,877.29. Motion to approve R Trudgeon/S Brandt, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: I don't see John but I do have correspondence from him regarding AMAR, we got our certified action plan follow up. It is all regarding to John I am going to have to get with him. He has to submit corrections to the Houghton County Courthouse on July 13, 2016. \* C Reynolds does that have anything to do with tax rolls? \*J Reynolds he does have to bring the 2017 database with him, he sounds like they want to talk to him. \*C Reynolds he needs to get there so we can get the tax bills ran and out. \*J Reynolds so I will get that to John.

CORRESPONDENCE: We got a letter from the Dept of Treasury regarding 2016 audit contract which we will be going over in new business. \*We have to send in our yearly reports to USDA for the fire truck, I have a copy of the budget, insurance information and little bit to fill out and we can send it in. I think it is ok to be delayed as we didn't get our audit back yet according to Karen Mitchell I talked to her today. \*C Reynolds I assume she wants audit findings. \*J Reynolds what you have to give her is a copy of the audit or an annual report. This is the audit we are waiting for. Also with USDA they have a survey of our fire calls if people we were responded to were white I never had that one before I filled that our and needs to be mailed back to them. \*A letter from the Township of Baraga there intends to plan, with accordance with the requirements of Michigan Planning Enabling Act this is to notify you that Baraga County is insinuate a master plan. They are asking for our cooperation in this process, specifically if we have any thoughts, plans, or issues that should be considered. We also invite you to participate in the process. They will keep us updated on their progress. \*I also received from a resident in Donken, Patti Dolan she said does the township plan to do anything about the burned out houses in Donken and the abandon one on the highway? We are thinking about putting our house up for sale in the next year or two and don't think the value would be good with the way Donken looks. I was just wondering what part the township plays in this. Thanks Patti Dolan. \*J Reynolds I responded to Patti: The township has no zoning this meaning we have way to enforcing any rules. I was hoping they would have ended up on the back taxes so they could be purchased by the township, if the township could purchase them we would clean them up. I have been

researching other ways like public safety I understand your frustrations it really looks terrible. I will present this letter to the board on the 16<sup>th</sup> and during my research keep you in the loop. I have plans of getting the township looking and operating much better, believe it or not Patti this letter will help.

OLD BUSINESS: \*If you see a fireman, thank a fireman because they figured out where our septic tank was over a course of 5-6 hours, we got it unplugged and mapped out so we know where the drain field is. Thank your fireman it would have been a huge cost.

NEW BUSINESS: \*Dept of Treasury 2016 audit contract. What they are asking of us is if we want them to do our upcoming audit this year 2016, we have to make a decision on that tonight. \*S Brandt I think they need to do it as they have all our information and know what we have been going threw. \*C Reynolds we are not done with the mess. We are trying to reconcile so we can get 2015 done and it is still a mess. We have been e-mailing stuff to Brenda for her help on it. I really think they should do it again. \*J Reynolds they are working with us on this. \*C Reynolds it won't be as many hours, there is no reason for it to be. We have the documentation but there are a few months at the beginning and I did send her a lot of information tonight just to get the reconciliations done. \*J Reynolds I will make a motion that we have the State of Michigan do our upcoming audit. S Brandt seconded, all in favor aye. \*C Reynolds we have to get all the files to her by the end of this month. According to her e-mail Cary would have to receive the contract and the \$7500 before the files would be picked up. \*We also need to approve the audit finding response that we are going to be sending into the state. It all looks in order to me it is all the response's that we went over at the last meeting. Motion to approve the audit responses by J Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all in favor aye. \*C Reynolds once we send this we will have our printout of our finalized findings at the next meeting. \*J Reynolds We are going to do our first budget amendment since I have been here. We had a \$42 bill for the inspection of our fire extinguishers and I didn't budget anything in other services for the building and maintenance so I am going to make a motion to move \$200 from repairs building and maintenance to other services. Seconded by R Trudgeon, all in favor aye. \*Not sure if everybody has seen the movement of the trail over by the highway I think it is coming along really well. It is kind of nice it is higher up and they put a culvert in and I believe Rich has some trees to plant. \*Rich we have 500 red pine. \*J Reynolds they are going to plant between the trail and the highway, I think it is looking nice. Also I am sure a lot of you noticed that MDOT installed a berm and ditched area at the end of N Shore Dr that looks pretty good they have hay on there for grass that should solve a safety issue for the township. \*Today I receive some information from Mr. Koski regarding issues he presented to the Houghton County Commissions meeting last night regarding a party at his neighbor's place they sent him back to the township. I went and met with the Houghton County Sheriff Brian McLean today and talking with him we can make an ordinance to stop that stuff but there is nobody here to enforce it. We could hire an off duty police officer or hire a constable but we can't enforce it. His recommendations are if you see something you don't like call 911.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: We received the title for the tanker; it is now in our name the one we were given from the Federal Forest Division and it is in service. I checked on license plates because the plates were a disaster we were paying roughly \$300 a year on plates because they renewed them every year. We paid \$13 each for a lifetime municipality plate so for \$54 dollars

we solved all our license plate problems. \*The DNR 50/50 grant we did receive radios along with the bill. The deal is we have to pay the whole bill and they will send us back half. So you are in the works on that? \*C Reynolds Sherri went to SNB and got a Cashier's Check, you either had to get the Cashier's Check or you could write a check and you had to put the statement with showing it cleared. So the Cashier's check will be going out in the mail today.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Paying bills in the amount of \$3,614.90 and the register is what we printed and payroll in the amount of \$2,495 also a register we everybody's name on. I ran a journal register for Elm River Township they reason I did that was to show the Cashier check for \$1,401 because it is technical not on the check register. There is a custom invoice report I know Rick suggested to have the explanation of bills and what everything was for so that is what that is for. I do apologize when you look at the Sip for our garbage it is cut off it was for 127 pickups and that was for 5-31-16. I will be running this monthly so everybody can see them. Motion to pay the bills by J Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all in favor aye.

**CITIZENS COMMENT:** \*Rick the status of garbage, like how is the guy doing? \*J Reynolds I was going to go over that, but I will do it now. The garbage seems to be going very well there was a few issues with people returning and roads not going down, I took him for another tour. He knows the roads are open like Penegor Lane and he is doing really well and he did say there has been a lot of garbage but there has been a lot of loose garage. He will not pickup loose garbage it has to be in a bag and he has to be able to pick up the bag. There was an issue with people with roofing shingles, a bundle of shingles is a hundred pounds and if he can't pick it up he isn't taking it. I have heard a lot of good things he puts the lids back on and when people come home their cans aren't all over the place. The average for the winter months it was \$800 and this bill was for \$1,700 and there wasn't as many people back yet so he is figuring June and July is really going to tell them story. \*Rick does he think he is going to beat that \$7,000 threshold? \*J Reynolds I don't think he thinks that, he said it has actually been pretty even. Out of all the stops at one place he has six bags and the next it is one. \*Joan asked several questions about finances. \*Rick is there going to be a revised budget as this one was guess work? \*J Reynolds this budget is in stone. It is correct and board approved. Once they have everything set in the computer I will be able to print a budget to actual report monthly. I think we are doing a good job, but its hard if you start with \$40,000 in audit fees, we have to fix the previous mess to move ahead. \*J Reynolds we talk about this stuff at every meeting, we are repairing all problems. You can replace the whole board and it isn't going to move it any faster. The board is working with the state, and making headway. \*Joanne Dave as a new member on this board what ideas do you have for saving money. \*D Saari we have to get the finances cleared up, and we can do what we can with what funds we have or don't have we have to be patient. Than we can come up with some new ideas, everything costs money. \*C Reynolds we need to look at the street lights not used the bill is \$900 a month. \*J Reynolds I am waiting for an e-mail back from a guy in Negaunee Township who found a grant for LED lights.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** \*S Brandt if you are on the election board we have training 23<sup>rd</sup> in Hancock just a reminder. We do have an election on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. \*J Reynolds just a reminder we have our pancake breakfast coming up, come hungry and just think of all that wood you can have delivered to your house.

\*\*Next meeting is July 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm, motion to adjourn J Reynolds/R Trudgeon at 7:30 pm all in favor aye.