

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
August 18, 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 Saari, Trustee Trudgeon, and Clerk Brandt.

AGENDA: Approval of the agenda with one addition #9 renewing our township website. J Reynolds/D Saari, all vote aye

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE July 21, 2016 REGULAR MEETING: Motion to approve: D Saari/R Trudgeon, all vote aye.

SPECIAL GUEST: George Rajala from Chassell, running for Houghton County Commissioners gave a background on himself and what he would like to see done if he was elected.

TREASURERS REPORT: * C Reynolds-We are finally going off the fund balances after a year and two months: General Fund \$84,456.29, Road Fund \$36,549.67, Fire Fund \$26,625.98, Fire Truck Fund \$20,689.14, Liquor Law Fund \$3,571.74, and Current Tax Fund \$187,458.72. Motion to approve: J Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: *J Reynolds-Received a Request for Improvement of Deficiencies from the state for 2015-16 which Cary Vaughn has taken care of. **DEQ Water Resources Division Permit for culvert.

OLD BUSINESS: *J Reynolds-The board members were given copies of prices for a outdoor convex mirrors, 36 inch in diameter for the bridge and the cost for that is \$157.14. Two no wake signs are \$39.95 each and an eight foot metal post would be \$44.45 each. It was something that was brought to our attention at the last meeting. *Audience: what would the total cost be? *J Reynolds- the mirror is \$157.14 and each sign is \$40. I might be able to get posts from the county. Roughly \$250 for the mirror and signs. *J Reynolds- I make a motion to purchase the mirror and 2 no wake signs. *Audience I have lived here 50 years and there has never been a mirror and we are spending money we don't have. * J Reynolds- there is a lot of commotion going thre there it is a very dangerous corner, my grandmother gave 20 feet of her property for the new bridge project. According to the drawings it was suppose to be straight with no blind corner. We have people concerned in the community and we need to do something. *Audience-how about Jeffers wood shop making the signs and possibly costing us nothing? *J Reynolds-that is a good idea. I also talked to Keith Koski before about signs and he offered to make them. We will check on that option. *J Reynolds- I will make a motion we order the mirror, 2nd by D Saari, all in favor aye. *Audience we need a new sign for the Woodland Cemetery also. *J Reynolds that would another good one for the Jeffers School I know they like those projects. Once the school year has started I will look into it.

NEW BUSINESS:

** Jim Smithers addressed the board and made a complaint about dealings he had with our assessor.

**Bridge. J Reynolds- Maybe on the back of the sign-up sheet we could make a list of people willing to help clean up the falling rocks and cans around the bridge. I have a homemade rod that I use to pick up the empty cans, so if you are interested let us know.

**Brenda is working on the F65's for 12, 13, 14, 15, and 2016 for access my gov.com.

**I checked on local rates for winter storage and it averages about \$11 a foot and it seems like a good rate. They measure from the back to the tip of the trailer. *Audience- the only problem I have with that is there are a lot of local people that do storage, the golf course, Paul Strack, and Joe Siller and now the township is. *J Reynolds- we are doing it to generate income. *Audience- yes, so are they to pay their taxes, I think it is a touchy situation and I am just being fair to those people. Terry just brought the golf course and Paul has empty buildings for storage, and I would hate to see the township taking money out of their pockets. *J Reynolds- many of those people have their stuff full and there is a lot more people showing interest. We are saving money and we are trying to improve things.

** J Reynolds- Any comments on garbage? I think it seems to be going pretty well. I have received a lot of good feedback. *Audience has the board addressed when we are going to go to every other week? *J Reynolds- seeing as it is a test period we could go every week in September and see how it goes.

**CFR C Reynolds-I am sure everyone saw the huge balance in the tax fund, there is money still sitting in there because back in 2015 when Rukkila's and our former treasurer worked on CFR disbursements, a check was issued to the school for CFR money for 2012-2013. The check was issued April 29, 2015 in the amount of \$39,885.06 and it should have never gone to the school it needed to go to the state. Funds are sent to the state and then they disburse to the school, and now they have been double paid. I have told them the situation and I need to go to the school, after Brenda gets back with the figures. She is working with the people with CFR also. I just wanted everyone aware of this. At the next meeting, this will be different for the tax fund; it should be the current collection in there.

**ISO-*J Reynolds I was contacted by ISO and we are currently a 9-10 on our insurance rates, which affects everyone's premiums in the township. He is coming up to meet with us and believes we can get knocked down to 8A because of the equipment the fire dept has acquired like free stuff, pumps, and grants. He is going to meet with us in the middle of September and see what he can do for us. toward of premiums. The fire department is meeting with him September and I should have a report for you at the September 15th meeting. *Audience do we need any more hydrates around? *J Reynolds- we would like to have more, but we need to be able to get to them year round. Our main concern is we have nothing in Winona, one in Donken, one at Emily Lake, and one across from Krupps resort. About 4-5 years ago we got a grant for one but time ran out to get the DEQ permits, it was a 50/50 grant. We received a free pump from Otter

Lake and we got the grant for a pump so now we have two, so we are thinking of a building at the boat launch and have that pump into the lake live so the fire truck doesn't have to go there and prime. We would like to have one in Winona but we can't find a water source.

****Resignation.** J Reynolds- I have a letter of resignation from myself, resigning as the fire chief position effective as of tonight's meeting August 18, 2016. Motion by S Brandt to accept resignation, 2nd by R Trudgeon, all in favor aye. J Reynolds abstained.

(9)****Website-**J Reynolds tonight we would need approval to renew our township website it is \$14.95 for a year. J Reynolds- made a motion to keep out township website seconded by R Trudgeon, all in favor aye.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: *M Sabo- we had a call last Friday night from a citizen for smoke in the back of Lake Gerald, we sent two truck out and three personal vehicles out looking for it for about an hour and half and never found anything. *M Sabo can I ask one question of the treasurer have we received any of our money yet under the grant? *S Brandt we did receive \$70.00. *M Sabo I did receive a call from Lansing about the rest of the grant, they questioned why we didn't send it altogether, and I said according to the grant we were able to purchase separate, so she sent it to accounting. *S Brandt- I sent the other two after you received the equipment.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: *Bill total is \$8,415.22 and payroll is \$2,495.00 for a total of \$10,910.22. Motion to pay the bills S Brandt/J Reynolds, all in favor aye.

CITIZENS COMMENT: ****Richard K-**I would like to thank the board for problems they went threw for the last couple years and getting our finances back in line. I think they have done a wonderful job a lot of late nights at the office. ****Rick-** I reviewed the recent audit and they have you down for \$17,000 in your actually pay for treasurer, and clerk is \$12,500. *C Reynolds- Rukkila's is still in there. Fiscal is April 1st to March 31st and that is still overlapping from when we came in. *Rick- when did we stop using Rukkila? *S Brandt- December 31st and that was because of payroll, they only did payroll. *C Reynolds- we were paying \$125 a month for payroll. C Reynolds- Joan when you asked about that sheet with the breakdown, I asked Brenda and she told me that exhibit L gives that breakdown that you were looking at. The other question you had for Public Safety, Brenda asked where you pulled the figures from? *Joan- from the audit, but what is included in public safety. *C Reynolds- public safety is just the fire dept, but the public works is the street lights, road maintenance, and garbage. So garbage alone is why it was so high for public works. *Rick- what bothers me is that the auditors put it in the clerk & treasurer column. *C Reynolds- well technically they were doing their jobs and that is why they have to put it that way. ****Joanne** I have two questions, what decisions have been made about the street lights? *J Reynolds- I never got an e-mail back from UPPCO but I did talk to a gentleman from Negaunee Township. They were awarded a grant for LEDs and he also said you have to have a certain amount of people in your township to qualify. I told him how many we had and he said we didn't have enough people. *Joanne- the next question is the replacement of the fire chief? *J Reynolds according to MTA rules, a fire chief is a employee of the township, volunteer or paid. 60 days prior to an election, an employee is not eligible for office so I resigned within the 60 days of the November election. It breaks my heart, I belonged to the

association for many years to disturb my seniority hurts. I will remain a fireman and the roster moves up one and I go to the bottom. * Open street light discussion.*Joan-I just want to tell you Cheryl how much I appreciate your role as the treasurer, thinking back when you first started and the first time I remember seeing frustration on your face and your willing to go back at it again. We have been watching you evolve in these meetings and you have a real command of this system and knowledge, you are able to answer questions, I am so impressed and I want to thank Sherri too but I see it as your role. You are just blossoming in this position. *C Reynolds- thank you, if you have questions ask them we aren't hiding anything. *Joe S one question on this fund balances are we going to see them go down as the money is spent? *C Reynolds- yes and you will see more reports. I would rather do a fund breakdown so you can see exactly what posted. It reports income and expenses with GL numbers. *Joe S- I want to thank Joe Romano for trying to save the township money with suggestion of Jeffers. *Joanne I want to say I feel more comfortable to sit here and not feel intimidated by the board as I have felt that in the past. **Jim S- I want to thank Cheryl for all the help she has given me in this problem.

BOARD COMMENTS: *J Reynolds I have one, I would also like to thank Cheryl and Sherri both for late hours and late nights at the office repairing our system. I would like to apologize to both of them for asking when things will be finished. Very good job guys. *C Reynolds- I have something for Joanne you had asked what Brenda charges it is \$115. *J. Reynolds- there will be some special meetings coming up, keep an eye on the website and the door. *Joanne-my problem with some of the stuff going on in the township is I went to the BOR and I invited the board to come out to look at the property we have that is underwater. The assessor said it was 100% usable not one of those people from the BOR showed up and the assessment on the property did not change.

*Next meeting is September 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm, motion to adjourn: J Reynolds 2nd S Brandt at 8:25 pm all in favor aye.