

## MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

September 15, 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. S Brandt/D Saari, all vote aye

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE August 18, 2016 REGULAR MEETING: Motion to approve: D Saari/R Trudgeon, all vote aye.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING August 25, 2016: Motion S Brandt/C Reynolds, all vote aye.

TREASURERS REPORT: \* C Reynolds-General Fund \$98,382.63, Road Fund \$39,930.79, Fire Fund \$31,098.81, Fire Truck Fund \$11,927.60, Liquor Law Fund \$4,715.67 and Current Tax Fund \$411,238.67. Motion to approve: J Reynolds/D Saari, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: J Botto-I have not received anything back from AMAR. I did attend three days of BS&A training. Dan Curwin came up from BS&A. There were a total of eight people for the three days, there are amazing capabilities with the software and we did learn a lot. Land Value maps- we will have them by 2017 tax rolls. The Land Division review training early register was \$55 but we had to do that by September 11th, it is \$75 to do now. This is three days 9-28 1-2:30pm, 9-29 1-3pm 9-30 1-2:30pm is a webinar I will sign up for it. J Reynolds- I make a motion for John to sign up for the training, seconded by R Trudgeon. I would like to get the Apex software, not sure if we can get it this year for drawings and we can attach to each property. It would be nice to have the scanner working so I can attach the deeds to each property. \*C Reynolds- I need to pick up a switch per Sayens and it should function like it before. Your laptop should be able to print also. \*J Botto- we need Tax Maps and I believe we are going to end up using our Land Value Maps.

CORRESPONDENCE: \*J Reynolds- \*\*Received a copy of a Commercial Forest Administrative Withdrawal Certificate for 80 acres parcel. \*\*A letter from Keweenaw Petroleum Services wanting to know if we want to pre-buy at \$1.19 because we own our tank otherwise it is \$1.29. We can still be on the keep full with the pre-buy if at the end of year we didn't use it up we could get a reimbursement. \*Audience- how does that compare to other places? \*J Reynolds-Keweenaw Petroleum has been really good to us, for the Christmas party last year we were out of fuel and they came up on Saturday and filled us up. They are local people here. \*Audience- there are places as low as \$1.10, and pre-buy from Settlers is \$1.18. \*J Reynolds- I think we should be a on a keep fill. I will do some research and see if we can get some prices. \*Audience- the guy in Land O'Lakes is eighty cents. \*\*We received a report on the Financial Statements from the Treasury. \*C Reynolds- is there a way to link so people can look at it? \*J Reynolds- we can do that. Mike- we can link that to our website? \*Mike- yes anything I can do electronically. \*C Reynolds- can you link so they can get into all of the years? \*Mike- if they are all online and don't require access, I can. Any links you want up there I can make sure it works and put them on there.

OLD BUSINESS: \*J Reynolds- \*\*We had talked about signs at the bridge; I talked to Keith Koski about prices, and waiting to hear back from Jeffers school. \*Joe R- they are not allowed there is a liability. J

Reynolds- I asked Keith Koski for a price but he hasn't gotten back to me and I am guessing that is who dropped four off at my house. So I do have four signs. The mirror is back ordered from Amazon, if we don't get it soon we will deal with in the spring along with the signs. I did talk to the county I can get some posts; I think it is easier to put in a good metal post.

NEW BUSINESS: \*Joan Boyer-I have a reply to Mr. Trudgeon, I have a packet for each of the board members. I was asked if my taxes went down and I am going to answer that question. I went thru my taxes for last ten years, which show the changes and also Mr. Trudgeon's. Key facts: Inflation Rate Multiplier applies to property taxes is Michigan law. Taxable value can increase or decrease with addition or removal of structure. If you become a Principal Resident in Michigan you will notice an 18 mill drop in your taxes. Also a change can be made by an appeal through the Board of Review. I have included information concerning retaining walls which I pay the highest. Joan- I will stay after the meeting to talk one on one if you have any questions. Mr. Trudgeon had no comment. \*Audience- Joan how much were you over taxed? \*Joan it was \$20,000 plus. J Reynolds-Mike Sabo and I met with Chris from ISO. He toured the fire department and looked at some of our reports. He also looked at what equipment we have and might be able to drop us to an eight A. It could affect everybody's insurance rates depending on your insurance provider, some do not recognize it.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: \*Mike Sabo-The second week in October is National Fire Prevention Week, we will be doing a fire prevention seminar with school. I thought the visit from ISO was good and if your insurance does recognize it, it probably won't be noticed until January.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \*C Reynolds- in the packet the first page is payroll, the three pages are invoices from the general and the next two are for the tax. The only reason I put that in the packet is so you can see we actually have money being deposited and disbursements are being made. The page is the checks that have been generated and they are either tax or general. The second to the last page is fund balances. We tried to enter the truck payment for USDA that was an ETP, for some reason it will not let us enter as ETP, so it was entered as a manual journal entry so it is not reflected on any of the other sheets. It does show on the fund balances but not on the others. Payroll is \$2,495, the bills total \$19,772.19. Motion to pay the bills J Reynolds/R Trudgeon, all in favor aye.

CITIZENS COMMENT: \*\*Joanne- the meeting we were at when the exchange between Joan and Mr. Trudgeon occurred no one on the board said anything, you have a trustee that is attacking a taxpayer I just think that is appalling. This behavior can't continue, it's not appropriate, it's not fair. \*J Botto- I plan on going out there and measure the blocks as I think I had eight inch blocks, not six inch. I will also measure Mr. Trudgeon's blocks and I will put his on also. \*R Trudgeon- I have no blocks, I have a wooden one. I did not attack anyone we had a verbal discussion.

\*\*Joe Siller- On these fund balances the road fund should be at \$44,000 how come it isn't? Is there a reason? \*C Reynolds- we will look into it. \*Joe S- is it too late to put the signs up if there are going to get destroyed over the winter? \*J Reynolds- we plan on putting them up in the spring.

\*\*Joe Romano- I've seen what happened to Mrs. Brandt and the only ones that stood up for her was myself, and Mike Sabo. I have known J Botto for thirty or forty years I pulled him out of the ditch behind Donken. I am disappointed in a couple of you. You seen what happened to Mrs. Brandt and you went and did the same thing to Mr. Botto, you are good people you made a bad decision.

\*\*Rick-Do we have a contract with Mr. Botto? \*J Reynolds no. \*J Botto- no we don't have a contract we have a written agreement. \*Rick- can you read what it entails? \*J Botto- at will employment and for any reason I can be discharged. If I choose to terminate my employment with Elm River Township my salary will be prorated for the days served. If the township should terminate my employment I will be compensated for the annual amount of my salary, so I would get paid until the end of the year. Duties and responsibilities are spelled out, and I have followed them and I am still making the same amount of money I was making in 2012. I discussed this with John that I was guaranteed that the township supplies me with necessary materials and supplies to perform the duties of the assessor. They will maintain a maintenance contract with BS&A, they will provide the software we mentioned APEX software for drawings, provide tax maps, upon terminate all materials will go back. \*\*Joe Romano- I have one more thing, can the fire department do a controlled burn? What if you offered Strack and the other old homes that we will burn the stuff down for you, is that legal? \*J Reynolds- we would have to do some research on it, we have done it in the past. The home owner is to remove the roofing and anything that is real toxic. I do see your point. \*Joe- dead animals on the road are coming from those houses.

\*\*Peg-Years ago I remember Art Dasse coming to our cabin and having a guy clean our chimney free of charge I thought it was great. I like to be pro-active so there aren't any chimney fires. \* J Reynolds-we (fire dept) used to do it, we went to the insurance company and they said not to do it anymore. If we come to your house and clean your chimney as a volunteer fire dept and your house burns down because of a chimney fire we could be liable. I will come and clean your chimney, as a "friend" there is nothing worse than chimney fires. The fire department can't do it. \*Peg- every year we are stuck trying to find people to shovel our roof off, I feel our bulletin board out here could have people that would do that for you- \*Audience- on the board at Krupp's there is always somebody shoveling roofs, etc.

\*\*Audience when does winter garbage start? \*J Reynolds- it is going to go every week thru this month and the first pickup in October is the 10th and then every two weeks, it is updated on the website.

\*\*Mary Kieranen-can we do the same for UPPCO for a seasonal shutoff for the streetlights, do we need them on all the time? \*J Reynolds- I don't know how they would do that for seasonal. I drove around checking on the street light locations, I found five spots where we don't need streetlights, and found ten or fifteen spots where we should have one. There is never going to be a happy medium with the street lights. \*Audience- you could talk to UPPCO and see what the charge is to wire a key plate on them to shut them on or off.

BOARD COMMENTS: \*\*S Brandt- if you don't plan to be here for November, I have Absentee Applications and I need that filled out before I can send the Absentee Ballots. If you want to stop and get one I can give you one tonight.

\*\*J Reynolds- after the special meeting I did talk to John Botto, and we each had concerns. He had concerns of things in the job description that we didn't provide and I brought up concerns that we were having. During my research, certain things were not done in the way it was presented to us, in fact he is doing his job correctly and I support him. We haven't been doing a few things that were promised to John. We were not aware of that till now. We need to get John the software for BS&A. John talked to Shawn about it before, and was told we didn't have the money for it. It was something that was promised to him and it will be done. I apologized to him on the phone and I'm doing it now publicly. It was decided we need to work better as a team and move on with a good relationship.

\*Next meeting is October 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm, motion to adjourn: J Reynolds/R Trudgeon at 7:30 pm all in favor aye.