

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
October 20, 2016

Supervisor Reynolds called the regular Elm River Township monthly meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members present: Supervisor Reynolds, Treasurer Reynolds, Trustee Saari, Clerk Brandt, and Trustee Trudgeon Absent.

AGENDA: Approval of the agenda, with the addition of MTA Workshop Training. J Reynolds/C Reynolds, all vote aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE September 15, 2016 REGULAR MEETING: Motion to approve: D Saari/J Reynolds, all vote aye.

TREASURERS REPORT: \* C Reynolds-All balances are as of 10-31-16, General Fund \$130,372.03, Road Fund \$40,938.50, Fire Fund \$31,756.73, Fire Truck Fund \$12,532.23, Liquor Law Fund \$4,649.59 and Current Tax Fund \$104,270.97. Motion to approve: S Brandt/D Saari, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: \*J Botto- Received a letter from AMAR and we are to submit a corrective action plan by November 14<sup>th</sup> in response of our last inspection review. We didn't have any Land Value Maps or the Land Value Grid. We are working with BS&A and we will have those maps. I did receive a notice from John Pekkala talking about the new assessment roll that is going to go into effect. I talked to him to find out what was going on. I will print out the excel spreadsheet, and it will tell us what the assessment roll is. It will be all the splits for everybody as what they will be paying. \*C Reynolds- I did talk to him a few weeks ago and he was concerned being that the township is going to have to pay money towards this, he said about \$8,000 to give us a heads up. \*J Botto-we have completed all the outside inspections on the building permits; we did find some that were not on building permits to put on the tax roll. We got the Pike Lake-Sandy Lake area; we got about 88 of them and probably another dozen before the end of the year. When people contact me I get back to them as soon as I can. \*We will have to have a December BOR we have a Veterans Exemption and we two or three PRE's. This is the year we have to appoint BOR members so we should do it at the December meeting and they have to be sworn in by January 2<sup>nd</sup>. You have to appoint your board for 2 years 2017-2018 it can be all the same people and you can appoint two subs. \*J Botto- Regarding the assessment, I wasn't aware of this, it is \$80,000 to be assessed, \$2,110 is the cost for construction and material that is the cost to do this but it is going to be \$80,000. \$53,339 is for engineering and design services, \$22,000 for legal fees on this project.

CORRESPONDENCE: \*J Reynolds- I believe all the lake property residents got the same letter from the Drain Commissioner about the October 13<sup>th</sup> hearing. We have the same letter John spoke about the AMAR corrective action plan and I will send that to them. \*\*We have a Houghton County chapter meeting for the MTA October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Franklin Township Hall. \*\*We had trouble with the ice coming off the roof and it tore off the gas piping and the venting for the furnace, I called three different places to get an estimate. My idea is to move the venting and gas plumbing for the furnace upstairs to be the same as the fire dept out the front of the building, I talked to Keweenaw Petroleum it would cost \$50 to run the line with a new

regulator. The only place to call me back was ALK for \$2,300, seemed kind of high but after talking to him it is not to exceed \$2,300. His plan was \$65 an hour plus materials, I did ask if there was anything we could do to help, and he said no. We do have a problem, the gas is leaking. I shut the gas off until this meeting so we have heat in here. \*C Reynolds- we need heat, we freeze when in here working. \*J Reynolds- ALK is the only one to get back to me. \*C Reynolds- so do we need two other bids and have another meeting or can we take care of it tonight. \*Rick- I think you made the attempt and waited two weeks and you aren't getting a response and we are stuck. \*C Reynolds- how quick can he do this? \*J Reynolds- he said he could start at the end of this week but that was a week ago too. I would have to get a hold of him again; I did send an e-mail also asking for a better number to tell the township. He sent back that the estimate is just in case we run into any problems; my labor rate is \$65 an hour plus parts and I plan on billing the job as time and material. \* S Brandt- I think we should go forward with this. \*C Reynolds- is it going to be split? \*J Reynolds- truthfully it should be split as gas feed for our furnace is broke off and the one for this furnace, the cooking range and we aren't going to re-plumb the one for the ice rink. I am hoping it isn't \$2,300 but we do have to do something. Motion made to have ALK do the work by C Reynolds/S Brandt, all in favor aye.

OLD BUSINESS: \* We talked about propane provider pricing, I talked to Keweenaw Petroleum about their pre-buy, called LaCourts and it is the same price, so it is pretty much who do you want to use. \*J Reynolds- I am making a motion tonight that we use Keweenaw Petroleum seconded by D Saari, all in favor aye. \*Audience what was the price? \*J Reynolds- it was \$1.19 but we are not going to lock in, if the price changes and ends up lower, that will be our price. We will stay on the program of keep fill.

NEW BUSINESS: \*J Reynolds- Joe had some questions on the road fund for Cheryl at the last meeting. \*C Reynolds- Joe you said it was at \$44,000 you thought? I pulled our settlement reports from the county for our tax money; I went back 2014-2015, 2014 \$21,789.92, and 2015 \$21,962.46 for a total of \$43,752.38. I show the road fund \$40,938.50 so we are at a \$2,800 difference. \*Joe- it is the same millage for everything? \*C Reynolds- it is the same mill but it is different per parcel, the settlement is the amount we get from our tax money, which is the tax money that is collected. The problem I have is I can't answer the \$2,800 difference, I am waiting for an answer from Brenda on a couple questions and I can't pull it from the computer prior because it isn't right. So I will get back to you on it when I get an answer.

\*J Reynolds- I patched all the holes in the metal on the outside of the building.

\*MTA Workshop for the Treasurer and Cheryl is interested in going. \*C Reynolds- Kathy Beattie sent this out and they are only up here every four years in Marquette for new treasurers and I have never been to any of it so I would like to go. The pre-registration by November 14<sup>th</sup> is \$101 and they are offering a guidebook for \$31.50 and the total cost would be \$131.50 and I wouldn't charge mileage or anything for it. Motion made to approve treasurers training J Reynolds/D Saari, all in favor aye.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: \*C Reynolds-The Fire Prevention at the school for the kids was last Thursday there was three of us there, had lunch with the kids it was really nice. \*\*J Reynolds- thank your fire department again we had to tear the septic apart again as we had the same problem as before. We replaced all the piping underground and it was a mess.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \*C Reynolds paying bills tonight totaling \$5,424.78 and payroll is \$2,495.00, motion to pay the bills J Reynolds/S Brandt, all in favor aye.

CITIZENS COMMENT: \*\*Nora-I just want thank you for your service and being so transparent. I noticed in the meeting minutes from last month the water way under the bridge and cleaning it out, and signing up on the back of the sigh in sheet I wasn't here but please add my name. I have a suggestion because we are not here year round, and we depend on the website. The meeting minutes are great but a suggestion to put the meeting agenda as well if we have questions we can e-mail the board. \*\*Tom- is there any recourse to the assessment that we are looking at? \*J Reynolds- no that is pretty much it, there is nothing we can really do the judge decided that. \*\*Tom- that came right down from the court? \*J Reynolds- yes that is correct. \* C Reynolds- Otter Lakes was a lot higher with their 77 parcels and we have 267 and it says on the sheet one year, when I was told two or three years. \*Joe- when I talked to John Pekkala he said it was going to be three years and smaller parcels are going to pay more and that to me is not fair. \*\*Rick- did Mr. Trudgeon resign from the fire dept? \* J Reynolds- Yes \*\*Rick- what about on the board here? \*J Reynolds- He said he wouldn't be here tonight. \*\*Rick- I was told by a reliable person that he tried to take his name off the ballot. \*J Reynolds- I can't confirm anything, we didn't get a resignation letter or anything. \*\*Rick- Cheryl we are down to a \$104,000 in the tax account? \*C Reynolds- yes. \*\*Rick- what other tax authorizes do we have to pay? \*C Reynolds- we did receive that CFR money that went to the school. The 31,798.16 this is minus the \$8,800 we owed them. That money is sitting in the tax account along with 2014-2015 CFR money, 2012-2013 is what the school received in error and I can't send until I have paper work from the state. Once I hear from them I will be sending it all in one lump sum and it will all be gone, I wanted it done before the meeting but I need the paper work first. \*Joe- how come the CFR hasn't been disbursed? \*C Reynolds- because that is when the audits were going on and with no paper work for 2012-2013 they would just set it aside and not apply it to where it needs to go.

BOARD COMMENTS: \*S Brandt- you still have time to get your absentee ballots for the election n November 8<sup>th</sup>. \*J Reynolds- I had people talking about having Elm River Township on Face book with updates for garbage, notifications, etc not sure what everybody's thoughts are on that? It doesn't cost anything but somebody would have to keep it current. \*\*Jay- isn't that on the website? \*Nora- I think it is a great idea; it keeps you informed at a much faster rate. \*C Reynolds- our Christmas party is December 10<sup>th</sup>, our community Christmas party. Also on the website there is a link for the audit. \*Rick- F65's anywhere to be found? \*J Reynolds- I believe that is one of the questions for Brenda.

\*\*Rick- John Pekkala said there is another option for a 2/3 petition of the lake owners to get out of this Houghton County assessment. Did he say that Houghton County was to pay \$16,000? \*C Reynolds- yes Houghton Co \$16,000, township \$8,000, and landowners \$56,000.

\*Next meeting is November 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm, motion to adjourn: J Reynolds/D Saari at 7:35 pm all in favor aye.