

Speaker Township Special Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

Meeting called to order **Maitland** @ 4:17 p.m., Five (5) Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Motion to Amend October 16, 2023 Special Meeting Agenda with the amendments to add discussion on hiring Norm Croff to administrate public comments during the SLUP public hearings and discussion on hiring Andrea Holbrook as recording secretary for the public hearings under new business made by Maitland second by Sheldon. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve October 16, 2023 Special Meeting Agenda with amendments made by Maitland, second by Stanley. Motion carried.

New Business:

Discussion Lawsuit:

Maitland(Supervisor) advised first order of business was to go into closed session to discuss legal matters.

Motion to go into closed session to consult with Attorney Garner regarding strategy in connection with the lawsuit filed against the Township by Carolyn Fairman in the Sanilac County Circuit Court, pursuit to MCL 15.268(e) made by Maitland, second by Murray. Motion carried.

Board members left the room for a closed session meeting in the Supervisor's office at 4:22 p.m.

Special meeting called back in session @ 5:16 p.m. by **Maitland**(Supervisor)

Motion to authorize Attorney Brian Garner to respond to the legal complaint on behalf of Speaker Township made by Maitland, second by Stanley. Motion carried.

Approval to hire Norm Croff(Administrator of Public Hearing SLUP meetings):

Maitland(Supervisor) advised that Fremont Township's Zoning Administrator **Norm Croff** had been hired to administrate public comment, etc. for the Riverbed SLUP meetings and Speaker Township would like to do the same. He charges \$20.00 per hour. **Motion to approve hiring Norm Croff at \$20.00 per hour to administer the Riverbend Public Hearing SLUP meetings made by Murray, second by Maitland. Motion carried.**

Approval to hire Andrea Holbrook(Recording Secretary of Public Hearing SLUP meetings):

Maitland(Supervisor) advised Fremont Township also hired **Andrea Holbrook** as the recording secretary for the Riverbed SLUP meetings. Speaker Township's Recording Secretary, Debbie Kesteloot is unable to attend the scheduled meetings. **Andrea Holbrook** charges \$30.00 per hour. **Motion to approve hiring of Andrea Holbrook at \$30.00 per hour to record the Riverbend Public Hearing SLUP meetings made by Maitland, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Lisa Cook Gordon(Public): Addressed the Township Board with her concerns that the Planning meeting held last Tuesday was a violation of the Open Meetings Act. It was not published and the public that attended were not allowed to speak. She also stated that violations of the ADA act is happening at these meetings because reasonable accommodations are not being met for the hearing impaired. Suggests MTA be consulted for help and clarification.

Maitland(Supervisor) advised the meeting last week was a workshop and there was no quorum of any board members so it was no subject to the Open Meetings Act. No decisions were made.

Rella Hoffman(Public): Questioned what occurred in the closed session and what it meant for the attorney to answer the complaint. Maitland(Supervisor) advised that the closed session is covered under client/attorney privilege and the Township Board approved for the attorney to move forward in the process.

Susan Davies(Public): suggested that one someone refers to a meeting and what took place there that they give the time and date of the meeting and if it was a planning meeting or township meeting so everyone understands where the issue originated.

Motion to Adjourn meeting @ 5:35 p.m. made by Murray, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk

SPEAKER TOWNSHIP

MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE: 10/14/2023

PURPOSE Special Board Meeting

PRINTED NAME

FRED MURRAY

Jan Priess

Blank lined area for additional sign-in entries.

SPEAKER TOWNSHIP

MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE:

10/14/2023

PURPOSE

Special Board Meeting

PRINTED NAME

Gerald Patrick

