

Speaker Township
 Regular Board Meeting
 April 2, 2024

Meeting at Speaker Township Hall at 7630 Brockway Road, Melvin, Michigan called to order by Maitland at 7:01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

	Maitland	Stevens	Brown	Risdon	Moss
Members Present	√	√	√	√	√

Also Present: Public

Motion	Description	Made By	2 nd By	Disposition	Maitland	Stevens	Brown	Risdon	Moss
24-04-02-1	Motion to amend the agenda to include #9 the gravel patching contract with the Road Commission and #10 discussing a Planning Commission Recording Secretary.	Maitland	Stevens	MC	Unanimous				
24-04-02-2	Motion to accept the amended agenda	Maitland	Risdon	MC	Unanimous				
24-04-02-3	Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 03/05/2024	Stevens	Moss	MC	Unanimous				
24-04-02-4	Treasurer's Report: Last month settled with the county and it was confirmed on the 14 th , Error on March report the check for Social Security was not indicated as withdrawn. Included is an amended March report and will be included with the meeting minutes. April Report – one CD is due for renewal, talked to 3 banks. Will discuss later in the meeting. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.	Maitland	Moss	MC	Unanimous				

24-04-02-5	<p>Motion to accept the March 2024 Township Bills One item of note, was there was a lost check that was voided and reissued. VC3 bill was for assessor's computer.</p>	Moss	Risdon	MC	Unanimous
24-04-02-6	<p>Motion to accept the March 2024 Fire Department bills (includes payroll)</p>	Maitland	Stevens	MC	Unanimous
24-04-02-7	<p>Motion to accept the March 2024 Payroll \$15,329.72</p>	Maitland	Stevens	MC	Unanimous
24-04-02-8	<p>Fire Department report Need board approval for Battalion Chief position – will be filled by Brian Kennedy. Board requested clarification on why we needed to make a new position. He will be 3rd in command. Will take some of the load of the chief and assistant chief. Requested officer pay is \$400 (less than assistant chief, more than captain). Motion to create the position of Battalion Chief at the Speaker Township Fire Department with a compensation of \$400/year plus \$15/hour.</p> <p><u>Officer positions</u> Assistant Chief – Don Kennedy Battalion Chief – Brian Kennedy Deputy Chief – Tom Murray Captain – Will Priess Lieutenant – Billy Kennedy also medical officer Lieutenant – Bronze Wadsworth Lieutenant – Bob Woodruff Sergeant – Sam Mousseau Safety/Training Officer – Brandon</p>	Maitland	Risdon	MC	Unanimous

	Giegleghem								
24-04-02-9	<p>Fire Department report continued Josh Pado would like to be back on the department. Because it has only been 6 months, they don't believe that he needs a new background check or training. What was the reason he was off? He had a shoulder injury and then a broken foot.</p> <p>Motion to appoint Josh Pado to Speaker Township Fire Department.</p>	Maitland	Risdon	MC	Unanimous				
	<p>Fire Department report continued Spending allowance – don't technically have one right now, asking for Board to approve \$2500 for chief to be able to spend without board approval. No vote done at this time as it will be addressed more specifically in the Fire Department Ordinance.</p>								
	<p>Planning Commission Report Jeremie asked to share information as no officer was present</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last meeting spoke about the moratorium including flicker and sound levels 2. Discussed hiring an expert or planner to assist the PC, decided to send back to the Board to see if there was interest. 3. Ben Steinhoff signed approval for Dean Hughes, campground owner, his next step will be to apply for state license. 3. Next Meeting is April 9 at 7:00pm 								
	<p>Public Comment Susan Davies – tried to file petitions with</p>								

supervisor, was advised that they have to be filed with the clerk during clerk office hours per Michigan Bureau of Elections. She stated that there are 21 pages of petitions that will be filed with the clerk on Thursday. Thank you to specific township individuals who have played a role on these petitions. Addressed specific concerns about current board members.

Dave Hicks – The Village of Melvin had a meeting last night, and some of it pertains to the fire department issues. They have a piece of equipment that appears to be part of a fire dept pump. Would like to know what it is and why it is there. Can it be sold and moneys donated to fire department? Discussion about future of the engine being returned to the Village to perhaps decrease response time and decrease insurance costs to village residents. Has Algonquin donated any checks for other things going on in the county to the Speaker Township Fire Department? 1966 Speaker Township Zoning Ordinance referenced – Village is planning on updating their Zoning Ordinance. They are planning on creating their Master Plan. He also has a 25-page gravel pit ordinance that he is offering to share with the Township. One of the issues that may arise is that the state likes to come and fill the pits with trash. He thinks this ordinance is



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	<p>probably the best in the state and should be addressed.</p> <p>Carolyn Fairman - Current and former members are trying to stop the moratorium. The information that the petition circulators are saying is not true; this referendum will not give them a vote on wind turbines. They are designed to the exact opposite. Please allow the new board and planning commission the time they need to develop a good ordinance for the township.</p>								
24-04-02-10	<p>Old Business Reception of Quotes for lawn care and parking lot plowing/salting. Partially because one bid did not include salting, Board decided to separate lawn care and plowing/salting quotes. Perhaps a cemetery clean up day to get rid of plastic so it doesn't end up in the pile in the back.</p> <p>Mclvor hall front half \$65, back \$50, cemetery \$5000, includes trimming at hall and cemetery J&T Lawn Service (Peck) front half \$65, back \$75, cemetery \$200/cut all quotes include trimming SureCut Landscaping \$150 for hall, cemetery \$450/cut</p> <p>Motion to accept the bid from J&T Lawn Service for lawn care for the Hall and Cemetery for the 2024 season.</p>	Maitland	Moss	MC	Unanimous				
	Locks have been temporarily changed								

	on Clerk/Treasurer's office. Looked at programmable locksets as a less expensive option than non-duplicatable keys. Board agreed that this is an acceptable substitution. Locks will be ordered.								
	Update on legal inquiries. We do not have a procedure in place to set a process for hiring legal representation or interviewing new legal representation. Will be addressed by Maitland.								
	Update on Fire Department Ordinance – Brown and Maitland met with the fire department to go over the boiler plate ordinance from MTA, there are a couple of passages that need to be looked at by Homier.								
	<u>New Business</u> New Budget hearing set for April 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm after finding an error which affected the entire budget. We are doing the meeting to correct it now and make sure it is correct going forward.								
	Request to the Planning Commission The PC has been confused by what the Board would like them to address in the wind ordinance. Written list was provided to the Board Members. Only amendment to list was to remove “Riverbend”.								
24-04-02-11	Renewal of CD Received 3 quotes: Thumb Bank 2.52% 12 months Choice One 4% 13 month	Stevens	Risdon	MC	Unanimous				

	Tri County 5% for 12 months Motion to approve having our CD at Tri-County bank.								
	Discussion on Hall Rental Fees \$100 for rental, \$50 is deposit, \$35 for key holder means we only have \$15 to cover all other hall expenses for each rental. We need to look into other halls in the area and see what they are charging. Moss will look into other hall's rental fees in the area. Fire Chief will provide us with a quick estimate on occupancy max.								
24-04-02-10	Motion to remove Trevor Stone from Marathon account and replace with Clerk, Michelle Brown.	Maitland	Risdon	MC	Unanimous				
	Lack of smoke detectors in the Hall and having fire extinguishers inspected. Fire Department is looking into replacing them for us. We have a company that comes in and services the fire extinguishers. We need to find that contact information and have them serviced.								
24-04-02-11	Re-appointing Ben Steinhoff and Ken Dambacher to the Planning Commission. Ben is the former chair of the PC and has been on for many years. Comment from Moss – Dambacher went on the PC when he was residing in the township and owned a business here. He does not own property here anymore. Steinhoff was conflicted over	Maitland	Stevens	MC	Unanimous				

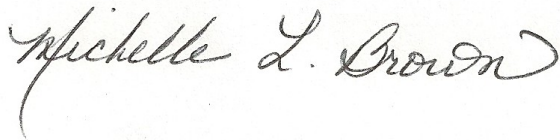
	<p>the turbine. Would like to see this opened up to other township residents that live here and perhaps greater female representation on the PC.</p> <p>Response to comment from Maitland – Dambacher is very knowledgeable and is very valuable to the Planning Commission. Steinhoff has a lot of institutional knowledge. Maitland believes that it would be detrimental to the commission to remove them because there is no one else that has the experience that they have. The supervisor interviews prospective PC members.</p> <p>Stevens - Can we table this so that we have time to think about it? Motion to table this issue until the next meeting.</p>				
24-04-02-12	<p>Decision on purchase of mailboxes for office Received quotes from 3 different vendors. We think we can use a 5 door not a 6. Discussed where we could place it in the foyer. Motion to purchase US Post Company \$359 for standard 5 door vertical mailbox unit surface</p>	Stevens	Moss	MC	Unanimous
24-04-02-13	<p>Gravel Patching Agreement with Road Commission 2000 tons at \$13.26/ton \$26,520 which is amount discussed at a previous Board meeting.</p>	Maitland	Moss	MC	Unanimous

	Motion to accept the Township agreement for improvements for local roads for \$26,520								
24-04-02-14	Recording Secretary Current PC Secretary is having a challenging time keeping up. Maitland would like to have a discussion with the Chair to make sure that the duties are being distributed properly. Motion to table to the next meeting.	Maitland	Risdon	MC	Unanimous				
	Board Comments Maitland – Equipment left at Village fire hall. He was under the impression that equipment was going to be removed last year. Fire chief believes there was a plan, but it will be addressed. It is the old pump out of our engine. It can be scrapped. Is there contractual obligation to that building? We believe that we do not have any obligation to that building. We believe that Speaker Township separated from the Melvin Hall when the current Hall was built, but will look into it to make sure. What was the reason why we moved everything out of the village hall? It was predominantly environmental issues and staffing issues. Brown - We have made clear at several meetings now that minutes will be posted on the website and because of the exorbitant costs we will not be printing them for everyone that attends								

	the meetings. The Planning Commission has not posted their minutes on the website, but ours are and we will be updating the website to include theirs in the future.								
24-04-02-15	Motion to adjourn at 9:15pm	Maitland	Risdon	MC	Unanimous				

MC - Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle L Brown
Speaker Township Clerk

DRAFT