

Mark Halkola, Supervisor
Christa Gardner, Clerk
Christina Gardner, Treasurer
Don Wareham, Trustee
Aaron Janke, Trustee



Box 437 • 48545 Main Street
Dollar Bay, MI 49922
Phone (906) 482-8578
Fax (906) 482-8596
TDD (800) 649-3777

Osceola Township Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2024, 6:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on June 12, 2024, at 6:24 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Christina Gardner, Don Wareham, and Aaron Janke.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Wareham, to approve the agenda as presented. AVIF

Motion by Wareham, supported by Christa Gardner to accept the minutes from the May 8, 2024, Board Meeting. AVIF

Motion by Wareham, supported by Christa Gardner to accept the financial reports for the General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC utility, and OT utility funds. AVIF

Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Janke for payment of the bills: General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC utility, and OT utility funds. AVIF

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:29 PM. Horst Schmidt had questions about the community compost. He also wanted to go on record to oppose where the seaplanes are. Also requested an update on the sewer project in Tamarack City. Public Comment closed at 6:32 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: No action items.
- d. DBVFD: No report submitted.
- e. First Responders: No report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted. The equipment is finally here after about six months.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted.
- h. TLASA: Written report submitted.
- i. NHCWSA: April and May reports submitted. Tamarack Location sewer issue.
- j. Community Compost Site: Written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: There will be a benefit on June 23 from 1 PM – 6 PM for Charlie Westphal, who is involved in the TC Utility Board, TCVFD, Torch Lake Sewage Authority appointed by the township, and the Board of Review. A motion was made by Christa Gardner, supported by Wareham, to create an alternate position on the TC Utility Board. After discussion about what the ordinance stated, the motion and support was withdrawn. Further investigation needs to take place. The donated bench for the TC park is in place. Had a meeting with Pat Greeley. Dollar General has started work. The ordinance violation letter was reviewed by Pat, as well as the generator agreement with Franklin Township. Also discussed trees in the alleyway and the definition of a wetland. The veterans committee met. Vet banners are up. The dredge signage and fencing were torn down. Houghton County Road Commission is starting the dust control. Will be attending the UP Summit by MTA July 23 and 24. Tours will be happening from TC Park to see old mining sites.

Unfinished Business:

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- a. Water Project Plan –update: Discussed at the utility meeting.
- b. Truck/Plow – Discussed at utility meeting for a water truck. Motion by Janke, supported by Christa Gardner to accept the lowest offer that meets our specifications for a new township truck. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion carried.
Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Janke, to purchase the least expensive v-plow that meets our specifications for the truck we purchase. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion carried.
- c. UPPCO – streetlights – highlights 6/6/24 meeting – Tentative plan 31 lights in Dollar Bay, 4 in Tamarack City. Waiting for final cost estimate.

Tabled Business:

- a. Town Hall Meetings – leave on table. Possibility to discuss upcoming elections at these meetings.

New Business:

- a. TC Sewer Lagoon Project – update, Emmett Bjorn, UPEA – A written report was submitted. All stamp sands that were causing the dust storms are now covered. Clean sand will cover the stamp sand, and it seemingly less dusty. Additional questions were taken and answered from the board members and residents.
- b. Seaplanes – citizen input – Erik Kiilunen, a Tamarack City that lives by Seagull Island. Reports that eagles have been forced out of the immediate area by seaplanes. Feels that Torch Lake has now become an airport. Requests that the board investigate the issue and ensure the proper permits were issued. David Halonen, a resident across Torch Lake from Torch Lake Township feels that the Osceola Township board may have more authority in this issue than we think. He also feels that this was all done in an underhanded manner.
- c. Draft Ordinance Violation Letter – Motion by Janke, supported by Christa Gardner to utilize the letter as a first option for ordinance violations. AVIF
- d. SNB Overdraft Letters – Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to opt out of the SNB overdraft protection offer. AVIF

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:42 PM. Horst Schmidt mentioned the Torch Lake PAC is trying to clean up the stamp sand, and he feels that the seaplanes go against what the plan is to return it back to how it was prior to stamp sands. He feels they are a hazard to boaters and others in the water. Erik Kiilunen seconded Horst's comments. Public comment closed at 7:45 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Christa Gardner, supported by Janke to adjourn at 7:45 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 6:30 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall.