

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2023, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on June 14, 2023, at 6:44 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham. Absent was Dominique DiVito.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Wareham, supported by Gardner to approve the agenda, with an addition under New Business: b. Decorations Request, and a request to move item e. Snowmobile update under Unfinished Business to the first public comment. AVIF

Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2023, Board Meeting; May 11, 2023, Public Hearing minutes; May 17, 2023, Public Hearing minutes; May 24, 2023, Special Meeting minutes. AVIF

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

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

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:57 PM.

Matt Torreano from the DNR was present to discuss updates on the snowmobile trail. He gave background on the old trail, and where it had previously been located. He also gave an update on the current restoration work that has begun to take place on other parts of the trail system. There is currently an issue with obtaining land from a private landowner. Next steps will include the DNR looking into a possible grant to offset the cost of the land for the trail that will potentially be purchased by the Township. An offer should be made to the landowner. If rejected, Representative Markkanen will be contacted to assist with any future negotiations. Tom and Karen Hunt were here to listen to the update on the trail, as it goes right by their house. Public Comment closed at 7:43 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: No report provided.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted, and verbal report also provided by Scott Reed.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: No action items to discuss.
- d. DBVFD: No report provided.
- e. First Responders: Written report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted. Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to approve a request by TES to use hydrant #7 in Tamarack City at the residential rate. AVIF
- h. TLISA: April and May written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: The Vet honor roll rededication will be July 3 at 11 AM. There are meetings upcoming to finalize the details, and the road will be closed during that timeframe. Senator McBroom, Representative Markkanen, and County Commissioner Keranen will be attending. People keep going on the dredge. The Road Commission dust control contracts are done. They will begin as early as June 15. Spark Grant application is due June 26. APRA plan for the funds is being worked on. There was a request for a location in Osceola Township to do free concerts.

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**Unfinished Business:**

- a. Water Project Plan – update – Discussed during the OT Utility Board meeting.
- b. Vet Honor Roll – ceremony 07-03-2023 – discussed in Supervisor’s Report
- c. Dollar General Project – written information in packet. Our attorney is working with their attorney.
- d. 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Applications for DNR Spark Grant (due 06-26) – Discussed in Supervisor’s Report.
- e. Snowmobile update – Matt Torreano (DNR) – Moved to the first Public Comment session.
- f. Treasurer position – update: The current treasurer submitted a letter of resignation dated 06/12/2023. Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to approve Dominique DiVito’s letter of resignation, effective June 14, 2023. Roll call vote: yea – 3, no – 0, absent – 1, abstain – 1. Motion carried.  
Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to appoint Christina Gardner (current Deputy Treasurer) as Township Treasurer, effective June 15, 2023. Roll call vote: yea – 3, no – 0, absent – 1, abstain – 1. Motion carried.

**Tabled Business:**

- a. Elm Street restoration plan – leave on table.
- b. Town Hall Meetings – leave on table.

**New Business:**

- a. Blight Issues/Rentals, Parking: The Horner Flooring building has been a major hazard for a few years now. Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to write a letter, including the Dangerous Building ordinance, asking for a reply within 30 days. AVIF  
The metal collection site continues to be a problem. Potential solutions, such as a fence or barrier around the site were discussed, as well as what would need to happen for that area to come into compliance with the blight ordinance.  
There are currently several rentals in the Dollar Bay area that seem to be renting to more people than they have parking for, causing parking issues in town. The preference would be to do an ordinance rather than zoning to address the issue. Might be able to simply expand the current parking ordinance to address the issue. Additional research, as well as discussion with the attorney to see where to go with this.
- b. Decorations Request: A written request by the Dollar Bay Community Improvement group to request \$2,000 this year and \$2,000 next year to purchase new Christmas decorations for Dollar Bay. Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to table to the July meeting to wait for additional information.

**Public Comment:** Public comment opened at 8:59 PM. Cindy Barth lives in East Grosse Point Shores and feels that the Horner building is dangerous and would like to see it resolved. Rick Greub also shared his concerns about the safety of the building. Jay Reed mentioned the DNR trail, thinking that the township will have liability issues by owning it. He feels the DNR dropped the ball by not researching the issue of ownership earlier. Rick Greub supports Jay’s comment, and wondered if the township obtained the land if it would be possible to turn the property over to the DNR to avoid any liability.

Public comment closed at 9:04 PM.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Wareham, supported by Gardner to adjourn at 9:04 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 6:15 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room.