

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on September 13, 2023, at 6:34 PM at the Osceola Township Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Christina Gardner, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Janke, to approve the agenda, with one change to move item A. Water Project Plan under Unfinished Business to the first Public Comment period. AVIF

Motion by Christina Gardner, supported by Janke to accept the minutes of the August 9, 2023, Board Meeting; the minutes of the August 16, 2023, Special Meeting; and the minutes of the August 28, 2023, Special Meeting. AVIF

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

Motion by Christina 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 6:42 PM.

Andrew Keranen from UPEA stated that EGLE published their project priority list. Osceola Township did not make the list. Because the line from Mason to TC was ineligible, it hurt the overall score. We can resubmit at the next funding cycle. Steve Klein commented on the Burcar property that he believes the township doesn't need to spend the money on the land, leave it to the DNR. Public Comment closed at 6:54 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted, including a Land Division request. After a brief discussion, motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to table the Land Division split until additional information is provided.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted. Wayne Siira also mentioned receiving several requests for a children's play structure at Sandy Bottom.
- c. OT Utility Board Action items: Budget amendments will be done under Unfinished Business.
- d. DBVFD: Written report submitted.
- e. First Responders: Written report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted. Chief Klein mentioned initial discussion taking place about the Moyle Foundation funding a combined fire station for Osceola Township, Torch Lake Township, Schoolcraft Township, and the Village of Lake Linden. Only in the initial discussion phase at this time.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted, including information about a water rate increase from Upper Michigan Water. Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to raise the residential water rate 5%, effective immediately. Roll call vote: 5 – yea, 0 – nay Motion passed.
- h. TLASA: Written report submitted. Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to appoint Mark Halkola to the TLASA for the balance of the term. AVIF
- i. Supervisor report: REA is looking to place a pole somewhere in Osceola Township; there has been beach testing; Scott and Mark have been seeking truck bids to replace one or both of the township trucks; Mark will be on vacation next week; there is a dredge meeting at the office tomorrow; TLPAC info is in the packet; the Vet banners will be coming

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down this week (Scott and Wayne will take the TC ones down, DBVFD will take the DB ones down); JCS painting will be starting line painting next week; two new Osceola Township signs will be going up on the North end; Jeff Radcliff is looking at property for modest, or low income housing; a hydrant was replaced in DB and hydrants are being repainted in TC; PipeTek should be coming back this year, and will do our storm drains; DNR is still working on getting an appraisal completed for the snowmobile trail; a meeting will be taking place with the Road Commission with a list of issues. Dollar Bay road work is done, Store Street is almost done, Oneco Road is waiting for paving; still waiting on the UPPCO Master Agreement.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Water Project Plan – Andrew Keranen, UPEA – done under the first Public Comment period.
- b. Dollar General Project – Resolution to Vacate – Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to approve the resolution to vacate. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion passed.
- c. Snowmobile update – Discussed in Supervisor’s Report.
- d. Budget Amendments – update and approval – Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to approve the budget amendments for the General Fund, OT Water, TC Water, and Mason Wastewater funds. AVIF
- e. Vet Honor Roll – Judy Odgers and the committee has turned over the remaining funds in the amount of \$16,791.90 to the township for use of upkeep and maintenance of the Honor Roll and grounds surrounding it. A committee should be formed to continue to monitor the needs of the Honor Roll.

Tabled Business:

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

New Business:

- a. Resolution to Establish Signing Authority w/John Hancock – Motion by Wareham, supported by Christina Gardner to approve the resolution, granting Christa Gardner signing authority. AVIF
- b. NHCWSA Board Designation – Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to reappoint Bruce Cappelletti to a two-year term on the NHCWSA Board at the expiration of his current term. AVIF
- c. Resolution to Establish Early Voting Center – Motion by Janke, supported by Christina Gardner to approve the resolution establishing an early voting center. Roll call: 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 7:52 PM. Roger Goodale from Dollar Bay discussed hazardous buildings and blight. Glad to see that the Horner building was finally taken care of. There is still a significant issue with the scrap metal pile at the corner of 2nd and Granite. Not much has been done other than a sign being posted. People are out there foraging metal at all hours of the night. Additionally other items that are not metal are being dumped there. There are other significant blights, falling down buildings, junk cars and boats, that need to be addressed in the township as well. Judy Odgers offered her support and agreement with Roger’s comments. Jim Siira mentioned that this scrap metal pile has been discussed in Franklin Township. Wayne Siira mentioned people talking about dumping there, and he advised them not to. Public comment closed at 8:01 PM.

Adjourn: Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to adjourn at 8:01 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:15 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall.