

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



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Osceola Township Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022, 6:15 PM

The regular meeting of the Osceola Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Mark Halkola on September 14, 2022, at 6:38 PM at the Osceola Township Office Board Room. Board members present were Mark Halkola, Christa Gardner, Dominique DiVito, Aaron Janke, and Don Wareham.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2022. AVIF

Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to approve the financial reports for the General, Road, Mason Wastewater, TC water, and OT water funds. AVIF

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

Public Comment: Public comment opened at 6:44 PM. Horst Schmidt mentioned that the Houghton County Board has a Community Development Block grant of up to \$5,000 for roof repairs that may be of interest in the Township as it pertains to blight. Also had questions on the agenda. Steve LeClaire of LeClaire GeoServices introduced himself to the Board and was available for questions on the proposals provided for surveys of the proposed snowmobile trail location and Gooseneck Park.

Public Comment closed at 6:48 PM.

Reports:

- a. Assessor: Written report submitted.
- b. Maintenance: Written report submitted.
- c. OT Water Board Action items: Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to accept the recommendation of the Water Board to have the property owner of the Elm Avenue Duplex either install a new water service line with an accessible meter, or install a pit meter. AVIF Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to accept the recommendation of the Water Board for approval of up to \$2,000 to purchase a manhole cover lift system and dolly extension hook. Roll Call Vote: 5 yea; 0 nay.
- d. DBVFD: Written report submitted.
- e. First Responders: Written report submitted.
- f. TCVFD: Written report submitted.
- g. TC Utility Board: Written report submitted.
- h. TLSA: Written report submitted.
- i. Supervisor report: Met with legal council and provided written correspondence to Board members; dredge meeting brought up questions on dredge ownership; Burcar land purchase – survey offer in packet; TL PAC tour on 9/17; Music in the Park on 9/17; Road commission meeting week of 9/26, contracts for repairs in 2023 need to be completed by February 2023; UPPCO requested an easement, no written request received by meeting; Blight issues across all three precincts being addressed; Hubbell VFW request for Honor Roll in correspondence;

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Houghton County Rec Authority information at next board meeting; Mark will be out of town starting this Saturday; question on Township property in Tamarack City, if we would be willing to sell. Without much information, a request to get a formal request will be sought.

Unfinished Business:

- a. FY 22-23 General Fund Budget
 - a. Salaries, retroactive pay for hourly, etc. Resolutions for Elected Officials: Retroactive pay will be addressed at the October meeting once a total dollar amount of what that will be is figured out. Resolutions for Elected officials pay were submitted as follows:
Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to approve the Supervisor's salary of \$13,480 annually.
Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to approve the Clerk's salary of \$13,860 annually.
Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to approve the Treasurer's salary of \$13,740 annually.
Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
Motion by Gardner, supported by Wareham to approve the Trustee's salary of \$2,375 annually.
Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
 - b. Baseball Field/Maintenance: Scott has wrapped things up. No meeting set as of yet – will contact interested parties to set one up ASAP.
 - c. Water Rates Resolution: Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to approve increasing the residential rates for 1" and 1 ½" pipes by \$2.50. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
Motion by Wareham, supported by Janke to approve the resolution to set the Township-wide water/sewer rates as presented. Roll call vote: 5 yea, 0 nay

Tabled Business:

- a. Elm Street restoration plan – nothing to discuss
- b. Erhart Assessing Contract: Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to remove from the table. AVIF
Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to cancel the existing contract with Erhart Assessing by September 30th, or earlier if applicable. AVIF

New Business:

- a. Assessor Job Description: After a review of the draft provided by Township legal counsel, a motion by Gardner, supported by DiVito to accept the Assessor Job Description, and to retain Laura Erhart as the township assessor. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
- b. 5-year Rec Plan Committee members: 4 letters of interest to be on the committee. Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to appoint all 4: Horst Schmidt, Kristin Lortie, Diane Wareham, and Rick Greub to the Rec Plan committee. AVIF
- c. Traverse Engineering Documents/MJO Invoice: Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to approve Change Order #1 and Pay Estimate #1 in the amount of \$30,027.02. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to pay MJO \$6,000 for the overflow parking at Sandy Bottom. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to pay the Traverse Engineering invoice in the amount of \$4,512.50. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay

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- d. Blight concerns in Dollar Bay: Roger Goodale who owns a home on Granite Avenue, brought up blight concerns in and around Dollar Bay, namely a dilapidated building owned by Horner Flooring, and a scrap metal pile on the corner of Granite Avenue. He provided a lot of information to the board as a resident that lives directly in that area, as well as some suggested solutions.
- e. GeoServices Survey Offers: Motion by Janke, supported by DiVito to accept the two offers from LeClaire GeoServices for surveying to be done in Tamarack City and Dollar Bay, in the amounts of \$3,500 and \$1,800. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
- f. MTA Regional Conference: Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to send two people to the MTA conference in Marquette October 4 & 5. AVIF
- g. JCS Street Line Painting: Motion by Janke, supported by Gardner to approve the street line painting quote of \$5,205.00, with the understanding that other entities that are included would refund the Township for their portion of the services. Roll call vote: 5 yea; 0 nay
- h. VFW Building for Sale: After much discussion with Brad Banfield, DBVFD Chief and the Board, motion by DiVito, supported by Wareham to approve up to \$30,000 from the Precinct 2 special assessment funds and/or other township funds to make an offer of \$49,000 to purchase the VFW building on Main Street. Roll call vote: 4 yea; 0 nay; 1 abstain

12. Public Comment: Public comment opened at 8:42 PM. Kristin Lortie supports the blight presentation. Felt the township should have been clear about the percentages and amounts of the salary increases. Has requested water information to see what the costs are to determine the need for an increase. Continues to petition for a livestream. Requests the board be more consistent with giving dollar amounts for approvals in motions. Public comment closed at 8:46 PM.

13. Adjourn: Motion by Janke, supported by Wareham to adjourn at 8:47 PM. AVIF

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 6:15 PM at the Tamarack City Fire Hall.