

August 1, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

Supervisor Mattson called the regular meeting of the Felch Township Board to order at 6:00 p.m. All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call was conducted and all board members: G. Willie, D. Dixon, D Oman, R. Mattson and M. Steinbrecher were present. No one was absent. Also present at the meeting: Mr. Chris Moore, of Circle Power, Rene and Laura Skrumbellos of Iron Mountain Area.

Citizen's time was offered

Mr. Chris Moore addressed the board and provided to the board a copy of a report from a Silica Soil Investigation at Groveland Mine. - Summary of Findings. He also provided an estimate of property tax estimates that the Groveland Mine Solar project would generate for various tax jurisdictions in Dickinson County. There was some discussion that the site is a brownfield site.

Mr. and Mrs. Skrumbellos addressed the board and provided an Analytical Report of a soil sample taken and submitted for Analysis of the soil at the site. The cost of the project was paid for by the Skrumbellos's. Admittedly no one present are qualified to interpret either the reports submitted by Mr. Chris Moore or the Skrumbellos. Mr. Moore suggested that he may be able to arrange for someone from the Michigan DNR to attend our board meeting and provide some insight. Mrs. Skrumbellos asked Mr. Moore about the number of panels that will be installed as well as if the panels were going to be made or purchased from China. Mr. Moore stated that they are not allowed to purchase panels in China but that the company has not determined where they will purchase panels from at this point in the project.

Reviewed and approved the agenda.

Approved the regular meeting minutes of July 5th, 2022, on a motion from M. Steinbrecher supported by D Dixon. On a voice vote, Wille, Oman, Dixon and Steinbrecher – Yes. Mattson abstained from voting because he was absent from July meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasures Report was reviewed. D. Oman made a motion to accept the report as written and place on file. The motion was supported by G. Willie. All voted in favor, no one was opposed. The motion was approved.

The Budget was reviewed and on a motion from Oman amend the budget. An increase in expenditures authorized for the following cost centers: Township Board -\$13,000.00, Building and Grounds - \$15,000.00 , Recycling Center \$ 5,000.00, Parks and Recreation \$5,000.00, Elections, \$3,000.00 and the funds for revenue to cover expenses will reduce fund equity (Money Market) no additional revenues are forecasted. The motion to amend the budget was supported by D. Dixon. All voted in favor, no one was opposed the budget amendment is approved.

Review and Payment of bills. The Visa and Home Depot credit card charges were reviewed, along with the other bills. M. Steinbrecher made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by D. Dixon. All voted in favor, no one was opposed. The motion was approved.

Fire Department Report – None

Cemetery Report – None. D. Dixon suggested that Goober Johnson be contacted to remove the grave flags and store them

Parks and Recreational Report- None.

LaForce Quote for bathroom stalls update. D. Oman reports that the quote provided and approved by LaForce did not include the installation of the partitions. D. Oman asked them to provide a quote and it was several thousand dollars. D. Oman recommends that we store the partitions until this winter and hire a local contractor to install the partitions and paint or fix walls prior to installing. All board members were in favor of waiting.

Laforce Quote for ADA Door opener installation. D. Oman reports that they have the openers on order and that the township is required to provide the wiring. G. Brooks Electric has been contacted to provide the AC power when the project is ready to install. LaForce estimated 4-6 weeks for the equipment to arrive. That estimate was early July.

A water well for the baseball field. R. Mattson reports that he has received a request that a well be drilled for use at the baseball fields for irrigation of the fields. He has also received a request that the little field dugouts be replaced and an estimate of \$8,000.00 was given. D. Oman voiced opposition to the projects at this time. The projects should be brought to the parks and rec committee and both projects mentioned be included in a grant request for parks and rec. Further planning needs to be held by the board for all current and new “wish list” projects, including roads, real estate purchase, building modifications, cemetery, landscaping, pavilion, before any new projects are undertaken. D. Oman also stated that the revenue sharing forecast from the State for next fiscal year projects a pretty significant decrease in funding. A large percentage of our township funding comes from state revenue sharing. No one made a motion to support discussion of the new projects at this time, no action taken at this time.

Grant writing proposals update. D. Oman reports that no grant writers have been contacted and that it will not happen until after the elections are done. Oman did suggest that we need to get the word out for the townships master plan / recreation survey for the township. We need to promote it to get people to participate

Railing on the big bleachers. Jake Lox and his brother are going to weld angle iron to create metal railings around the bleachers. Metal has been ordered and the work is expected to be completed by the Labor Day baseball tournament. The township will provide the materials they will paid the labor at our regular employee rate.

Real Estate Transaction. D. Oman reports that he has talked with two of the five owners. The recommendation would be to offer the fair market value for the property and divide that by the percentage of ownership between the owners. The two talked to were in full agreement. D. Oman suggested that we draft a purchase agreement / purchase offer, and present to the five owners for approval. If they all agree, then an attorney would draft the deed for transfer. D. Oman questioned the minimum setback for an outdoor privy to the private property line. That needs to be measured and ensure compliance before a description of the property can be completed. Supervisor Mattson reports that it is 25 feet minimum. D. Oman will measure and draft the purchase agreement / offer to purchase and get it to the owners for approval. Our assessor will be contacted to help determine a fair market value for the townships offer to purchase.

Supervisor Mattson reported that he has contacted Rob Barkel of Superior Steel to provide the township with a set of building plans and the required insurance certificates. D Oman pointed out that those items were required by the Felch Township board. Including a floor drain in the addition for the Felch Township board to agree to the construction of the building addition.

R. Mattson questioned if the dumpsters have been picked up from West Branch Township No board member contacted them. D. Oman reports that we have not received any invoices for those services yet. Supervisor Mattson will follow up with GAD.

Supervisor Mattson reports that he has completed several Zoning approvals this past month.

Discussion about construction of parking to the east of the new TTAA addition and the swing sets.

Board Members Privilege

D. Dixon. Has concern about the new road construction on County Road 581. As designed he is fearful that water will run down the road and create ice on the hill and where will the snow be pushed in the winter time.

The windows on the entrance doors to the community center should be cleaned more often, perhaps every other day.

Jan and Melony Groenveld have donated the funds to purchase a new net for the batting cage by the baseball fields. A sign will be donated and hang on the batting cage recognizing their donation of the net.

D. Oman. The township still needs to have a sign made up and posted recognizing the Anderson family's donation of the property for the baseball fields. The family donated the land. In exchange the township agreed to recognize the donation with a sign or naming of the field. The agreement is part of the deed that transferred the land.

D. Oman received a phone call from Mr. Jim Harris of the DCRC in response to the letter submitted by the Felch Township board last month informing them of the Six Mile Lake Road as a priority project for next summer. The cost share for the Six Mile Lake road will be 75% Township 25% County, not 50/50 cost share as stated in the townships letter.

The polls will be open tomorrow for the Primary Election from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. reminding everyone to get out and vote.

No further business being before the board. D. Dixon made a motion to adjourn. Supported by G. Wille. All voted in favor, no one was opposed; The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Darrell J. Oman
Felch Township Clerk