

Minutes March 7, 2022

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

Roll call was conducted and all members, G. Wille, M. Steinbrecher, D. Dixon, R. Mattson and D. Oman were present. No one was absent.

Also attending the meeting: Alex Mattson, Robert Whitton, Sydney Holsworth, Luke Holsworth, Joe Wickman all of Felch Township. Ellse Matz and Chris Moore of Circle Power, Ken Frey, Annie Frey, Laura Skrumbellos, Rene Skrumbellos, of Iron Mountain/Kingsford area. Also attending: Pam Miller, Eva Carlson and Rita Edberg with the Tri-Township Preservation Club.

Citizens Time was offered.

The first to address the board was Rene and Laura Skrumbellos, Ken and Annie Frey. They stated that the soil at the old Groveland Mine Tailings area contains Silica. They expressed concern that disturbing the soil in the old tailings area during the construction and operation of a Proposed Solar Farm will create a health hazard. Chris Moore of Circle Power assured all in attendance that the company will do further study of the soils on that site prior to any construction. It was questioned if anyone knew if the EPA either federal or state had previously conducted a study of those soils if so what did they find. Rene Skrumbellos agreed to do some homework on the question and would be willing to provide his findings to the board. Supervisor Mattson stated that the board has not approved anything yet, and he feels that the township board would not agree with a project that would create a health hazard. The board is willing to review information that confirms or disputes the concerns that were voiced at the meeting.

Next the ladies representing the Tri-Township Preservation Club provided the board with information about the group's efforts to establish an archive of local history items. The group is requesting secure space at the community center to store the material they collect. Initial thoughts are that they may be able to use one of the old exam rooms in Dr. Jacobs old office space.

Review and Approval of the agenda. D. Oman moved to accept the agenda as presented. G. Willie supported the motion. All voted in favor, no one was opposed the agenda was approved.

Approval for the minutes of the regular February 7th meeting was moved by G. Wille. The motion was seconded by D. Dixon. All voted in favor no one was opposed. The minutes were approved as written.

The treasures report was presented. D. Oman made a motion to accept the report and place on file. The motion was seconded by D. Dixon. All voted in favor, no one was opposed. The motion was approved.

Review and payment of the bills. The visa credit card charges were reviewed, the Home Depot credit card did not have any charges. The Waste Management bill was higher than normal due to an additional dumpster. BOR training costs and the members were paid for attending. All other invoices were normal and routine expenses. D. Dixon made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by M. Steinbrecher. All voted in favor, no one was opposed the motion was approved

Fire Department Report. Chief Anderson was absent but provided a verbal report that the department responded to one snowmobile accident in Breen Township,

Custodians Report. Mr. Fuchs was absent but provided a verbal report that some of the ceiling tiles have been delivered. He is in contact with Gary from MJ Electric to coordinate the installation of the lighting and ceiling tiles.

Cemetery Report: None

Parks and Recreation. Chairman Ryan Wille was absent. Supervisor Mattson provided information that an update of the Recreation Plan is required every five years and the committee needs to contact Dottie Lajoie of CUPAD to get assistance in updating the plan. 906-786-9234 ext... 1376 and her email is dlajoie@cuppadd.org. G. Willie reported that the committee met on February 28th at the community center, and they discussed updating the plan. Supervisor Mattson said he also has been in contact with Coleman Engineering about the plans they drafted. They recommend that the township give up the property that Pete's Lane is on to the property owners that the road serves. Modify the roads within the park so they connect, and Pete's Lane is no longer used by the Township's Park.

The contract for CUPPAD to update the townships Master Plan was signed by Supervisor Mattson and returned to them. The clerk needs to send a down payment in the amount of \$3,500.00 to CUPPAD.

Special Meeting for the Recovery Funds. The first report is due by April 30th and the MTA Website has information on spending recovery funds. D. Oman stated that we need to open a separate account for those funds, create a budget for those funds and track income and expenses for that account. It was decided that would be conducted at the special board budget workshop meeting.

Supervisor Mattson called two special meetings. A budget workshop meeting on ~~March 16th~~ March 15th at 6 p.m. and a budget hearing followed by a special meeting on March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. for a budget adoption.

Supervisor Mattson suggested moving the township board back into the old Dr. Jacobs office and move the clerk into the current board room office. D. Oman made a motion to hire someone to fix the walls, prep and paint the office, and possible carpet replacement before moving into that office. Supervisor Mattson was assigned the task of finding someone to complete the work.

Road Salt co-op program with the North Dickinson School was discussed and are waiting more information to determine if it is advantageous to both parties to continue again next year.

Review compensation for board members. D. Oman presented information to support a salary increase of \$100.00 per month for the township clerk. He states that with election law changes, increase in absentee voting, the adversarial political climate, and increased requests for information via FOIA, that the increased work during election years \$100.00 is too little but in off years it is too much and feels that it will even out. Additionally, the paperwork and reports required for the Recovery Funds grant that he did the paperwork for, and the township was awarded a little over \$76,000.00. D. Oman then moved to approve a \$100.00 per month increase for the clerk effective next fiscal year. The motion was supported by M. Steinbrecher. A roll call vote was conducted. G. Willie -Yes, D. Oman – Yes, M. Steinbrecher – Yes, D. Dixon – Yes. R. Mattson -Yes. No one was opposed. 5 – yes and 0 – abstain, and 0 no. The increase of salary is approved.

Supervisor Mattson made a motion to increase the pay per meeting for the township's trustees by \$10.00 per meeting an increase from \$65.00 to \$75.00 per meeting effective next fiscal year. The

motion was supported by D. Oman. A roll call vote was conducted. G. Willie – Yes, D. Oman – Yes, D. Dixon – Yes, M. Steinbrecher – Yes, R. Mattson – Yes. 5 – yes, 0-abstain 0- no. The trustee increase in pay was approved.

Communications – Informational and no board action taken.

A copy of a letter from Felch Township Supervisor supporting efforts by the Dickinson County Road Commission to obtain critical bridge funds for the replacement of the bridge on County Road over the Sturgeon River near M69 in Foster City.

Notice from the MI DNR about exchange of land in Felch Township. FYI

Minutes of the DCRC meeting.

Citizen's time was offered. Mrs. Rita Edberg addressed the board.

Board Member Privilege

D. Dixon stated that someone has expressed interest in applying for the Norway Lake parks manager position if the township is in need. Supervisor Mattson stated he would contact the existing park manager to see if he plans to continue the job next summer.

No further business being properly brought before the board, G. Willie made a motion to adjourn. His motion was supported by D. Oman. All voted in favor. Supervisor Mattson adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Darrell J. Oman
Felch Township Clerk.