

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

APRIL 3, 2024

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Clerk, Kara Heinonen, called the Monthly Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00 pm, at the Stanton township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Members present were Clerk/Kara Heinonen, Treasurer/Lori Anderson, and Trustee/Mike Pionke. Supervisor/Marty Rajala and Trustee/Mark Haataja were not in attendance.

Lori **Motioned** to approve the March 6, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes as presented. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Kara **motioned** to accept the Financial Statement with a transfer of \$10,000 from the Receiving Account to the Operations and Maintenance Account. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Kara presented the bills to be paid. Lori motioned to hold the TES bill until check #1987 is explained for clarification and approval by the Board. **2nd** by Kara. Lori **motioned** to pay the bills as amended. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Kara read Jim Morin's report that the sewer system is running well, and there are no problems.

Lori **motioned** to have Kendricks Bordeau Law Firm contact Lake Superior Timber to see if they would do a Quit Claim Deed to Stanton Township for the small triangular piece of property once it is clarified and approved for go ahead by the Board. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.** (This was tabled for further clarification and approval from the Board at the May meeting).

The placing of "Stanton Township Property" signs on the east property line at the Redridge Dam is complete.

There may need to be a further survey proposal if there is more work in conjunction with the possible MDSO grant. Funding options are still being explored by Ken Vrana as previously approved by the Board.

TES and Stan Vitton will final out the FEMA project, if a MDSO grant is approved.

Mike **motioned** to amend both fire dept budgets to cover the increase in the insurance premiums due to the underwriting adjustments. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The Recreational Plan amendments have been submitted. MDNR sent approval and final acceptance on March 19, 2024. The MiGrant's portal is open, if anyone wants to submit a Recreational Grant on Stanton Township's behalf

Marty and Ken Vrana are working in conjunction with the HCRC on an application for a Federal Community Funding Project Grant for road work. An update was sent to the Board member today, April 3, 2024. Letters of support from other local agencies were received and a few are still being solicited by Ken. There are three road reconstruction locations suggested for the grant based upon the Township Road Committee list. (The decision will be at the HCRC and Representative Bergman's office approval.)

The blocked historical easements to the Township property in Freda is still being worked on by the Attorney.

The final, executed USACE signed lease agreement was received on March 12, 2024. A Liability Certificate was requested from the Hannula Agency on March 12, 2024 for the USACE as the previous one is about to expire. We have not received an updated policy from the Hannula Agency. Another request was sent today, April 3, 2024.

A lease agreement was sent to KEDA for a final draft of RFP for a park Operator. The Township Attorney reviewed the RFP draft on March 20, 2024, and had a few minor modifications in language. A copy of the final RFP was sent to the Board members for the final review and approval prior to advertising. The advertisement of the RFP was tabled for the May Meeting, since more discussion is needed.

Kara stated that the QuickBooks conversion to the Uniform Chart of Accounts has been done.

Light poles for the Boat Launch were ordered.

The fence capping has been ordered by Daron Durocher for the Baseball Field. It should be arriving soon.

No work has been done on the pickleball lines. The line tape ordered by Kara has arrived and will be placed with help from Mylan Ek when the ice is completely gone from the Kenner Dome and the temperature warms up.

The monthly maintenance contract with A-1 has been confirmed. This includes the Boat Launch, The Ballfield and the Kenner Dome. The Kenner Dome will be year round care. The care taker will notify A-1 when they are on their winter schedule, so the brine can be added to prevent freezing. The Boat launch and the Ball field will be seasonal. There is no delivery charge if orders are placed in April.

The Board of Review held their meetings in March. The next meeting will be on July 23, 2024. **Lori motioned** to accept the updated version of the Poverty Exemption and the Asset Test, that the Board of Review will be using. **2nd by Mike. Approved Unan.**

Multiple Applications for dust control have been received. Bids are due to the County by April 8, then the rates and date will be announced. Stanton will do 10-11 miles of dust control. Mark has placed advertising signage in 6 locations in the township.

Board Members Comments:

Lori reported that we are projected to get natural gas for the township in 8 to 10 years. The North Canal Park will open on May 1st after Tech Graduation. In the spring, the parking lot will be tested to see if it can be paved or graveled. She also reported that on March 31 all the end of the year journal entries were done. Kara and Lori worked with Sue to enter missing budget numbers that had been omitted during the QuickBook conversion and reclassified checks/deposits per Sue's request. Some new budget numbers were added and there will be more to come for the 2024-2025 budget. The new office paper shredder works great. Her new laptop has been converted to BS&A for the new tax bill printing. A new computer is needed for Clerk/ Treasurer, this one can't handle the load.

Road Committee: Mike used last year's rates to roughly calculate the rates of this years dust control. Mike reported on the February 21, 2024 MTA meeting. Kevin Harju told the township to make a list of roads to be paved. Copies of the Road Committee minutes were given to the Board members. The Road committee recommended to pave Agate Beach Road from Misery Bay Rd to Salmi Rd. The Road Fund balance is \$610,000.

Stanton VFD- Anthony Lampinen: Mike reported that they will have a Pancake Breakfast on May 11, 2024. Also, they are waiting to hear if they will receive a matching grant from Copper Shores that they applied for. The match will be \$27,000 for storage equipment.

Toivola VFD-Garry Hoekstra: Tim Nakkula reported that they will have a road side clean-up in May. They are still waiting to hear about a grant for air packs.


Kara has ordered 2 laptops to be used for the elections.

The Board asked Tim Nakkula to check on cameras. Tim will check with Jennifer Kelly for the requirements for a camera on the drop box that the State requires. Tim will also check on working cameras for the Boat Launch.

Public Comment Accepted: Public comment was received on the cameras at the Boat Launch. Tim will also look into putting working cameras there.

Kara motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. **2nd by Lori Approved Unan**

Submitted by:  Mary Durocher, Deputy Clerk

Approved by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

MAY 1, 2024

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

@TOIVOLA RECREATION CENTER

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Toivola Recreation Center with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Trustee/Mike Pionke, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

All present read over the Monthly Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2024. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Mark **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.** The board decided that Lori should add all CD's to the monthly financial statements in the future.

Kara presented Bills to be paid. The board discussed the TES bill presented in the list of bills. The bill is for a title search on the triangular piece of unclaimed property & surrounding areas at the Redridge Dam. Marty **motioned** to contact the township attorney (Kendricks) on the steps required to acquire an unclaimed parcel of property. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** It was noted that we need to send a letter from our attorney to the latest owner of record to sign off on the property parcel (Quit Claim Deed). Mark then **motioned** to pay the bill from TES for work done on the March 2024 services associated with surveying and the certificate of survey for the Stanton Township property at the Redridge Dam. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** Marty **motioned** to pay all bills as **amended.** **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

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*Signage has been posted at the Redridge Dam.

*The township has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$278,500 for 2024 from the MDSO with \$137,000 coming from the Great Lakes Fisheries but we need to know the deadline to accept this grant. Mike **motioned** to table this decision until meeting with the MDSO to clarify that deadline to accept the grant. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** Mike will call the MDSO to discuss and will possibly call a special meeting to discuss this issue further.

*John Paul of TES and Stan Vitton will final out the FEMA project IF a MDSO grant is accepted at a special meeting.

Lori and Kara need to amend the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget to account for missing budget numbers during the Quickbooks conversion to the State Uniform Chart of Accounts. Mike also had Kara add a couple of new categories to the chart of accounts in Pct#1 Liminga and Pct#2 Toivola. The first new category is 342-750 Uniform & Clothing and the budgeted amount was \$2,000. The second new category is 674 Private Contributions. Mike **motioned** to approve the budget amendments as categorized. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

*As of today at 11:00AM the federal Community Funding Project Grant for road work was submitted by Ken Vrana. Unsure when selection and award will be for this project.

*The township has still not received an updated liability naming USACE as an insured in the policy from Hannula. It was requested again but no reply yet. There has been some new info passed on to MMRA for a quote from a potential new insurance carrier for the township. Mike will follow up with Hannula. It was also noted that a rental car utilized by Jon Stone suffered hail damage last spring and the bill from Tokio Marine in the amount of \$500 is being paid today.

*Next on a **motion** by Lori and a **2nd** by Mark is to send the draft proposal to KEDA for the advertisement of RFP for a park operator at N. Canal Park.
Approved Unan.

*The light poles were ordered for the boat launch and should arrive in May and Tim Nakkula is getting prices on working cameras at the boat launch.

*The Kenner Dome pickleball lines will be placed this week.

*The Kenner Dome, boat launch and ballfield have had their A-1 Toilets installed for the season. The Kenner Dome will have year round toilets with brine during the freezing winter months. Caretaker Mylun Ek will be doing some maintenance work at the dome in the coming months.

*The BOR meetings were held and resolved multiple petitions. The next BOR meeting will be held on July 23, 2024 at 3PM.

*The June board meeting has been changed to Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 6PM instead of Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 6PM. The July board meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 6PM instead of Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 6PM.

*The estimated township cost is \$70,000 from the road fund with the treatment locations to date for dust control. Refer inquiries on dust control to Marty or Mike. The HCRC is looking for a volunteer to ride along with the contractor to assure areas are correctly applied.

*Someone cut the cable at N. Canal Park and dumped garbage there.

*Lori will get quotes for paving the township parking lot (proposal & price).

*Kara has documents from Gleaner for the new township pension plan that need board member signatures and such. She will forward them to Gleaner when she gets said signatures.

*Just a reminder that the Liminga Fire Dept. will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

*Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2 update per Fire Chief Gary Hoekstra...the dept. has received a grant in the amount of \$5,000. Lori will deposit the check when it comes.

*Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 update per Mike Pionke...Mike **motioned** for the board to authorize up to \$20,000 for a new first responder vehicle (ambulance). **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

*Freda sewer is running great and all is well. The mower is out of storage and being used.

*Mark **motioned** to hire a brother of Andrew Kilpela to mow all township property. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

*Mark **motioned** to hire Naomi Mason for clean up at the Redridge Dam. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Public Comment Accepted.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50PM. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by: Mary Durocher Mary Durocher, Clerk

Approved by: Marty Rajala Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP

May 6, 2024

SPECIAL MEETING

Supervisor, Marty Rajala called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm, at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Trustee/Mike Pionke and Trustee/Mark Haataja.

Following a discussion, Marty **motioned** to accept the MDSO award for \$278,500. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** Funding from the USFWS and GLFC grants can be used as part of Stanton's match funding.

Marty will check the minutes of the past meeting for the shared funding agreement wording.

Approved Ken Vrana and Stan Vitton to act as Stanton Township grant administrators for the dam funding project.

Approved getting a RFQ from TES for survey work for the dam project, if needed.

Approved getting a RFQ from UPEA for wetland Delineation for the dam project.

Mike gave Ken Vrana a copy of the audit.

Approved asking Barr Engineering to work on the dam project.

No public comment was given.

Motion by Marty to adjourn at 6:30 pm. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by: Mary Durocher Mary Durocher, Deputy Clerk

Approved by: Marty Rajala Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

MAY 15, 2024

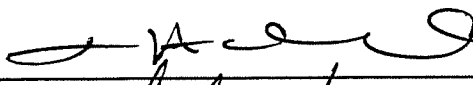
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Special Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

Marty **motioned** to accept Clerk Kara Heinonen's letter of resignation with regret. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** Marty **motioned** to appoint Mary Durocher as the interim Clerk. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** Lori **motioned** to remove Kara from all township bank & credit card accounts. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.** Mike **motioned** to remove Kara and add Mary to the township bond insurance. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** Mike **motioned** to give the janitorial duties to Lori as Kara resigned from those as well. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** Mark **motioned** to pay Kara up to \$1,500 to train Mary in the township clerk position. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.** Mark **motioned** to sign the service agreement with Barr Engineering regarding the work on the Redridge Dam as **amended** in today's discussion. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

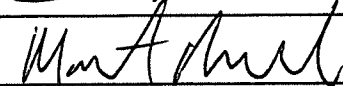
Mark **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

SUBMITTED BY: _____



KARA HEINONEN, CLERK

APPROVED BY: _____



MARTY RAJALA, SUPERVISOR