

Stanton Township Board

January 2, 2025

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted at the special meeting prior to this meeting. Board members present: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2024. Mark **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Marty **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Tina presented the bills to be paid Lori **motioned**. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Budget Amendments needed for operating cost Acct#101-730 increased to \$5K, FICA Acct#9000 increased to \$10K and the Fire Fund building loan was discussed and will be further discussed at the budget meetings Jan 6th & 8th. Marty **motioned** to table until the budget meetings and **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Marty explained the current procedures for the payment to Barr were changed. Lori explained the mixup in a couple checks received for the Redridge Dam project. We have received reimbursement for invoice #3 for Barr from GLFC. Invoice #4 was submitted for reimbursement to GLFC, unsure how long the wait will be for reimbursement. In 2025 reimbursements will be going to EGLE, and may take longer to be reimbursed than from GLFC. Marty **motioned** to approve Barr Invoice #5 for \$7,699.50 and sent to EGLE for reimbursement. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.** Tina will send Marty a copy of this check for the reimbursement process.

HCRC service agreement received for files which obligates SLFRF (covid) Funds. Obligations met for funds.

Sara Topp from Trout Unlimited, has not responded with an answer for an offer of assistance for the Redridge Dam project.

Have not received any Admin billing from JP @ TES and Stan Vitton to final out the FEMA project. Another quarterly report may be needed. All expenditures completed.

No word yet on the final approval for the Community Funding Project Grant for \$2,000,000 for canal road reconstruct. Hoping to hear something by the end of March. Probable 2026 project competition. This has been tabled.

No response yet from MDNR or MOLPUS regarding easement or shared use language for use of the trail from the MDNR split to the old terminal.

Blocked easement litigation still ongoing. No word from Twp Atty regarding this, waiting for word or new results.

Jim Heinonen and Mark Haataja will reach out to Mike Pionke to transfer his road mile point map to them for possible implementation of the Dust Control Program for 2025. A 2 year rotation for certain roads, with others to have yearly dust control. A Notice will be put on the Website in Feb or March for dust control.

The public meeting of the Election Committee (Superintendent, Clerk and Treasurer) was held on Jan 2 at 5pm, to determine if Precinct #2 should remain open. It was decided to keep Precinct #2 voting polling station open. A motion was made and carried. No action is needed from the board.

Child's Park parcel scenario drafted for recreation development of a small roadside park with trails and possible access to MDNR trail is being worked on. It may be possible to work with KEDA and Ken Vrana on obtaining a grant for a park and walking trail development, and to tie into the existing MDNR motorized trail system. Need to meet with the owner to discuss further to see if we should go forward with this.

The December BOR meeting was held on Dec 10th at 3pm. New bills sent out.

The Budget workshops will be held on Jan 6th & 8th at 6PM at the Township Hall. The Truth and Taxation meeting is on Feb 5th at 5:30PM prior to the regular Board Meeting at 6PM.

Board Comments- Lori mentioned that she signed Tina and herself up for an all day MTA training at the MUB on Jan 6.

Tina will meet with Missy Keranen to help her with the new requirements for electronic filing for W-2's and tax filing this year. Tina and Lori will meet with Amy Garrow for Quickbooks training sessions. Also, Festival Foods account users are not turning in their receipts, so this makes it difficult to know who is charging to the account.

Roads- Marty met with HCRC Rural Task force on Dec 18th on Fed Aid Routes and nothing new was added to the list besides Houghton Canal Road. Any new road work would need to be added to our 5 year plan, and any minor roads would need funding by either the township or grant funds.

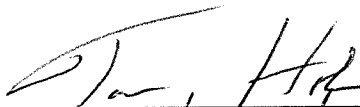
Stanton VFD- None ...Marty will talk to Anthony Lampinen about the Festival Foods charge account for the Fire Department. Marty will also talk to him about the Building Loan for the budget meetings.

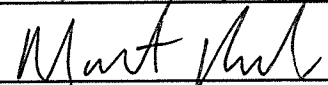
Toivola VFD- None ... Lori will ask Zack about the 2 grants for \$10K and \$5K.

Freda Sewer- When the sewer tanks were pumped it caused an upset in the tanks. Jim cleaned and worked on the pumps and was able to get the pumps from going on 80 times a day to 20 times a day, which is more normal. It was discussed for Jim to have an assistant, and training them in the spring. Mark will help look for an assistant.

Public Comment- The Beacon Hill/Toivola Rd has a 2 mile stretch that is in bad shape and was not part of the Father's Day flood repair work that was done to that road. Residences would like to see that part of the road fixed. Mark will talk to the county road commission about the cost to fix this stretch of road.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor