

Stanton Township Board

February 5, 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 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

All present read over the Special Meeting Minutes from January 2, 2025. Marty **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from January 2, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

All present read over the Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

All present read over the Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes with the corrected amendments and clerical errors. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

The Board revisited the current budget and Lori **motioned** to amend the budget items. See attached for amendments. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

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

Tina presented the bills to be paid with an additional bill to Barr Engineering for Invoice #6 for \$24,898. Lori **motioned** to approve the bills with the addition. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Lori mentioned getting Green Timber Advertising for 1 year for free per the promotion that they are running. There are no additional strings attached to this promotion.

The Check for Barr Invoice #4 was received from GLFC and deposited.

Package for Invoice #5 for \$7,699.50 was submitted to MDSO. Unsure how long it will take for reimbursement. Tina will get a scanned copy of the canceled check for the \$30 that was missed, to Marty, to forward it to Mason for our submission package. Marty will also forward the scanned copy of the check to Barr.

We have received Barr's Invoice #6 for \$24,898.00 for the Redridge Dam project, as was mentioned in the presentation of the bills to be paid. Tina will make sure Marty gets a copy of this check for the reimbursement process.

Still no Admin billing from JP @ TES and Stan Vitton to final out the FEMA project. Stan and TES are supposedly working on it. The 4th Quarter FEMA report was submitted by Stan.

Community Funding Project Grant for \$2,000,000 for Canal Road reconstruction. No word yet on final award or approval. Based upon a legislative vote for approving the funding this should happen sometime before March, if it is approved.

MDNR is working on engineering of old RXR ROW and will consider extending the trail to the Redridge Dam, depending on funding. More info will be shared as this develops.

Blocked easement litigation still ongoing. Motions and other items filed are ongoing, the Township Attorney says that Litigation is a time-consuming process that is largely dictated by the courts docket.

Marty presented a map with the design for the Child's parcel on Cole's Creek Rd. He explained the proposed plans for the purchase of the parcel at \$30,000 plus applicable closing cost. He also went over the letter of intent, which will be sent to the seller, which describes the desire to develop a roadside park with walking trails of some sort within the next 4 years, and the purchase agreement. The letter of intent was reviewed and edited. Mark **motioned** to approve the purchase of the parcel at \$30,000 plus applicable closing cost, and sending/signing the letter of intent and purchase agreement to the seller. With \$10,000 to be held for the acquisition of an adjunct parcel. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Marty **motioned** to authorize Ken Vrana to move forward with applying for a \$400,000 grant request from the MNRTF. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Marty **motioned** to have OHM to assist Ken with the development/survey of the Child's parcel and items necessary to submit the MNRTF grant, if needed, and as required. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.** The City of Houghton may help with a letter of support, as well as a letter of support requested from Keweenaw Waterways Resort, as the campground is in close proximity to the parcel. Marty will talk with the city's manager and KWR representative.

Marty **motioned** to acquire a new laptop for the clerk. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** Mary and Tina will look into laptops through Up and Running.

Marty **motioned** for Ken to update/amend the latest Rec Plan if it is required for the MNRTF Grant. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Marty mentioned that Anthony Lampinen has someone lined up to get all of the Kenner Dome cameras up and running again, as of now there is only one working camera, which is in the warming shack.

BOR trainings for this month for all BOR members have been set up and emails have been sent to the BOR members showing when their trainings are held. Marty reminded us that the March BOR meetings are published on the Township website.

Lori **motioned** to adopt a resolution accepting the 2025 Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved** on a **Roll Call Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays**

Marty received a call about a potential donor that is looking to donate funds up to \$100,000 for outdoor ice rinks. The potential private donation(s) would require a wish list with cost estimates for the projects that are needed. Mark and Jim will work with Paul Ek to come up with a list for the Kenner Dome, and John Mattila will work on a list for the Toivola ice rink, within the next 30 days.

Marty mentioned asking Ken Vrana to work with John Mattila on a Passport Grant for the Agate Beach Boat Ramp.

Board Comments- None.

Roads- Trustees Jim Heinonen and Mark Haataja presented a preliminary spreadsheet for a list of roads to receive Agg Base for the Dust Control Program for 2025. It was decided to table until next month to give time to look over the spreadsheet.

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- Gary said things are going good.

Freda Sewer- Jim said things are going good, besides a few false alarms.

Public Comment- Mary mentioned the new Alternative for BOR is Mike Pionke.

A resident questioned how bid services for the township are made. He mentioned that several tax paying residents are engineers and would like the work.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:08pm. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor