

Approved Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Manistee Township Hall. Board members present were Supervisor Dennis Bjorkquist, Clerk Dianne Taylor, Treasurer Connie Jankwietz, Trustees John Dontz and Trustee Guy Finout. Also present were County Commissioner Jeff Dontz, Zoning Administrator Karen Clouse, Fire Department Chief Joe Cerka, Deputy Clerk Heather Taylor, Barry Lind, Molly Whetstone, Sharon Zakrajsek, Anita Richmond, and James Eble. Liquor Inspector Rick Clouse was absent.

Supervisor Bjorkquist called the meeting to order. All attending stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

Minutes of the September 14, 2023 Manistee Township Board meeting were provided. Trustee Dontz made the motion to approve the minutes as written; Treasurer Jankwietz seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

The Treasurer's report for the month of September was provided. The receipts were \$100,843.34; expenditures were \$212,117.56, leaving a balance of \$84,761.90 in the General Fund as of September 30, 2023. The report was placed on file.

Planning Commission meeting minutes for September 6, 2023 were placed on file.

Manistee Township Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet.

In public comment, James Eble brought the following questions before the board. He received the board of review paper work from 2017/2018 he requested from Supervisor Bjorkquist. After speaking with the assessor, a check was issued to him in 2017 for property taxes. The County cannot produce a copy of the check and he does not believe he received the check. He's glad the board realized there was an issue with the assessing and has made appropriate changes but he is still out \$1763.00 for taxes that he paid in 2019 that have not been reimbursed. What will the resolution be? Only a one-year correction was made. Mr. Eble will be taking another form of action to correct the issue. The second question is how did Anthony's Excavating get to the point it is today? He doesn't know how its zoned but he believes that Anthony's should not be able to keep piles of broken concrete, asphalt, dirt piles when Elmers and Reith Riley have to be in an industrial zone. How does he get away with it? Supervisor Bjorkquist said they will research it. The third thing Mr. Eble brought to the board was that he feels the zoning should be turned over to the County since the township does not enforce the rules and laws that the township puts in place.

Anita Richmond, 3497 Maplewood, stated she was here to discuss the escalating issue of the public access at the corner of Lakeshore and Poplar. She had sent a letter requesting a fence at the easement to help get over the dunes to access the beach. The home owner next to the public access easement has not controlled their dog, harasses people on the path to the beach and on the beach as well. There have been children scratched and people bitten by the dog while on both the beach and the path. There has been no help from animal control or the Sheriff's department. Officer Rossa said there is no documentation of licenses or vaccinations for the dog. Commissioner Dontz said he would follow up with the Sheriff about this matter.

County Commissioner Jeff Dontz reported on recent County business. The voting sites for nine days of early voting will be Manistee Township, Maple Grove Township and the City of Manistee. Jennifer Burke from MSU presented their annual report; the fair doubled the side of their 4-h program. Elaine Bossingham from the Fair Board presented the annual report. One of the youths raised \$12,000.00 and donated to the bullying programs. Signed the contract for the Veterans Affairs counselor. Were awarded \$247,000.00 by the Feds for a new Lake Michigan boat for the Sheriff's Department. Signed contracts for zoning administration for Arcadia and Onkama. Signed a contract with Glenn Zaring for code enforcement. Michigan townships have raised their annual dues to the county to \$2,500.00; the county is opting out. Spending \$28,000.00 to run fiber through the planning department to help speed up their network. New fee schedule at the treasurer's office. 861 tires were collected at Kaleva for recycling. Lumly drain in Pleasanton Township was discussed and tabled until the next meeting. Recycling has been removed from Onkama Township parking lot and is temporarily located at the fairgrounds. Jared Henry has replaced Judge Brunner who retired. The temporary public defender is Jane Johnson; there are two applicants for the position. Mead and Hunt is the new engineering firm at the airport. Mike Sekola has stepped down and has gone to Networks Northwest. Local Revenue Sharing Board met and granted all the requests except the request from Pleasanton Township. Extra funds will be put back into the account to be used for the next cycle in 2024. Commissioner Dontz will follow up with the Sheriff regarding beach access issue.

Zoning Administrator Karen Clouse reported there were no new written complaints for September. There were three (3) land use permits issued, eight (8) requests for construction permits, and five (5) re-inspection fees paid. The Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator Clouse are working on a Short-Term Rental Licensing Ordinance. The Planning Commission anticipates having the recommended amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to the board by November with December being the latest for review. Culvers update: still on track; zero days lost to rain; walls going up by the end of the month. Supervisor Bjorkquist asked if anyone had questions for Karen. James Eble asked about a violation of junk ordinance dated from 5/31/23 for property description 510712301020. Karen advised Mr. Eble she did not have his information in front of her, they could go into her office to discuss or he could set up a time for discussion as stated in the letter he received.

Fire Chief Joe Cerka reported there were four (4) hours of lift assists, twenty-two and a half hours (22.5) of Fire/Vehicle accidents, sixteen (16) hours of medical related calls and the Chief/Officers had seventy (70) hours for the month of September. They were invited to Brethren for the First Responders appreciation football game against Bear Lake. Open house was last month and had a good turnout. Three companies performed demos for the Jaws of Life. The steps for the new rescue truck arrived, now waiting on the brush guard. Truck will be taken to Traverse City for installation. The jaws equipment will come from TNT Resue which comes with a spreader, cutter and ram with extensions. The Fire Department would like to purchase a 42 tele crib squad kit to stabilize a vehicle. National Hose tested all the hoses on the trucks, all passed. The air compressor is due for maintenance. Keeping the station clean, still actively recruiting. Chief Cerka can't thank the Fire and EMS personnel enough for their time and commitment to the department; three of them went to Fire Behavior and Electric Motor Vehicle training. Fire Chief Cerka asked the board for the \$14,759.00 difference needed to purchase the new Jaws equipment and the rescue 42 Squad kit; \$25,000.00 was received from the Local Revenue Sharing Board. The Chief asked the Township Board for \$1,248.58 to cover the maintenance on the air compressor to be performed by Breathing Air Systems, and \$5,379.99 for the purchase of a Vital Signs Monitor to assist the EMS personnel on scene. Supervisor Bjorkquist complimented Joe, Ralph and Jacob for their assistance with the injured player at the Brethren/Bear Lake football game. Supervisor Bjorkquist authorized the

maintenance for the compressor but would like more information and discussion on the Jaws equipment and Vital Signs Monitor.

Liquor Inspector Rick Clouse was absent. Supervisor Bjorkquist gave the liquor establishment report for September. All Manistee Township establishments were in compliance and there are no issues.

Supervisor Bjorkquist gave an update on the Township. Already mentioned the football injury, last month the fire department has gone through two incidents of fatalities. The firefighters involved with those incidents have gone through a debriefing. The township did not receive the Sparks grant. Bar Lake has been treated for phragmites. Don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

AED for the Township Hall, Automatic External Defibrillator, there were no comments from the board. Supervisor Bjorkquist will pursue it.

Snow Plowing Bids – Two (2) bids were submitted for snow plowing at the Manistee Township Hall and Manistee Township Fire Station. The first bid from Swidorski Brothers Excavating – Loader \$100.00 per hour, Salt Truck \$135.00 per event, Plow Truck \$68.00 per hour, and Dump Truck (if excess snow removal is needed) \$100.00 per hour. The second bid from Anthony's Excavating – Pickup Truck with plow is \$80.00 per hour, Loader is \$100.00 per hour, Loader for snow removal \$135.00 per hour, Dump truck with V-plow \$83.00, and De-icing is \$88.00 per hour. A motion was made by Trustee Dontz to grant the snow plowing bid to Swidorski Brothers Excavating. The motion was seconded by Trustee Finout. In a roll call, those voting in favor were: Dontz, Finout, Jankwietz, Taylor and Bjorkquist. Those voting against: None. All in favor; motion carried.

The September bill payment detail has been provided. Trustee Dontz made the motion to pay the bills for September as provided and the October bills as they are received; Trustee Finout seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Manistee County MTA Meeting will meet on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Stronach Township Hall, 2471 Main Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

Manistee Zoning Board of Appeals will meet Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall. (If there is an appeal).

Manistee Township Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. at the Manistee Township Hall.

Next regular meeting of the Manistee Township Board will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall.

Supervisor Bjorkquist reminded everyone its heating season and to make sure your chimneys are clear and all smoke detector batteries are good.

Clerk Taylor reminded the board members to review their 2024 draft calendars for any changes that need be made.

There being no further business or public comment to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Dontz, seconded by Treasurer Jankwietz to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor
Manistee Township Clerk