

March 23, 2011

Regular board meeting was held on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.. All board members were present. There were 14 public attendees. Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to approve the minutes held on February 8, 2011. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to approve the agenda with additions. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Monthly water samples were collected from the Lind and Townline systems and brought to the Whitewater Lab in Amasa for bacterial testing. All samples met the MDNRE standard requirements.

Monthly water usage reports were tabulated and sent to the MDNRE in Gwinn.

L&H Contractors bored a new water service line crossing at 1664 M-69 due to a leak along the highway on the galvanized line. Because of the wet sand and water table, Dennis Williams was called to dig with an excavator.

Tires were rotated and the brakes were inspected on the 2004 Chev Utility truck. This occurred at 73,000 miles.

All 630 meters read with a 100% on the radio read system, which does not happen very often. We usually have to manually read several of them.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to approve the Public Works Foreman's Report. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT BOARD OF REVIEW:

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Kut to appoint Dennis Divoky to the Board of Review as an alternate. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT ZONING BOARD:

This issue was tabled until next months meeting.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Scott Kenney addressed the board regarding the meeting with the compensation board. A written report, stated Kenney, was provided to each board member to review. Kenney stated that the compensation committee went through each of the various positions and made some wholesale changes in some areas and no changes in others. He said, "some of the bigger changes were in the elected areas where there was a recommendation by the committee to have all benefits included within the salaries with the exception of the required taxes and workers compensation. The salaries would include pay in-lieu of health insurance, in-county travel and meetings, drug reimbursement and other benefits such as pension and life insurance."

Kenney said "that the committee developed a pay grid or step scale for the Public Works employee and Fire Department. He also noted that the part-time sanitation worker was handled separately because this is a sole position by itself." Kenney said "Nancy Niemi was given the position as Utility Billing Clerk and few years ago, therefore, if the board so approves she will be at \$12.10 and hour with the deputy clerk included within this salary. A board member who attends meeting outside of this county, said Kenney, would be compensated as well as any elected official that may serve on other boards of the Township. If there is an over-night stay where any board member has to travel over-night it is the recommendation of the committee that in addition to the regular compensation that the board member receives a stipend of \$ 80.00. per night, plus millage." Kut asked the question, "Where is the dollar amount in the scale for promotion for Public Works employee?" Kenney replied, "It was not the intention to promote another individual. We have a full-time Superintendent and we are compensating him as such." Kenney noted that the Township has both Public Works employees Jerry Fredericks and Randy Bucek with water certification.

ADJUSTMENT IN LEON FABBRI TREASURY/SECRETARY WAGE:

After further discussion, it was suggested that this issue be tabled.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF OPERATION:

A motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to accept Brian Fabbri as a new fire volunteer. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Kut stated that there are 3 outstanding issues. One is the fireman's account and contract, which Tinti is working on. Kut stated the only other issue is the rules and regulation, which she has not heard from Ahola.

Tinti stated that the 501 is non-profit and will be available at no charge to the Township in about one week to the volunteers. I would anticipate that one of the recommendations is that our current fire department ordinance, the paragraph concerning the non-profit status will need to be amended depending on the direction that the Township board takes in respect to the Fire Department.

Motion by Kut, supported by Dalpra to convene into executive session at 5:05 p.m. upon written opinion of council. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Kut, supported by Seppala to reconvene into the regular board meeting at 7:03 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion, stated Lesandrini, we are looking at how this operation should go forward as a fire department. Because of financial restraints, stated Lesandrini, we are trying to keep the best protection for our community and department at this point. Some of the discussion, stated Lesandrini, was on all volunteer, one full-time engineer, two full-time or part-time engineers. "My own feeling", said Lesandrini, is to go with one full-time engineer, and no overtime. We have to devise a plan to make sure that our community is covered, and all paperwork and documentation is completed." Motion by Aho, supported by Seppala to terminate one full-time engineer and retain one person as of April 29, 2011. Aho stated that the motion should state that that person retained will be determined. Roll call was taken. Dalpra yes, Aho yes, Kut yes, Seppala yes and Lesandrini yes. Motion carried.

It was decided by the board to have a Special Meeting on Monday March 21 at 9:00 to discuss the compensation committee recommendations and fire department issues.

REVIEW DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2010-2011 – MAKE CHANGES WHERE NEEDED:

Kenney presented the board with a draft budget to review. All departments were discussed and changes made where necessary. The board will review the draft and approve or disapprove at the Budget Hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

Motion by Kut, supported by Dalpra to approve the Monthly bills for \$10,285.11, Prepaid's in the amount of \$44,584.59, EFT's in the amount of \$1,425.92 with a total of \$56,295.62. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Kut to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk