

Republic Township Board

April 19, 2018

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Ulrich called the meeting to order @ 7:00pm.... All Board Members were present.

2. SALUTE TO FLAG:

3. WELCOME TO THE PUBLIC

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to approve, all in favor, motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

03/22/2018 - Regular meeting & Truth in Taxation Hearing – Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Trustee Stankus with 2 corrections, all in favor, motion carried. The corrections are: On the Truth in Taxation Hearing it should state that the UPPCO bills were incorrectly charged to Sewer, not water. And Supervisor Ulrich stated that the figures for the payments on the new Firetruck purchase needed to be amended on 9E. That is incorrect procedure. The minutes reflect precisely what was said in the meeting and the motion and roll call vote were based on incorrect figures. That motion needs to be rescinded and redone based on correct payment figures, so that correction will NOT be made on the March 22, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carol Nicholas

John Ison

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**– Nothing at this time
- b. **TRUSTEE STANKUS**- Nothing at this time.
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing at this time
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – Ongoing situation regarding Pat and Amy Dinkins and their PRE and Veterans Exemption on their taxes and they are here in the audience, I would like for Mr. Ulrich to give us a report on the status of this situation and I would also like to know why the mistakes made on this property were blamed on myself, where in my statutory or daily duties does it state that I am responsible for the PRE paperwork or Veterans' Exemption paperwork or for that matter anything to do with changes to the tax roll or the BOR or the Assessors responsibilities. So, during your Assessor's Report I would like an answer to my question please.
- e. **DPW** – Nothing at this time
- f. **IOHT** – Nothing at this time
- g. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – Nothing at this time

- h. PLANNING COMMISSION** – Public Hearing was held on Zoning Map change and it is now in the hands of Marquette County. We are still waiting to hear back from Attorney on Marihuana Ordinance. It was noted that we had received a response just this afternoon and Mr. Oakley asked that the email be forwarded to him.
- i. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** – Nothing other than the same Zoning issues the Planning Commission just referred to.
- j. ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT** – Nothing at this time
- k. SUPERVISOR/ASSESSOR** – Safety Meetings with DPW every month, two meetings with TIFA, as Assessor, there were two BOR meetings since the last board meeting. As far as the Dinkins are concerned I have explained to them the need for the additional paperwork for a PRE. The Treasurer then asked, but didn't you say that the lack of this paperwork was my fault? The Assessor stated, "No." The Treasurer then asked, if I told you that they still had the voicemail on their phone that you left that states that would you then agree or disagree? The Assessor then stated he would have to listen to the message to recall what he said. He then said that Mr. Dinkins came in to the office and put in an affidavit. There was then discussion about who filled out the affidavit, and Mrs. Dinkins asked if they shouldn't be notified that there should be all parcel numbers affected, give them some guidance? Mr. Dinkins stated that there had never been a problem until this Assessor took over. There was additional discussion. Mrs. Dinkins asked what was the difference between the PRE and the Veterans Exemption? The Assessor said that he looked at the previous records and could not see a PRE ever being granted, the Treasurer then stated that in her computer files both properties had 100% PRE for the 2017 tax year. Mr. Ulrich then asked would the two BOR members present like to say anything about this? Mrs. Radcliffe stated that as long as the two properties touch or are contiguous then they should both be granted the PRE, regardless if there is a section line between them. There was discussion from Mr. Johnson about how he handled this situation previously and the frequent problems with BS&A software. It should be noted that the Assessor never really answered the Treasurer's question regarding what her duties were, nor did he answer Mrs. Dinkins' question regarding the difference between a PRE and a Veteran's Exemption.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Sewer Grant**– Paperwork signing is May 16th, 2018 @ 11:00 am EDT.
- b. Old Bank Building Grant**– Getting ready to go out on bids for the first grant, the second grant that was requested was denied, but we were given pointers on how to apply for it again in October.
- c. Lindholm** – There is a Court Order pending that the Board needs to approve regarding their Chief Lake Property. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. New Vac Trailer** – This has been discussed previously, the cost is about \$20,000. Motion by Treasurer Koski to approve the purchase, seconded by Clerk Brancheau

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**

Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**

Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**

Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**

Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Budget Amendment** – Need to increase expenditures on BOR, motion by Treasurer Koski to approve, seconded by Clerk Brancheau.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**

Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**

Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**

Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**

Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- b. **Renewal Language for General Operating & Road Millage** – The language is the same except that we need to discuss the road millage and keeping the General Operating the same @ 5 mils. Dave Holsworth, a Republic-Michigamme school board member spoke about the need to fix the roads because of the damage that is being done to the school buses and that it may be keeping people from wanting to move to the area. There was additional discussion regarding the roads and discussions had with the Road Commission. Copies of the Millage requests are attached to these minutes. Supervisor Ulrich informally polled the other board members to see how they felt about an increase in the road millage to 2 mils. Most were in favor. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to approve 2 mils for the Road Millage. Trustee Feldhusen stated that he does not like to vote on something immediately when he has not been given the information far enough in advance to think it through.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**

Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**

Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**

Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**

Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

4 Ayes, 1 Nay, Motion is carried.

Motion to approve the General Operating Millage for 5 mils by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- c. **Zoning Administrator** – There were 2 applications received, one from Mr. Gary Johnson the other from Mr. Jason Barbier. Supervisor Ulrich made motion to hire Mr. Jason Barbier for the sake of discussion. Hearing no response, Clerk Brancheau made motion to hire Mr. Gary Johnson, seconded by Treasurer Koski, there was discussion on the difference in qualifications and a special thank you to Mr. Terry Knapp for all of his hard work. Supervisor Ulrich asked Mr. Knapp how his experience in construction helped him do the job and he responded that it wasn't just construction, it was his planning, zoning and infrastructure experience that helped him, Treasurer Koski mentioned that construction experience is not the same as being just a carpenter doing framing, siding and roof work. Trustee Feldhusen called for the question,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

4 Ayes, 1 Nay, Motion is carried.

- d. **Township Canopy replacement**– Information was provided on two different canopies, one heavier than the other, there was discussion on the differences between the two and discussion on how bad of shape the other one was in. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to purchase the 50x30 premium canopy/tent for \$2,799.00, seconded by Clerk Brancheau,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

- e. **TIFA Issues**– The TIFA wishes to purchase a piece of land from the Township that would provide a hard asset to the TIFA. Mr. Brennan described the property in question and informed the Board that they are permitted to purchase property, but before they can encumber it, they would still need Township Board approval. Mr. Brennan asked for permission to speak with Attorney Burkhardt regarding the legalities of this and permission to speak to the Insurance Agent for the Township. Mr. Oakley expressed his opposition because he alleges that citizens use that piece of land for various things. Mr. Johnson advised that the register of deeds should be contacted to be certain of ownership and be sure that there are no

restrictions on the deed. Mr. Brennan then brought up the by-laws of the TIFA, Article IV, service of officers, he would like to eliminate the term limits for now as there is no one else that wishes to serve. Motion by Treasurer Koski to delete the last sentence of Article IV, Section II regarding term limits of officers, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried. The next item is a request to re-set the terms, Chuck Hurst 3yr term, Norine Maki, 2 year term, Jim Brennan 2 year term, Maggie Shepeard a 1 year term, motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau to approve term re-sets, all in favor, motion carried. Motion to allow Mr. Brennan to go to the Township Attorney by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried.

- f. **Rec Committee** – Motion to approve them to move forward with the blue signs from MDOT and add us to MDOT’s website, motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

Mr. Brennan discussed other items the Rec Committee was working on.

- g. **Mike Carey** – Presentation from Mr. Mike Carey who is running for the Michigan State Senate.

10. **PAYMENT OF BILLS** – Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to pay as presented and signed, seconded by Treasurer Koski,

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Ulrich **Aye** - **Nay**
Treasurer Koski **Aye** - **Nay**
Clerk Brancheau **Aye** - **Nay**
Trustee Feldhusen **Aye** - **Nay, Absent**
Trustee Stankus **Aye** - **Nay**

All in favor, Motion is carried.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Holsworth

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Ulrich adjourned the meeting @ 8:45 pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk

Date