

Republic Township Board
May 25, 2017
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:

Request from Audience member to add culvert work on Sandhill road to Agenda. Clerk Brancheau voiced her objection to adding this. Motion by Trustee Stankus, seconded by Supervisor Ulrich, 4 ayes, 1 nay; motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

04/27/2017 Regular meeting – Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor motion carried

05/04/2017 Special Meeting – Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Supervisor Ulrich, all in favor motion carried

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. REPORTS:

- a. **TRUSTEE FELDHUSEN**– It was a difficult month for the community with the deaths of several beloved people. Want to let the families know they are in our prayers.
- b. **TRUSTEE STANKUS**- Thanks to Fire and EMS for their professional and quick response to the fatality accident, they are to be commended. Also, MCSWMA has announced a \$2.00 per ton increase on tipping fees starting July 1st.
- c. **CLERK BRANCHEAU** – Nothing at this time.
- d. **TREASURER KOSKI** – For the free day at the Transfer Station, the total weight collected as about 27,000 pounds, the revenue would have been around \$2,000 so I feel it was a good service and I think we should offer it again in the fall.
- e. **DPW** – None
- f. **IOHT** – Carol Fulsher was here to look at the trail and she noted several areas that need attention.
- g. **FIRE/AMBULANCE** – Helicopter service training was very good. Valley Life Air ambulance service was here to discuss their services that are available to our community. We learned how to clear a zone for a safe helicopter landing. We will choose three spots.

- h. ASSESSOR** – Test was taken at the end of April and received my certificate. Spoke to and inspected a new site for a prefab house. And attended several meetings. Will be starting to inspect properties soon.
- i. PLANNING COMMISSION** – Currently looking at options to bring new businesses to the area and also working on updating our recreation plan which is due late this year.
- j. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR** – Currently 3 new homes are undergoing the permitting process which is moving along. This is very good news for our Township
- k. SUPERVISOR** – Spoke to the Road Commission earlier this month to discuss some suggested road work.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Sewer Grant– Matt Treado from UPEA.** We have cleared the hurdles for property ownership and other minor details. Bottom line is we are now at the point that we should be getting final approval in the next couple of weeks and hopefully go out for bids in June. It is possible that with this delay we may be able to receive more competitive bids with lower prices due to it being winter work than we might have received during the normal construction season. Also, on water meters; we feel we have almost gotten to the point of being able to use metered rates; there are only a couple more meters that need to be fixed. Rates could then possibly be \$11.50 fixed regardless of usage and then perhaps \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used per month. The average household uses about 3,000 gallons per month. These are approximations.
- b. Veteran’s Memorial** – Currently has a balance of \$13,940.22 to help pay for the new memorial. This is a Township project on Township property, so the board could approve to spend additional funds if necessary.
- c. Mine Rail**– Supervisor Prophet from Humboldt is here, he has provided a copy of the letter from their attorney with some suggestions, so it would be best to get the two attorneys together to finalize this agreement. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to approve that meeting, seconded by Treasurer Koski, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. Inspection Northern Lights Campground** – Final inspection took place on Wednesday, May 24th. There are a few minor things that need to be done.
- e. Campground Final Payment** - Should final payment be made to Wuebben Construction for \$15,154.10? They have provided a warranty letter for one year and a copy of the electrical final inspection. Motion by Treasurer Koski to pay Wuebben Construction for that amount. Treasurer Koski made mention that she has spoken to the person in Lansing and our campground permit is on its’ way. Motion seconded by Supervisor Ulrich

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.

- f. **Wellhead Protection** – We have a proposed Grant Application from UPEA, total expenditures estimated at \$11,000. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to hire UPEA to move forward with the grant, seconded by Trustee Stankus,

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.

An additional motion was made by Trustee Stankus to empower Supervisor Ulrich to sign all documents related to the grant, seconded by Supervisor Ulrich, all in favor, one abstention, motion carried

- g. **Summer Help** – Five Applications received. There was discussion regarding how many we need. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to hire Dylan Hanninen, Marcus Vetengle and Taylor Kaminen.

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.

- h. **Old Bank Building Grant** – Grant is approved, next step is on site assessment, then bring that back to the board. Also, Treasurer Koski spoke about the DNR having a requirement for a 24 hour accessible bathroom which Carol Fulsher from IOHT has expressed concern about. It was decided by Merrie Carlock from the DNR Trust Fund that with the vault bathrooms now in the campground being accessible 24 hours that we could scale back on that requirement. Jim Kippola from the Historical Society stated that they would wait until the slated repairs were done to move forward. Motion by Treasurer Koski, seconded by Trustee Feldhusen to move forward with UPEA grant agreement.

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. **DPW Resignation**– Letter received from Drew Griepentrog to resign his position. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich to accept his resignation, seconded by Clerk Brancheau, all in favor, motion carried
- b. **Lindholm Issue**– There are multiple violations both local and at County level. There are no permits whatsoever ever issued. There was discussion on what the next move should be. After discussion Supervisor Ulrich made motion to hire Mr. Kevin Koch to address this issue with the property owner. Motion withdrawn after more discussion. Supervisor Ulrich then made motion to have Mr. Koch work with our Zoning Administrator and Ordinance Enforcement Officer to address this problem with Mr. Lindholm, seconded by Trustee Stankus, all in favor, motion carried.
- c. **NMU Internet Presentation** – Mr. Eric Smith from NMU made a presentation on the internet network that they wish to create covering the entire UP. This is not about being in competition with other providers but to supplement where the other providers have no coverage. If this project is successful, it would enable all Emergency Personnel across the UP to have this service no matter where they are thereby improving emergency services for all of our citizens. Their services cost about \$35.00 per month with no student in the house, and \$20.00 per month with a student in the house. Motion by Supervisor Ulrich, seconded by Treasurer Koski to allow NMU to evaluate our tower site for feasibility, all in favor, motion carried.
- d. **Sandhill Road** – Discussion regarding problem of road washout, with the culvert being blocked up. Landowners asked for help. Supervisor Ulrich suggested that if they want to use our DPW and equipment they would have to pay for it. There was additional discussion, but the bottom line is that this is a private road and the Township cannot do anything to help.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS – 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.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Brennan

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Ulrich adjourned the meeting @ 8:43 pm.

Sworn and Subscribed to by:

Marilyn Brancheau, Clerk

Date

Approved