

SPALDING TOWNSHIP

These minutes are unapproved.

POWERS, MI

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Moraska at 6:30 p.m. The following board members were present: Jim Moraska, Jerry Bartnicki, Connie Wells, Chris LeBoeuf and Kevin LaBonte. Guests included: Jerry Kleiman, Matt Bouty, Dan Hammerberg, Jim Nowack, Leon Felch and Wendy Sexton.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Connie made a motion to approve the agenda with Kevin supporting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chris made a motion to approve the minutes with Kevin supporting.

CLERK'S REPORT: Connie reported that our tabulator had a maintenance check on September 13th. There were some mechanical issues that were resolved and our tabulator is ready for the November 5th Election.

I was offered a proposal from a website developer from the MTA conference to serve our Township with a new website. The cost far exceeded what our Township is able to meet. Jim made a motion that we stay with our current provider and Chris supported.

The November ballots will arrive on Thursday, September 19. I will be working to get all AV ballots out by September 26.

FINANCIAL/TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry presented handouts showing the Township's monthly balances (check register), breaking down accounts, cash summary, and balance sheets. Chris made a motion to approve the report with Kevin supporting.

LIQUOR REPORT: All is well in both taverns and grocery store.

FIRE REPORT/FIRE CHIEF & FIRE DEPARTMENT: The department responded to one call that lasted 1 hour and 36 minutes with the number of members responding being 4. The total amount of damages was \$0.

There was one training meeting that lasted two hours. The training focused on Pump Operation Training of E1. Nine members were in attendance.

Equipment repaired and/or improved: ran portable pump #2 and #3, and ran PPV fan.

There is no change in status for the four grant applications.

CEMETERY/PARK REPORT: Things are going well in the cemetery. We have had two burials this past month.

There are currently five campers in the park. The deck is water sealed and the concrete project by the bridge is complete. We have been receiving many good reviews regarding the campground. We do need to update the price of camping on our Township website. Supervisor Moraska suggested that Jim Nowack look over what improvements we need to make to update anything in our park so that it can be included in next year's budget.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Leon is currently working on lowering a Spalding resident's assessed valuation. It will apply to summer and winter taxes.

There are eight new building permits that have recently been issued which puts us at 20 total for our Township. Leon present the board with a map of where the building sites are located.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: None given.

OLD BUSINESS

MTA ON SOLAR & WIND: No new updates.

NEW BUSINESS

PAR PLAN INSURANCE MEETING: Supervisor Moraska met with Lori Burton (the PAR Plan representative) on August 23. He reviewed notes from his meeting with her and highlighted PAR Plan is offering a free sensor system which would monitor gas/water damage and indoor temperatures to qualifying Townships. Jim Nowack will be looking into applying for this system for the Spalding Township Hall.

CANADIAN NATIONAL: Canadian National in partnership with "EcoConnections From the Ground Up" program is offering a grant program. Successful projects will leverage the power of flowers, plants, shrubs and trees to benefit the community. It is available to all communities where CN operates. Wendy Sexton will be looking into applying for this grant.

CRUSHED GRAVEL OR CRUSHED LIMESTONE BID: We have currently spent about half our budget on road construction projects in the spendable category. There was a discussion that ensued regarding prices for crushing our gravel and limestone. Chris made a motion that we purchase up to \$40,000 of crushed gravel pending the prices. Kevin seconded the motion.

AUDIT REPORT: The audit was completed for March 2024. There was nothing derogatory found. The state did request a written explanation of why we were operating in a deficit in certain areas.

BASEBALL FIELD: Matt Bouty will be completing work to fix damage on the baseball field by the end of October.

MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS (ROLL CALL VOTE): Chris made a motion to pay the bills with Jerry supporting. Roll call vote: Chris, yes, Kevin, yes, Jim, yes, Connie, yes, Jerry, yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Wendy Sexton expressed her gratitude to the Township's support of the Veteran's Suicide Awareness display. We have had positive media coverage of this endeavor.

Dan Hammerberg mentioned that the radio system is not working well for his Fire Department volunteers. A discussion ensued regarding the County Board's role in providing radio systems and the emergency siren system.

Matt Bouty made the board aware that yard signs are now available in support of the school millage proposal.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE TOWNSHIP: None given.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Jerry supporting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM CST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Wells, Township Clerk