

Kearney Township Board Regular Meeting
4820 Aero Park Drive, Bellaire, MI 49615

December 4, 2023

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Niepoth, Murray, Valuet, Hagood and Alger.

Conflict of Interest: None.

Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to approve agenda with change under New Business reversing the order of items A. 2023-2024 Budget Amendment and D. NEMCOG contract payment, carried.

Motion by Hagood, supported by Alger, to approve the November 13, 2023 Township Board Meeting minutes, as presented, carried.

Motion by Murray, supported by Valuet, to approve payment of the bills, as presented, totaling \$17,500.03, carried.

Public Comment: L. Elrod, Township Planning Commission Chair, inquired about distribution of draft Master Plan to Board members; Township resident living in R-1 district provided background information on short term rentals and litigation decided by the Michigan Supreme Court and petition signed by area residents.

Old Business:

Reviewed quotes to install Absentee Voter Ballot Drop Box. Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray to approve quote from Willson Construction, as presented, carried.

Discussed Clerk request for salary increase. Motion by Murray, supported by Alger, to adopt Salary Resolution No. 12-04-2023 to increase current fiscal year annual salary by \$600.00, carried. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Murray, Valuet, and Alger. Nay: Niepoth and Hagood. Absent: None.

New Business:

Discussed whether contract payment, using ARPA funds received by the Township, for the NEMCOG redraft of the Township Zoning Ordinance, should be paid in full this fiscal year or in equal payments this fiscal and next. Board agreed one payment in this fiscal is preferable.

Motion by Murray, supported by Hagood, to approve permit for Wolverine Fireworks display at Shanty Creek, on December 31st, carried.

Board received correspondence from the Bellaire Public Library advising that two trustees wish to be reappointed to the Library Board. Motion by Valuet, supported by Murray, to reappoint Lee Ellen Kerr and Don Hirt to the Bellaire Public Library Board for a four year term effective January 1, 2024, carried.

Board reviewed the current fiscal year budget and changes needed to amend that budget to reflect increased expenditures to spend down the ARPA funds received by the Township. Motion by Valuet, seconded by Hagood, to approve the amended 2023/2024 General Fund Budget with fund balance expenditures of \$454,203, as shown on the proposed amended budget, carried.

Public Comment: Dan Bennett, Village of Bellaire Council President, advised that the Village had received a \$3 million loan to commence work on the sewer system and work on the ball park dugouts has started.

County Commissioner VanAlstine updated the Board on county business.

Officer Reports: Treasurer: winter tax bills mailed; the 4Front Road Fund CD, the General Fund CD along with \$100,000 from the General Fund checking account were invested in a 13 month CD at Alden State Bank with an interest rate of 5.12%; and advised of property tax proposal that may be on the ballot next year. Clerk: K&K appointment on December 15th to look at Hall furnace; new Nuisance Ordinance, Amendment to Section 6.07 of Zoning Ordinance, Fire Board minutes, and Sheriff's reports previously provided to Board.

Supervisor Comments: Draft Master Plan sent to Board Members for review; dam assessment mentioned; and broadband luncheon scheduled at Lakeview Hotel on December 11th.

Motion by Murray, supported by Niepoth, to adjourn meeting at 8:02 p.m., carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle D. Valuet, Clerk