

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 14, 2023

Supervisor Michael Runyan called the Albert Township Board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., with Trustee Dick Deska and Clerk Sandy Raffin. Treasurer John Righi was absent. Ted Orm from the Road Commission, Dale Edwards and Kasey Shiffer from the Fire Department, Scott Ash and Rick Kieliszewski from PIE&G, Niko from NEMCOG, Montmorency County Tribune reporter, and 6 residents were in attendance. Trustee Marsha McDonald arrived late.

Supervisor Michael Runyan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Dick Deska made a **motion** to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023 and Special Meeting Minutes of July 12 and July 27, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin, motion carried with 3 yea votes.

Trustee Dick Deska made a **motion** to pay the list of bills with additions totaling \$38,011.16, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin, motion carried with 3 yea votes. Trustee Dick Deska **moved** to approve payroll in the amount of \$44,089.78, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 3 yea votes.

Ted Orm from the Road Commission opened with a comment and compliment regarding the popularity and use of the tennis courts (pickle ball courts). Clerk Sandy Raffin stated that she has contacted Reith-Reilly regarding the cost of redoing the courts at the Buttles Rd. park for next year's budget. Ted reported Dura patching is being done ahead of resealing of roads. Mowing is still occurring north and south on 489. Ted Orm reported that he was approached by a woman inquiring about the islands on Kneeland St. and near the Lewiston Hotel which the Road Commission is not responsible for maintaining. Even if they were, the islands contain a lot of Milk Weed which can not be mowed or removed because Monarch Butterflies have been placed on the endangered species list. As far as maintenance otherwise, whomever the original permit requestee was, is responsible for maintenance of the center islands. Clerk Sandy Raffin stated research would be done to determine who was originally provided permits. The Road Commission signed an agreement with Huron Pines to help maintain the storm water well on East Twin Lake. Acknowledgement/appreciation was given to the Road Commission re: recent road striping.

Fire and Ambulance report was received and filed.

Clerk Sandy Raffin **moved** that the Fire Department be allowed \$500.00 for fire and safety materials and give aways for children. Seconded by Trustee Dick Deska, motion carried with 3 yea votes. One other point of discussion was approval for Kasey Shiffer to work additional hours at the Fire Department to cover staffing shortages.

Rick Kieliszewski, Director of Information Technology, PIE&G made a request that Albert Township allow an A.M.I pole to be placed at the Transfer Site, near the previously approved hut, at the NE corner. The pole would be placed yet this fall and is needed for the collection of data from the updated meters being placed throughout Lewiston. The poles are 100 ft. in height, free standing and set in gravel. The Township Board expressed no concern with proposed A.M.I pole. Clerk Sandy Raffin

moved to approve PIE&G A.M.I pole, used for meter readings, at the Transfer Site near the fiber hut. Seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Motion carried with 3 yea votes.

Niko from NEMCOG presented a grant opportunity for electronic collection. The grant program is 2 years in duration and consists of two parts. The first part is to collect electronics for disposal from residents who bring it in, this would be a one-day event. The second part of the program is to construct a collection site or storage shed for electronics. Both parts of the Grant were applied for on behalf of Albert Township, who would host the event, however disposal and storage must be open to surrounding communities. For the collection events there is no match required however the funding is limited and how much they will pay for is limited, a co-pay is suggested. Typical co-pay for a television is \$5.00-\$10.00 and is proposed to cover amounts that exceed the grant. Niko reported that the grant would cover computers, lap tops and "things like that," but there is a per TV charge. Any disposal amount that exceeds the combined grant and co-pays would be the responsibility of the Township. Nico reported that one of the largest events, by far, last year was Otsego County and reportedly they did not come near exceeding the grant. The first question Niko suggested the Township answer is whether they wish to set up a collection event this year or if next year would be the target date. Niko stated that a contract has been entered into with an electronics recycling vendor and they would come in with trucks but it would be up to the Township to recruit volunteers to load the electronics onto the truck. If it were decided that an event would be hosted this year, we would need to get advertising and notices posted. The region has until 09/2025 to host a total of 10 events so a decision does not need to be immediate. Niko stated that regarding the second part of the grant and the storage/shed facility, there is \$13,000 dollars in grant money available and that is based upon a 75%/25% cost share model. In other words, the Township would be responsible for 25% of the storage shed cost. Clerk Sandra Raffin expressed a concern that despite grant funds, the result of haul away costs could be a net loss for the Township. Niko stated he could send a list of certified electronics recyclers for cost comparison, Clerk Sandy Raffin requested that list be forwarded. Sandy suggested a recycling event be planned in the spring and cost benefit will be researched in the meantime.

Discussion was held regarding a DDA pavilion request, received by Clerk Sandy Raffin. The DDA letter is attached for submission and review. Trustee Dick Deska suggested tabling any discussion and advising the DDA that their request will be taken under advisement. Clerk Sandy Raffin agreed, much more detail is necessary before deciding. An Albert Township Board member should attend the next DDA meeting, DDA request tabled.

Clerk Sandy Raffin presented a letter she received from Lauri Jimkoski from the Montmorency Controllars Office, in conjunction with the Catholic Diocese, regarding placement of a Naloxone dispenser outside of the Chamber of Commerce building, which has a roof over the porch for inclement weather. The letter is attached for review and submission. Much discussion was had regarding the optics of Lewiston placing a dispenser in town, especially in front of the Chamber Office. Clerk Sandy Raffin stated she would follow up with Lauri Jimkoski from the Opioid Steering Committee, Montmorency County. Sandy will suggest an alternate location, outside the healthcare clinic for example.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that the first scrap container has been removed and the program is going well.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that the filtration system on the water well will be completed Wednesday 8/16/2023.

Clerk Sandy Raffin offered an update on Pavilion concrete. The cost of repair would be \$15,000 which was an informal, verbal quote which was supplied to the Contractor by Finish Concrete out of West Branch. Sandy made clear, that would not be a cost incurred by the Township.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that resident Erik Smith has spoken to the Township regarding a dog park. The Board believes that one acre would be available for use with conditions regarding maintenance. Sandy stated that the cost of fencing would be \$27,750.00 which would be raised through private fundraising. Sandy has not spoken to Erik Smith and does not know where the project stands currently.

There was no public comment aside from the condition of the Post Office driveway off 612. Ownership of that building will be investigated for follow up. Ted Orm from the Road Commission suggested contacting the Road Commission Supervisor or Tina. Todd has been contacted by the owners in the past for repairs.

Trustee Marcia McDonald **moved** to adjourn at 4:05 p.m. seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin.

Supervisor Michael Runyan adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Marcotte
Recording Secretary